



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

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Dear Editor of the Beverly Hills *Weekly*:

Some in our local media have recently expressed opposition to all of the propositions on the May 19 statewide special election ballot. I offer an alternative point of view.

Blood, sweat, and tears are not sufficient resources for California to provide high quality education to our residents. We also need money. California ranks 47th out of 50 states in terms of per-pupil funding. This is dismal and it's shortchanging generations of children.

I belong to the California Teachers Association and we support all six propositions, 1A through 1F, as a way to close our state's multi-billion dollar budget gap. Propositions 1A and 1B are the most impactful.

Proposition 1A stabilizes future state spending and creates a long-term reserve fund to help prevent further cuts to schools, health care, and public safety. 1A also extends the temporary statewide tax increases by one to two years to prevent California from running out of money as we suffer the largest economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Proposition 1B ensures that California public schools are repaid the \$9.3 billion they are owed under the minimum school funding law, a proposal so uncontroversial that the Secretary of State's official voter information guide does not even include an argument against 1B. However, 1A generates the money necessary for 1B to be implemented. If 1A fails, then 1B automatically fails and \$16 billion will be cut from schools, health care, and public safety. This would be on top of the \$11 billion in cuts that schools have already suffered over the last two years.

A "cuts-only" approach to schools is short-sighted. Rather, we must maintain and grow our investment in children's education and keep our state fiscally solvent by voting "YES" on 1A through 1F on May 19.

Christopher Bushée
President, Beverly Hills Education Association