



## **SAMPLE OP-ED #1** for Full & Fair Funding and Local Revenue Generation Measures

### **Full and Fair Funding is a Vote for California's Future**

Nelson Mandela said that, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." Those words provide a scathing critique of our state. As Californians, we pride ourselves on being some of the best America has to offer — and not without reason. We are blessed with a vibrant culture, a diverse and beautiful landscape, and a dynamic economy.

Yet, despite boasting the highest gross domestic product of any state and the world's fifth-largest economy, we rank just 38th nationally in per-student funding. It's time we fund schools at a level that matches California's status and provides our students with the resources they need. That's why I'm supporting the Full and Fair Funding measure that will appear on the November 2020 ballot. Full and Fair Funding will raise \$15 billion annually for K-12 schools and community colleges. It guarantees that the revenue from the measure goes to schools and can't be diverted by the Legislature, and it contains strict fiscal accountability and public transparency provisions.

Revenue from Full and Fair Funding will provide K-12 schools and community colleges with the resources to strengthen programs in science, technology, engineering and math; invest in career technical education and vocational training; launch initiatives to recruit, train and retain highly skilled teachers; hire additional counselors, aides and instructional support staff; expand programs that support student safety and physical, mental, socioemotional and environmental health; improve interventions for struggling students; broaden arts and extracurricular offerings; adopt class size reduction; deepen academic support for English learners; implement 21st-century infrastructure and technology; increase engagement and support for families; and open doors for low- and moderate-income students to attend community college affordably and transfer to a four-year university.

The measure will be funded by a combination of corporate and income taxes on our society's wealthiest citizens — 99 percent of California residents will not see their taxes change under Full and Fair funding measure. Specifically, the measure increases taxes on corporate income over \$1 million by up to 5 percent, increases personal income taxes on taxable income over \$1 million by up to 2 percent and by up to 3 percent on taxable income over \$2 million.

The revenue will help reverse 40 years of underinvestment in California schools. There was a time when California did a better job of preparing students for adult life than any other state in the country. In the 1970s, California's per-student funding ranked in the top five nationally and our school system was the envy of the nation. Four decades later, we fund schools at almost \$2,500 below the average state. No surprise, then, that California ranks near or at the bottom in practically every significant measure of school funding and our students are denied crucial learning opportunities as a result.

Today's children are born into a world that is more competitive, more complex, global and technological than ever before. We need to provide our students with the tools to thrive in this world and public schools are the best down payment on their future success. Let's invest in our aspirations for our children and our community. Vote, "YES" for Full and Fair Funding.