

To all Willow Grove Parents,

In this packet is a copy of a letter to both our State Senator and State Assembly Member representing the Willow Grove School District.

Also included is a press release explaining the California State Initiative for Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act.

Please review the information in this packet.

I urge you to mail, email or fax a copy of the letters to each representative. All you need to do is sign the letter and include your address and contact information.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

Phone or email

If you have any questions or need any additional information please email me.

Thank you for your support,  
Diane DeBerry, Legislative Rep.  
858-451-0713 or 858-414-2783 (cell)  
email: [dianed3@cox.net](mailto:dianed3@cox.net)



## **Ninth District**

February 25, 2010

Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth, Senator (R-36)  
El Cajon Office  
1870 Cordell Ct., #107  
El Cajon, CA 92020

Dear Senator Hollingsworth:

As a member of the PTA, and parent of students at Willow Grove Elementary School in the Poway Unified School District, I ask you to stand up for the children of California to protect their future and our state's economic sustainability. While I appreciate that the enacted budget included additional revenues, I am disappointed that education funding shouldered a disproportionate share of the cuts. Our school district will be impacted in many ways including increasing the size of the classrooms, reducing the number of teachers, staff and janitorial services.

The continued lack of adequate and stable funding for public education has caused California to slip yet again in national rankings, to 47th nationally in per-pupil funding, spending \$7,571 when adjusted for regional cost differences compared to the national average of \$9,963. California is now dead last in the number of school staff, librarians and counselors that support our students. Until we confront this downward spiral of our public education system, we risk not only the future of our children, but the future of our state's economy and its ability to compete in an increasingly competitive global environment.

That is why I respectfully request your **support of AB 8 (Brownley.)** This bill would build upon the findings of the Getting Down to Facts studies which concluded that California's education finance system is irrational and complex and in need of comprehensive reform to make it simpler, more transparent, and effective. AB 8 would require the state's Director of Finance and Legislative Analyst to form a working group to make policy and fiscal recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December of 2010.

I also urge your **support of SCA 6 (Simitian)** which would place a proposition on the ballot to lower the parcel tax threshold to 55%. If Sacramento is not going to provide sufficient funding for education, we need to ensure that communities that wish to do so are able to pass local funding measures. When our public schools faced a facilities crisis, California voters passed a similar measure for local school bond measures. As a result, school districts in San Diego County have been able to renovate aging classrooms and provide safe, modern learning environments for students.

Finally, I ask that you do everything in your power to ensure that the education funding included in the Federal Stimulus Package is allocated to local school districts as intended, to help mitigate the cuts to education, rather than supplanting a comparable amount of state education funding.

Sincerely,



February 25, 2010

Honorable Nathan Fletcher, Assembly Member (R-75)  
San Diego District Office  
909 Mira Mesa Blvd. Ste. 130  
San Diego, CA 92131  
Phone: (858) 689-6290  
Fax: (858) 689-6296

Dear Assembly Member Fletcher:

As a member of the PTA, and parent of students at Willow Grove Elementary School in the Poway Unified School District, I ask you to stand up for the children of California to protect their future and our state's economic sustainability. While I appreciate that the enacted budget included additional revenues, I am disappointed that education funding shouldered a disproportionate share of the cuts. Our school district will be impacted in many ways including increasing the size of the classrooms, reducing the number of teachers, staff and janitorial services.

The continued lack of adequate and stable funding for public education has caused California to slip yet again in national rankings, to 47th nationally in per-pupil funding, spending \$7,571 when adjusted for regional cost differences compared to the national average of \$9,963. California is now dead last in the number of school staff, librarians and counselors that support our students. Until we confront this downward spiral of our public education system, we risk not only the future of our children, but the future of our state's economy and its ability to compete in an increasingly competitive global environment.

That is why I respectfully request your **support** of **AB 8 (Brownley)**. This bill would build upon the findings of the Getting Down to Facts studies which concluded that California's education finance system is irrational and complex and in need of comprehensive reform to make it simpler, more transparent, and effective. AB 8 would require the state's Director of Finance and Legislative Analyst to form a working group to make policy and fiscal recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December of 2010.

I also urge your **support** of **SCA 6 (Simitian)** which would place a proposition on the ballot to lower the parcel tax threshold to 55%. If Sacramento is not going to provide sufficient funding for education, we need to ensure that communities that wish to do so are able to pass local funding measures. When our public schools faced a facilities crisis, California voters passed a similar measure for local school bond measures. As a result, school districts in San Diego County have been able to renovate aging classrooms and provide safe, modern learning environments for students.

Finally, I ask that you do everything in your power to ensure that the education funding included in the Federal Stimulus Package is allocated to local school districts as intended, to help mitigate the cuts to education, rather than supplanting a comparable amount of state education funding.

Sincerely,

Here are the names of our district local representatives.

Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth, Senator (R-36)

El Cajon Office

1870 Cordell Ct., #107

El Cajon, CA 92020

Phone: (619) 596-3136

Fax: (619) 596-3140

Honorable Nathan Fletcher, Assembly Member (R-75)

San Diego District Office

909 Mira Mesa Blvd. Ste. 130

San Diego, CA 92131

Phone: (858) 689-6290

Fax: (858) 689-6296

## State PTA supports parcel tax initiative

Submitted By CA State PTA

The California State PTA announced that it is mobilizing its nearly 1 million members to support Californians for Improved School Funding's ballot initiative, the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act ([www.improveschoolfunding.com](http://www.improveschoolfunding.com)).

If qualified for the November 2010 ballot and approved by voters, the proposed Act would lower the threshold for passage of educational parcel taxes to 55 percent, from the current 66.6 percent - two-thirds - provided certain requirements are met. These include advance disclosure on how funds will be spent, annual audits, oversight by an independent citizens' committee, and offering an exemption to senior citizens. Funds raised under the initiative could not be taken or offset by the state in its educational funding decisions.

"Our members overwhelmingly supported a resolution to reduce the parcel tax threshold at our 2008 convention, so we are excited to support this crucial measure," said Jo Loss, president of the California State PTA. "This act alone cannot solve the problem of chronic underfunding of education throughout the state, but it would empower local communities to support their local schools. It is an important step in the right direction toward providing an education that prepares our children and our state for success in a global economy."

"Having local PTAs throughout California support the campaign is an important step towards making the act a reality," said Delaine Eastin, former California Superintendent of Public Instruction. "We are asking all parents, educational leaders and citizens concerned about public education to download, sign and mail in a ballot petition, available at the campaign website, [www.improveschoolfunding.com](http://www.improveschoolfunding.com)."

The Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act will give communities an additional way of showing their support for local public schools. By imposing strict disclosure and accountability standards, and protecting senior citizens, the act will provide assurances to voters that their education tax dollars will be spent on worthwhile programs, including the following:

- Attracting and retaining qualified teachers;
- Keeping class sizes small;
- Supporting strong core academics like math and science; and,
- Maintaining art, music, physical education, athletics and student support programs.

For more information, as well as to donate to, endorse or support the campaign, visit [www.improveschoolfunding.com](http://www.improveschoolfunding.com). Californians for Improved School Funding is registered with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, ID # 1319510.

California State PTA, visit [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).