



CALIFORNIA *Fair* ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN



Proposition 15 Will Help Schools and Teachers

Proposition 15, the California Fair Elections Act, will get politicians out of the fundraising game and back to solving California's problems. It will create a pilot project providing voluntary public financing to qualified candidates running for Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018. It pays for itself, with no taxpayer or other public funds needed.

The Big Money Problem: Broken Budgets Lead to Broken Schools

- **Our schools are in crisis with huge budget cuts that lead to slashed school spending.** According to the NEA, California spending per pupil is ranked 45th in the nation.
- **Our state and city budgets are broken** because corporate and wealthy campaign donors receive huge tax breaks and giveaways.
- **The recent Supreme Court *Citizens United* case allowing unlimited corporate expenditures will unleash the corporate floodgates,** making everybody else fall further behind.

The Fair Elections Solution: Money Out, People In

- **With Fair Elections, candidates receive enough public financing** to defend themselves against corporate expenditures and end the dominance of big money on politics. In 2008, 85% of the legislature in Maine and 81% of the legislature in Connecticut was successfully elected with Fair Elections.
- **Elections aren't decided by money any more.** In 1998, the better-funded candidates won 79% of the Arizona elections. By 2002, with Fair Elections in place, funding disparities were a factor in only 2% of races.

Benefits For Schools and Teachers: Elected Officials Will Have to Focus on Voters' Priorities, Not Wealthy Donors

- **When elected officials focus on voters priorities, schools will win.** A recent Public Policy Institute poll showed that 82 percent of Californians oppose reductions in K-12 schools to fix the budget deficit.
- **Maine ranks near the top in school spending.** The fairly-elected Maine legislature made education a priority, increasing school spending enough to make Maine climb to 4th in the country in adjusted per-pupil expenditures*.
- **Voters support Proposition 15 and Fair Elections.** 63% of likely voters in a recent poll said they'd vote for Prop 15, with support rising to 69% after hearing both positive and negative messages.

Prop 15 Endorsers

- AARP
- AFSCME
- California Democratic Party
- California Labor Federation
- California Nurses Association
- California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA)
- California Labor Federation
- Consumer Federation of CA
- League of Women Voters of CA

*UTLA Steering Committee
recommendation of endorsement*

"Working people win with Fair Elections financing, because voters and volunteers are the currency of elections instead of big money. That's why the California Labor Fed strongly endorses Proposition 15."

— California Labor Federation Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski

*Jan 2010 Education Week report based on 2007 data. <http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/qc/2010/17sos.h29.finance.pdf>

www.YesOnProp15.org

Yes on Proposition 15: Californians for Fair Elections, a coalition of nurses and government reform advocates (FPPC ID # 1317706).

3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 109 • Culver City, CA 90230 • 310.397.0200 • Fax: 888.633.8898