



*Learning through Books,
Media and Technology*

CSLA SUPPORTS TWO IMPORTANT MAY 19TH BALLOT MEASURES

At its March board meeting, the CSLA Board of Directors supported two of the proposals approved as a part of the February Budget deal. CSLA supported Proposition 1A that establishes a stronger "rainy day fund" and creates more stabilization in state spending. Proposition 1B would create a repayment program to restore \$9.3 billion in Proposition 98 funding that has been withheld from schools over the last several years. These measures are also supported by the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the California Federation of Teachers (CFT). Specifically, these measures do the following:

Proposition 1A (Budget stabilization) – The measure will expand the current “rainy day fund” (currently capped at 5 percent and increasing to 12.5 percent) where state revenue that exceeds forecasted revenues will be saved in order to be used in years where there is an economic downturn. Annually 3% of General Funds (GF) revenue would be deposited in this fund. In addition this provision would deposit unanticipated increases in revenues into this reserve fund, and defines the process for calculation how unanticipated revenue would be determined. It restricts the tapping of that rainy day fund to times when the state is facing a year-to-year drop in revenue (adjusted for population growth and inflation) or if the governor declares a fiscal emergency. It also gives a governor new authority to make midyear spending cuts without legislative approval if a budget goes out of balance after its passage. Additionally, if Proposition 1A fails, the new taxes passed in February will be repealed after only two years rather than after 5 years if Proposition 1A passes.

Proposition 1B (Education funding) – This measure establishes a mechanism for repayment of \$9.3 billion in Proposition 98 “maintenance factor” funds owed to public schools as the result of under-paying schools for mandated programs and cost of living adjustments. This repayment would begin in 2011-12 and the funds required to be repaid to schools would help to restore many of the billions of dollars of programmatic cuts that have been made in recent years.

Why These Measures Are Important

The implication of failure of these ballot measures is very significant. The taxes approved in February would be repealed after only two years if Prop 1A fails. Given that the economic downturn will not likely be over by the time the taxes are repealed the prospect of larger budget cuts in the out years is significant. Finally, it seems clear that if Proposition 1A fails, there will be no additional taxes approved by Republican members

CSLA Supports Propositions 1A and 1B

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as a part of a post-May election agreement. Additionally, if Proposition 1A and 1B both pass, there will be \$9.3 billion in additional Proposition 98 revenue returned to school districts.

In short, there is a lot at stake for teacher librarians in this May special election. Passage will allow schools to restore programs and jobs over time. Failure will result in even larger program cuts and the loss of additional positions. CSLA urges all of our members to support Proposition 1A and 1B in May.

CSLA Active in May Ballot Campaign

The campaign to pass Propositions 1A and 1B has begun airing commercials on both television and radio. One recent TV spot, now on the air includes CSLA as one of the “supporters” of the two measures along with the CTA, school administrators association, and the Retired Teachers Association. This commercial is good visibility for the organization and is one way CSLA can help in the campaign.

Connie Williams
CSLA President