Yes on Prop. 3: Our Kids Need Us Now More Than Ever

By David Goldberg, CTA President

Voters have a distinct choice this November with Proposition 3: Protect public school funding for California students or give a huge tax break to millionaires and billionaires.

It should be an easy decision – our kids deserve safe, stable and fully staffed public schools. California voters have made this commitment twice before, in 2012 and 2016, to provide vital funding to public education and ensure the wealthiest pay their fair share.

This November, voting YES on Prop. 3 will permanently extend this tax on the state's wealthiest and protect our public schools from widespread cuts and layoffs. Failure to do so before Prop. 55 expires in 2030 would mean the loss of billions in funding for K-12 schools and community colleges, with approximately one in six educators likely being laid off. The damage to our schools would be devastating, while our state's richest would get tax cuts.

Our students deserve strong and stable public schools and to weather today's chaotic times that takes maintaining and increasing education funding and fighting harmful austerity policies and the politicians who peddle them.

Prop. 30/55 funds have supported our schools and funded critical resources for students – more than $119 billion in funding for K-12 public schools and community colleges since 2012. This funding has been transformative. We have increased per-student spending, invested in community schools, expanded universal transitional kindergarten, and avoided what would have been catastrophic cuts in our public schools.

During this time, California has made progress in our per-student spending, thanks to Props. 30/55 and some of the most progressive income taxes in the country. With some of the largest class sizes in the country and educators struggling to make ends meet in the communities we serve– we clearly still have a long way to go.

California's economy – the fourth largest in the world - is robust and dynamic thanks to working people who have been educated in our public schools. We should be #1 in the nation for student funding. Prop 3 will give us the necessary foundation to build on our success and lead the nation in investments in public education. California students deserve no less.

We cannot give millionaires a tax cut on the backs of our students and schools. We must pass Prop. 3, permanently extend this vital funding and protect our shared future.

Over the next few months, educators will be visiting neighborhoods across the state to talk with voters about the power of our public schools and our collective fight to ensure all California students can reach their dreams. When we knock on your door, we hope you'll join us in voting Yes on Prop. 3 and get out and talk to your neighbors alongside us – California students are relying on us. Together, let's deliver the public schools we all deserve.

David Goldberg is the president of the 310,000-member California Teachers Association.