



**CTA takes an active role in the political process to ensure friends of education are elected to public office and bills that enhance education and the teaching profession are enacted.**

## Talking Points

Recommended candidates:

### **Governor: Jerry Brown**

- State Attorney General Jerry Brown is the choice of educators for governor because California needs a leader who fully understands the problems that threaten the stability of our state and who knows what is needed to resolve them. As a former governor, Jerry Brown signed the first collective bargaining bill in California's history, allowing educators to be full partners in the governing process. He also supports Proposition 98, the state's minimum school funding law.
- Brown's opponent, billionaire Meg Whitman, wants to solve our state budget problems by laying off more educators and state workers. She favors paying teachers based on test scores and wants to convert secure defined benefit programs to risky 401(k) plans.

### **State Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tom Torlakson**

- Assembly Member and former teacher Tom Torlakson has been a true champion of public education. As state senator, he carried legislation to increase funding for textbooks, and worked with CTA to sponsor the Quality Education Investment Act, which has directed nearly \$3 billion for proven classroom reforms, instead of sanctions, to assist lower-performing schools. He wants to re-introduce proven reforms for all schools, like reducing class sizes, hiring more counselors and providing high-quality professional development for staff. He also believes we need to rebuild and fund our higher education system.

### **U.S. Senator: Barbara Boxer**

- CTA recommends that Barbara Boxer be reelected to the U.S. Senate. She has fought to improve our neighborhood public schools, including support for efforts to expand after-school programs, enhance technology in our classrooms and increase early education. She has also secured millions in federal dollars for California's public schools.

Proposition recommendations:

### **CTA SUPPORTS**

#### **Proposition 24 – Tax Fairness Act** (CTA-Sponsored Initiative)

- Prop. 24 ends nearly \$2 billion in special corporate tax loopholes that don't require the creation or protection of one single California job.
- Passage of Prop. 24 will make big corporations pay their fair share and keep the Legislature from making even deeper cuts in public schools, health care and public safety. During last year's budget disaster, the Legislature made \$30 billion in cuts that resulted in 16,000 teacher layoffs and put 6,500 prisoners back on the street. But they

gave corporations \$1.7 billion in tax breaks. When large corporations pay less, California taxpayers pay more.

- Prop. 24 will end tax loopholes that unfairly benefit less than 2% of California's wealthiest corporations, as 98% of California's businesses, especially small businesses, would get virtually no benefit from these tax breaks.
- Voting yes on Prop. 24 puts our public schools, health care and safety ahead of tax breaks for large corporations.

#### **Proposition 25 – Passing the Budget On Time Act of 2010**

- Prop. 25 breaks legislative gridlock by allowing a simple majority of legislators to approve the state budget — just like in 47 other states. Meanwhile, Prop. 25 preserves the two-thirds vote required to raise taxes. It also holds legislators accountable if they fail to pass the budget on time. For every day the budget is late, lawmakers are docked a day's pay. No budget, no pay—and no payback later.

#### **Proposition 21 - State Parks and Wildlife Trust Fund Act of 2010**

- Prop. 21 generates new revenue to support state parks by creating a special vehicle license fee to allow all Californians free access to state parks. This frees up general revenue in the state budget to be used for public education and health care.

#### **Proposition 27 - Financial Accountability in Redistricting Act**

- Prop. 27 Repeals Proposition 11, which created a Redistricting Commission that replaced the state Legislature in drawing political districts.

#### **CTA OPPOSES**

##### **Proposition 20 - Congressional Redistricting**

- Prop. 20 changes redistricting laws by moving congressional redistricting authority from the democratically elected State Legislature to the newly formed Redistricting Commission established under Proposition 11, which allows politicians to hide behind selected bureaucrats to maintain a hold on redistricting as they wish.

##### **Proposition 22 – Taxpayers Giveaways Initiative**

- Prop. 22 is another one of those deceptive initiatives that sounds good at first, but is filled with hidden provisions that hurt taxpayers, public schools and public safety. If Prop. 22 passes, our schools stand to lose over \$1 billion immediately and an additional \$400 million every year after that.

##### **Proposition 23 - Dirty Energy Act**

- Prop. 23 suspends landmark legislation passed in 2006 to help limit greenhouse gases and air pollution. It is backed by big Texas oil companies that don't want to abide by stricter air pollution standards. It would also cost California thousands of clean technology jobs.

##### **Proposition 26 – Polluter Protection Act**

- Backed mainly by big business and polluters, Prop. 26 creates a two-thirds supermajority vote requirement to increase fees on businesses for environmental cleanup and other programs. It would further restrict the state from holding corporations responsible for paying their fair share in supporting California and create further gridlock in the state Legislature.