

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

Top Three Messages

1. **Most of us want similar things: good schools for our children, a healthy family, and safe neighborhoods.** Yet, for nearly four decades, many wealthy investors and big corporations have not been paying their fair share, leaving California with the most overcrowded classrooms in the U.S. and with some of the worst ratios of counselors, librarians, and nurses per student. Meanwhile our local communities are on the front lines of big challenges like safety and housing, while wildfires burn and homelessness grows.

2. Reclaim Funding for Schools and Communities

Schools and Communities First reclaims \$12 billion every year to ensure that our schools and communities have the resources to educate all of our kids and the services to support all of our families. This initiative restores funding for schools, first responders, parks, libraries, public transportation, health clinics and much more.

3. End Shady Tax Evasion Schemes & Corporate Loopholes

Schools and Communities First closes commercial property tax loopholes and ends shady schemes that big corporations and wealthy investors use to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes. They benefit from public schools, roads and public safety just like the rest of us, but they use schemes and loopholes to avoid paying for them. *Schools and Communities First* stops these shady avoidance schemes that have robbed our schools and local communities of the funding we need to invest in our future.

Additional Messages

- **Protect All Homeowners & Renters:** *Schools & Communities First* does not affect property taxes for homeowners or renters because the initiative exempts all residential property.
- **Give Our Children a World-Class Education:** California should be a leader in innovation by educating the next generation of students to compete in the global economy. *Schools & Communities First* invests billions of dollars in our schools every year to ensure our kids receive the world-class education they deserve.
- **Schools are Falling Behind:** California schools are falling behind. California ranks dead last in the nation with the largest number of students per teacher and the fewest counselors per student. *Schools and Communities First* invests billions of dollars in our schools to ensure our kids have the teachers and counselors they need to succeed.
- **Protect Small Businesses & Level the Playing Field:** California's economy is fueled by small and new businesses. *Schools & Communities First* levels the playing field for businesses that pay their fair share in our communities. And it provides the single largest tax incentive in a generation to spur new investment in small businesses by eliminating the tax on equipment for California's small businesses
- **Shady Tax Avoidance:** When commercial property is sold it should be handled just like when a home is sold. *Schools and Communities First* shuts down the shady avoidance schemes that people like the owner of Dell Computers use to hide change in ownership and pocket millions that should be going to schools and communities.

- **Big Oil Subsidies:** *Schools and Communities First* means taxpayers will no longer be providing huge subsidies to multinational oil companies like Chevron and Shell that use loopholes to avoid paying millions of dollars in property taxes while they make billions worldwide.
- **Fair Share:** Wealthy investors and corporations have taken advantage of the rest of us long enough. They benefit from good schools and public safety just like us. But unlike the rest of us, they are avoiding paying their fair share of property taxes. *Schools and Communities First* ends their tax breaks and invests the money in our children's education, our local communities, and encouraging new small business investment. Our children and communities will be better off when everyone pays their fair share.

Paid for by Schools and Communities First - Sponsored by a Coalition of Social Justice Organizations Representing Families and Students. Committee major funding from:

Chan Zuckerberg Advocacy (Nonprofit (501(c)(4))
The San Francisco Foundation
California Teachers Association
Funding details at <http://fppc.ca.gov>