

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

MARCH 2012

Signature gathering begins for *Our Children, Our Future*

Excitement is building and signature gathering is underway for the *Our Children, Our Future* (OCOF) initiative, which would raise about \$10 billion per year, to be allocated to K-12 public schools, early childhood education and (initially) school bond debt. California State PTA strongly supports this initiative as the boldest and most thoughtful way to transform public education in our state.

Thank you to the more than 150 PTA members who attended the Orange County OCOF initiative event in February! Fourth District's goal is to collect 15,000 signatures. With about 140,000 members, we can easily surpass that goal if everyone gets five to ten signatures.

You can pick up petitions at two locations:

GroundWorks Campaign Office

15540 Rockfield Blvd, A-110, Irvine. 92618

Open: Monday and Tuesday by appointment
Wednesday 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursday and Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fourth District PTA Office

1520 Brookhollow Drive, Unit #40

Santa Ana. 92705.

(714) 241 0495

E-mail: fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net

Open: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Friday and all school holidays.

You may have a petition mailed to you by contacting OCOF staff members:

- Jose Ugarte - jgugarte@gmail.com or (818) 571 5391
- Amanda Mooers - Amanda.mooers@gmail.com or (714) 686 8828

For more information, including facts about the initiative, how and where to collect signatures, and frequently asked questions, go to fourthdistrictpta.org. Please remember that signatures may not be collected on school grounds.

The deadline to submit signatures is April 10!

If you have questions, please contact Fourth District PTA Initiative Leaders Kim Anderson at advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org or Fran Sdao at roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org

Calendar of Events

Sacramento Safari Orientation

Friday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708

★ **All Safari participants should attend.**

Sacramento Safari

March 26 and 27 in Sacramento

Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708

★ **All PTA members are welcome to attend.**

Didn't the Lottery solve the problem?

Didn't the Lottery take care of school funding in California? This is a question we often get when we talk about budget cuts to education.

The answer is NO! Proceeds from the Lottery provide about 1 percent of the state's education budget.

The initiative to create the Lottery was written by Kimball Petition Management, a California company that collects signatures for initiative petitions. The money to pay for signature gathering and the election campaign was provided by Scientific Games, a Georgia company that produces lottery materials. Funding for schools was added to make the initiative more appealing to voters.

Source: *California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*, by Joe Matthews and Mark Paul.

How much money will your school or school district receive if *Our Children, Our Future* is enacted?

To find out, go to:

www.ourchildrenourfuture2012.com

Click on *How it Works* and then on *Our Children, Our Future Benefit Calculator*.

Comparing the proposed initiatives and what they do for public schools

Our Children, Our Future is one of three proposed initiatives that would raise taxes and provide additional funding for schools. Campaigns are underway to collect enough signatures to place each measure on the November 2012 ballot.

Governor Jerry Brown's initiative is a proposed constitutional amendment that would shift certain responsibilities and tax revenues to local governments, permanently removing those revenues from Prop. 98 education funding. It would temporarily increase income and sales taxes, creating revenue that would repay some of the debt

owed to schools and provide additional funding, in a maneuver that most analysts say will result in a per pupil funding that is level or somewhat lower.

The "Millionaires Tax" sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers and the California Nurses Association would provide up to \$2.2 billion in new school funding.

California State PTA strongly supports *Our Children, Our Future* as the best proposal to benefit students statewide.

The chart below compares the three proposals.

	Our Children, Our Future	Governor Brown's Proposal	Millionaires Tax
Duration of tax increase	Increases personal income taxes for 12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increases personal income taxes for 5 years ▪ Increases sales tax for 4 years 	Permanent personal income tax increase
How taxes are raised	Raises income tax rates on a sliding scale from four-tenths of one percent to 2.2 percent. Applies to incomes after all deductions have been taken, and exempts the first \$14,632 of income after all deductions (on joint returns).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raises income tax rates for highest income earners (over \$250,000 for individuals, over \$500,000 for couples) by 1 to 2 percent. ▪ Raises sales tax for everyone by one-half percent. 	Increases income taxes by 3 percent for those earning \$1 to \$2 million, and by 5 percent for those earning more than \$2 million.
Amount of new funding	\$10 to \$11 billion, per year	\$4.8 billion (Legislative Analyst's estimate) to \$6.9 billion (Governor's estimate), per year	\$4 to \$6 billion, per year
How funds will be used	Revenue will be protected in a separate trust fund and distributed directly to K-12 public schools and early childhood education programs. For the first four years, 30 percent will be used to pay down education bond debt.	89% of the new funds will go per pupil to school districts and 11% will go per student to community college districts.	Funds will be divided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 36 percent for K-12 education ▪ 24 percent for higher education ▪ 25 percent for senior, child and disabled services ▪ 10 percent for public safety ▪ 5 percent for rebuilding roads and bridges
How much money goes to K-12 schools	\$3 to \$3.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2013 (half year of revenue); \$6.2 to \$7.1 billion annually in FY 2014 -17; \$10.2 to \$12 billion starting 2018; increasing amounts for remaining 7 years. Equals an average of \$1,100 increase in per pupil funding, going up to \$1,700 in later years.	Legislative Analyst predicts \$4.3 to \$6.1 billion in FY 2013; \$4.9 to \$6.1 billion annually in FY 2014 - 2016; and \$2.8 to \$3.0 billion in FY 2017 (half year of revenues), resulting in an \$87 decrease in per pupil funding if the initiative passes and a \$459 decrease if it fails, based on the Governor's current budget proposal.	\$2.2 to \$3.4 billion in FY 2013, (18 months of revenue); \$1.4 to \$2.2 billion in subsequent fiscal years, with amounts tending to increase over time.