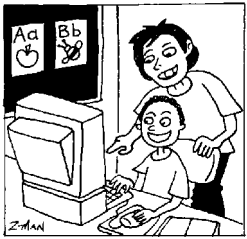


PROPOSITION 49 Before and After School Programs, State Grants



This measure, initiated by Arnold Schwarzenegger, would increase state funding for before- and after-school programs from the current \$85 million a year to \$550 million a year—but only if state revenues increase. The measure would guarantee continuous annual funding for before- and after-school programs, with first priority for programs currently receiving state funds and next priority for grants of \$50 million

to \$75 million, available to any school. If funds are short, priority would go to schools serving low-income students. Funding under this measure would start in the 2004-2005 school year, but only if state revenues increase by at least \$1.5 billion over the amount guaranteed to schools.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Fight Crime Invest in Kids California is helping to lead the campaign for Prop. 49 “because it invests in fighting crime from the front end,” says State Director Maryann O’Sullivan. Supporters say:

Research shows that after-school programs cut crime, gang participation, and drug use and increase school success.

These results mean this measure would actually save taxpayers money.

Because funding comes from growth in state revenue, dollars going to other government programs will not be cut

to pay for after-school programs, and new taxes will not be required.

Supporters include: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California (510-836-2050), Children’s Advocacy Institute, California PTA, California Teacher’s Association, California Medical Association, California Business Roundtable, Howard Jarvis Taxpayer’s Association, California District Attorneys Association

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

After-school programs are “the kind of program we generally support,” says League of Women Voters Legislative Advocate Trudy Schafer, “but this initiative prevents budget-makers from having the kind of flexibility they need to provide for all children’s services, like health, family, support, and child care.” Opponents say:

It’s not sound budgeting to guarantee a specific dollar amount regardless of other state budget needs, especially

since the Legislative Analyst predicts years of deficits.

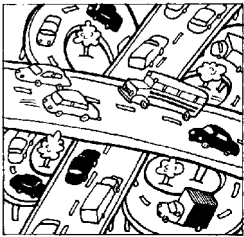
The “trigger,” a \$1.5 billion increase, is too small and doesn’t account for inflation and population increase.

With special protection from budget cuts, guaranteed funding for this program would make it necessary to cut other essential programs during economic downturns.

Opponent: League of Women Voters (916-442-7215)

—Meeta Malhi

PROPOSITION 51 Transportation. Distribution of Existing Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax



This measure would reserve 30 percent of state sales taxes on motor vehicles to create the “Traffic Congestion Relief and Safe School Bus Trust Fund,” which would spend specified amounts on rail and bus transit, highway and road improvements, environmental priorities, replacing unsafe school buses, and bicycle and pedestrian projects.

ARGUMENTS FOR

“Prop. 51 will improve walk-path and bike-path safety on routes to school and provide clean air school buses to protect children’s health,” says Barbara Hankins, president of the School Nurses Organization. Supporters say:

Prop. 51 would not increase taxes, only redirect existing taxes to transportation.

Road improvements would decrease congestion, increase safety, and help emergency vehicles.

Improvements in school buses and pedestrian and bicycle safety would protect children.

A citizen panel would review the program each year to make sure requirements are followed and waste is prevented.

Supporters include: California School Nurses Organization (888-268-2766), American Lung Association of California, California Coastal Coalition, California Academy of Sciences, California Trucking Association

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

“It’s just bad public policy to take \$1 billion from the general fund for a bunch of projects that aren’t necessarily state priorities,” says David Kersten, who’s coordinating the No on 51 campaign for the California Tax Reform Association. “Prop. 51 rewards developers and other rich campaign contributors by writing in their pet projects.” Opponents say:

It’s not sound budgeting to guarantee \$1 billion to transportation regardless of other needs, especially

since the Legislative Analyst predicts years of deficits.

The measure guarantees funding to 45 specific projects, many of them “pork barrel” projects benefiting Prop. 51 contributors or nonessential items such as golf cart paths and a vintage railroad.

Passage of this measure would encourage other “special interests” to try to carve out other portions of the state budget.

Opponents include: California Tax Reform Association (916-446-4300), League of Women Voters California, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

—Meeta Malhi

For more explanation of the propositions, see page 2

Children Now launches Pledge for Kids campaign

Pledge for Kids is a campaign to make quality child care, preschool, and after-school programs a top priority in the 2002 California elections. The campaign will ask candidates for state legislative and other statewide offices to endorse the following pledge for California’s children:

“I envision a California where every child has access to quality child care, preschool, and after-school care—and as an elected official I will prioritize and work toward that goal.”

THE PLEDGE FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN

provides an interactive web site, www.pledgeforkids.org, where you can read candidates’ positions on child care, preschool, and after-school programs as well as other candidate information. Through the web site you can also

communicate directly with candidates, urging them to “take the pledge.”

tracks campaign speeches and news coverage of Pledge for Kids issues. provides county-by-county research on Pledge for Kids issues.

distributes posters and other outreach materials to child care centers and other locations.

Children Now will follow up after the election by holding candidates who “take the pledge” accountable, through the media and other outreach, as well as continuing to provide legislators and other elected officials the latest research on children’s well-being.

For more information contact Children Now at 510-763-2444, www.childrennow.org.

How do our legislators rate on children’s issues?

Check out these “report cards” for federal and state legislators

CONGRESS

The Children’s Defense Fund Action Council produces a Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard rating U.S. senators and representatives on 10 key votes cast in 2001, on such issues as Head Start, the Child Tax Credit, housing assistance, health care, and education. The “grade” also takes into account whether the legislator cosponsored the Act to Leave No Child Behind (S.940/H.R.1990), a comprehensive bill to improve the lives of children.

To see how our California senators and your local U.S. representative scored, go to www.cdfactioncouncil.org/2001scorecard.htm.

STATE LEGISLATURE

The Children’s Advocacy Institute has compiled a report on California senators and assembly members based on their votes on 23 key bills in 2001, on issues including poverty, child support, health and safety, special needs, child care, education, and child protection.

To see how California legislators scored, go to www.sandiego.edu/childreissues/FinalReportCard20016.pdf