Council Decides
March 23-25, 2012
CTA's State Council...online: www.cta.org/statecouncil

Educators’ voices must not be silenced, Vogel says

CTA President Dean E. Vogel laid out what’s at stake in the November election for students and educators during his remarks to the State Council of Education at its meeting March 24.

Nothing is more important to the mission of CTA than winning the fight to be able to continue advocating for its members and their students. The Corporate Power Grab Initiative, a measure heading toward the November ballot, would shift the balance of political power even further to big corporations and ultimately silence the voice of teachers and other middle-class Californians.

“If the Corporate Power Grab passes, it will knock CTA, each of your locals, and our union brothers and sisters almost completely out of the political process,” Vogel said.

At a time when corporations already outspend unions by 15 to 1, the new initiative would give corporations the power to spend even more, while the ability of unions to advocate for their members would be limited.

CTA has fought similar initiatives twice before, but this one is much more sinister. It purports to silence all special interests, but contains loopholes for corporate contributions to political campaigns. Vogel urged State Council members to get involved, educate their members, register to vote, use campaign materials and videos available on the CTA Website, and most importantly, speak out to friends, family and neighbors about what such a measure would do.

“We’re talking about our ability to stand up and to speak out for our students, to stand up and speak out for our profession, and to stand up and speak out for our rights as union members,” Vogel said.

QUICK LINKS: CTA Campaign Materials | CTA Video | Alliance Video
Council votes to support compromise tax initiative — Signature gathering is under way

CTA joined a growing coalition Sunday morning in support of *The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012*. The new initiative represents a compromise between a measure supported by Gov. Jerry Brown and the Millionaire’s Tax initiative, sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers and the Courage Campaign. Both propositions were the subjects of a thoughtful and comprehensive debate that took place on the Council floor in January, when Council voted to support the governor’s original initiative.

Since then, the governor met with sponsors of the other initiative to hammer out a compromise measure. The new initiative uses the structure of the governor’s original plan but reduces the state sales tax increase from a half cent to a quarter cent, and it increases taxes on the wealthy. It also extends income tax hikes by two years, giving the state more time to come out of the recession. The measure is expected to generate about $9 billion a year.

Revenues from the new taxes will be placed into an education protection account to benefit pre-K–12 education and community colleges. In working through the general fund, money is also dedicated to the realignment that was signed into law this past legislative session and would be written into the constitution to benefit public safety and health services. The effect of paying for the realignment would be to free up additional money to be spent on higher education—CSU and UC—and other essential services. Without funding for the realignment, the state’s budget deficit grows bigger and more budget cuts will have to be made.

Immediately following the vote, petitions to collect signatures were delivered to State Council members to bring back to their chapters. We must move quickly to qualify this initiative. Please sign the online petitions or ones being circulated in your community TODAY.

**QUICK LINKS:** [Compromise Comparison](#) | [Talking Points](#) | [Online Petition](#)
Carolyn Doggett celebrates Women’s History Month with Council

To celebrate Women’s History Month, CTA Executive Director Carolyn Doggett not only peppered her address to Council with stories of Lowell textile mill girls, African American laundresses in Atlanta, and New York City garment workers who fought for the rights of all, she urged female Council members to take action of their own by reaching out to mentor younger women entering the profession.

Observing she was the first woman to serve as executive director of CTA, Doggett said, “It is our responsibility to reach out to younger women, make them feel welcome in the union, encourage them to participate, and build new leaders. It is clear that the labor movement needs young people and young leaders – just like mill girls. And you know as well as I do, too often our current structures don’t encourage involvement and sometimes can even block it. We don’t like to talk about it, but sexism and racism still exist in the labor movement.

“That’s why it is equally important that you reach out to young women of all colors. One simple way to start would be to invite someone to coffee and ask them what they think about the union or see what they know about the Corporate Power Grab. One person may not be able to change the world immediately, but our individual actions can make a difference one person at a time,” she said.

Doggett ended her speech with a nod to Crystal Lee Jordan – probably better known by her 1979 Hollywood movie name: Norma Rae. “It’s our past. It’s our future. It’s what we owe to the next generation. It’s our battle cry. It’s who we are,” she said as she held up a homemade “Union” sign.

QUICK LINKS: Women’s History Month | CTA Campaign Materials

In other action, Council:

Heard an account from Miramonte Elementary School teachers regarding the pain caused by their sudden reassignment following the criminal charges brought against one of the school’s teachers. State Council asked President Vogel and all Chapter presidents to send a letter supporting Miramonte teachers to
Superintendent John Deasy. Read President Vogel’s letter to Superintendent Deasy and write one of your own. Mail to:

Superintendent John Deasy  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 South Beaudry Ave.  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Honored three of the five California Teachers of the Year for 2012: Shari Ann Herout, a member of the Travis Unified Teachers Association; Kenneth LaVigne, a member of the Whittier Secondary Education Association; and Rebecca Mieliwociki, a member of the Burbank Teachers Association, who is also one of the four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced in late April.

Honored CTA Education Support Professional of the Year Robert Hill of the Ventura Classified Employees Association.

Elected CTA Board members by waiving the ballot and by acclamation on the floor of Council: Don Dawson – CTA Director Dist. B; Elana Davidson – CTA Director Dist. F; Leslie Littman – CTA Director Dist. I; and Kendall Vaught – CTA Director Dist. M.

Elected CTA/ABC Committee members by waiving the ballot and by acclamation on the floor of Council: Patrick Riggs – District A; John Lindner – District B; Mike Patterson – District D; Carlos Rico – District E; Loren Scott – District J-LA; and Barbara Franklin – District N.

Voted to allocate up to $9 million from the Initiative Fund to support CTA positions on the November ballot.

Approved candidate recommendations for the state Legislature and the U.S. Congress for the June primary.

Viewed videos produced by CTA and the Alliance for a Better California in preparation for the upcoming Corporate Power Grab campaign.
About CTA
The preeminent voice for educators in California's public schools and colleges, CTA is also a powerful and passionate advocate for students and public education.
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As a member you have at your fingertips access to a variety of benefits and programs to enhance your life and your career.
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CTA offers statewide conferences designed to provide knowledge and skills for members as they go about the work of the organization.
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