Prop 38 Yes E-Phoners Support Document

Thank you for supporting Prop 38 Yes by helping to spread the word about school vouchers! This packet is your resource guide for talking to others about Prop 38 Yes. In it you will find:

- The Full Text of the Initiative (for your reference)
- Opposition Myths and the FACTS to refute them
- Prop 38 Yes Talking Points

Your contact person on this project is Julia Lennan, julia@vouchers2000.com. Please do not hesitate to contact Julia for any information you may need.

All of these components will help you to answer questions and respond to questions from potential supporters. However, if you find that you cannot answer an individual's questions, please do not hesitate to direct them to their local campaign headquarters http://www.38yes.com/locations.html or the Statewide Campaign Headquarters:

Prop 38 Yes Headquarters
400 Seaport Court, Suite 102
Redwood City, CA 94063
(888) A-CHOICE
The Full Text of Proposition 38

Title & Summary
The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

SCHOOL VOUCHERS. STATE-FUNDED PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Authorizes annual state payments of at least $4000 per pupil for private and religious schools phased in over four years. Restricts state and local authority to require private schools to meet standards, including state academic requirements. Limits future health, safety, zoning, building restrictions on private schools. Requires release of composite test scores of voucher pupils. Permits Legislature to replace current voter-enacted constitutional funding priority for public schools (Proposition 98) with minimum formula based on national per-pupil average, as defined by terms of this measure. Summary of Legislative Analyst’s Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact: Short-term (first several years) state costs averaging between zero and $1.1 billion annually. Longer-term (within five years to ten years) net fiscal effect on state funding of K-12 schools is largely unknown. Annual impact likely to range from costs of about $2 billion to savings of over $3 billion, depending on the number of pupils who shift from public schools to private schools. Debt service savings to the state and school districts potentially in excess of $100 million annually after 10 years to 20 years, resulting from reduced need for construction of public schools. Potential loss of federal funds in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Initiative
The National Average School Funding Guarantee and Parental Right to Choose Quality Education Amendment

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<tr>
<th>&quot;Official&quot; Title of Proposition 38</th>
<th>SECTION 1: TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>&quot;Official&quot; Title of Proposition 38</strong></td>
<td>This measure shall be known and may be cited as &quot;The National Average School Funding Guarantee and Parental Right to Choose Quality Education Amendment.&quot;</td>
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<th>Findings and Declarations:</th>
<th>SECTION 2:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Findings and Declarations:</strong></td>
<td>Section 8.1 is added to Article IX to read:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposition 38 empowers California parents and grandparents to provide their children and grandchildren with a quality education and an opportunity to learn the skills they need to reach their full potential and achieve success.</strong></td>
<td>SEC 8.1. The people of the State of California find and declare:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(a)</strong> The economic and social viability of California depends on a well-educated citizenry. <strong>(b)</strong> Test scores from students in government operated schools reveal that the public school system in this state has become an inefficient monopoly, with many parents forced to enroll their children in schools that are failing to prepare students with the foundation skills of reading, writing and mathematics. <strong>(c)</strong> As California embarks on the 21st century, basic changes in California’s education delivery structure must be made to ensure that our children receive the benefits of quality education services.</td>
<td><strong>(d)</strong> Parents are best equipped to make decisions for their children and have the right to select the educational setting that will best serve the interests and educational needs of their child. <strong>(e)</strong> Families have the right to have their children attend schools that successfully teach reading, writing and mathematics to all enrolled students.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Letting parents choose private schools for their children will reduce class sizes for those who remain in public schools.</strong></td>
<td><strong>(f)</strong> The scholarship provided pursuant to this measure is a grant in aid to the parents for the education of their children. The decision by a parent to accept a scholarship and how it is used is not the decision of the state but an exercise of independent parental judgement. <strong>(g)</strong> The scholarships provided pursuant to this measure are consistent with existing</td>
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"vouchers" and public funds for education services at private schools are already available to some children and young adults under existing California law.

According to a team of constitutional legal experts, there are no issues that can be raised with respect to the separation of church and state.

(h) The scholarship program enacted by this Article is not intended to establish, support, promote, or in any way endorse any religion. The people of this State intend only to provide the parents of schoolchildren with the financial means to make their own school choices, not to promote or disadvantage any particular class of schools.

(i) In order for California’s students to compete with the students of other states and countries in the global economy of the 21st century, the people of the State of California hereby declare the importance of restoring the focus on academic outcome, introducing competition into the delivery of education services, eliminating waste and inefficiency in government operated schools while providing necessary resources for a quality public education.

(j) This measure recognizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing the per-pupil funding base in government schools at or above the national average amount as part of the system-wide reform of introducing competition and expanding the educational options for parents, which it would accomplish.

Funding Guarantee Section: Proposition 38 provides a stronger per pupil funding guarantee than current Proposition 98 minimum guarantee.

SECTION 3: SECTION 8.3 is added to Article IX to read:

(a) The Legislature may fund public schools by an amount equal to or exceeding the national average on a dollar per pupil basis pursuant to this section by a statute passed by a majority vote of the members of each house concurring. The amount of funding provided for the support of public schools pursuant to this section each fiscal year thereafter shall be equal to the number of students enrolled in the public school system in kindergarten through grade 12, inclusive, multiplied by an amount equal to or greater than the national average dollar per pupil funding amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (c). This amount shall be known as the national average school funding guarantee.

(b) If the national average school funding guarantee is operative it may only be suspended for a period of one fiscal year by a statute passed in each house by roll call vote entered in the journal, three fourths of the membership concurring provided that the statute may not be made part of, or included within, any bill enacted pursuant to Section 12 of Article IV.

(c) Each fiscal year, the Director of the Department of Finance shall calculate the amount of funding provided for support of public schools in this state, the enrollment in public schools in this state, and the national average dollar per pupil funding amount for support of public schools. To the extent that the Director of Finance is unable to determine the current year amount dedicated in each of the states for the public schools, the most recent amount for each state shall be adjusted upward by the appropriate number of times using the latest positive dollar per pupil growth rate in that state.

(d) If in any fiscal year, the amount of funding provided for support of public schools is at least the national average school funding guarantee calculated pursuant to subdivision (a), the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be used to calculate the amount of funds provided for the support of public schools in all subsequent fiscal years and this section shall supercede Section 8 of Article XVI.

(e) If the national average school funding guarantee becomes operative pursuant to this section, then this section shall supercede all the provisions of Section 8 of Article XVI with
Proposition 38 offers every parent a $4,000 per child voucher that will be accepted at the school of their choice. That's roughly half of what California spends per pupil so the other half is savings to the state.

The Proposition 38 vouchers program phases in over 4 years, first targeting all previous public school students.

1st year: All previous public school students AND all students starting kindergarten are eligible to redeem.

Proposition 38 offers a scholarship to any parent who chooses to send their child to school operated or owned by an entity other than the state or any of its subdivisions or agencies, thereby guaranteeing that students enrolled in California public schools are funded at or above the national average dollar per pupil amount.

For purposes of this Article, the following terms have the following meanings:

1. "amount of funding provided for the support of public schools" shall include all funds used to support services to students in public schools in grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive, including federal, state, and local sources, unrestricted funds, categorical funding, and funding dedicated to cover annual debt service on state and local bonds, certificates of participation, notes, and other forms of indebtedness, or any other funds, which are dedicated to finance local and state educational programs, administration or facilities for grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive, including disbursements, if any, pursuant to Section 8.5 of Article XVI.

2. "national average dollar per pupil funding" shall be the average amount of funds provided in the United States for public school students in grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive, determined by calculating a statewide dollar per pupil average for each state which is the amount of funding provided for the support of public schools in that state, pursuant to paragraph (1), divided by the number of public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive. These dollar per pupil amounts shall then be averaged across all the states.

3. "child," "pupil," or "student" is a person eligible to attend kindergarten or any grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

4. "parent" is any person having legal or effective custody of a child.

5. "gender" means either a male human being or a female human being.

6. The Legislature may enact a statute pursuant to Section 12 of Article IV for the necessary support of the community colleges in each fiscal year this section is operative. The intent of the people is that any such statute fully fund the demand for programs offered by the community colleges.

Section: Scholarship/Voucher

**SECTION 4:**

Section 8.5 is added to Article IX of the Constitution, to read:

SEC. 8.5.

**Proposition 38 offers every parent a $4000 per child voucher that will be accepted at the school of their choice.** That's roughly half of what California spends per pupil so the other half is savings to the State.

**THE PROPOSITION 38 VOUCHERS PROGRAM PHASES IN OVER 4 YEARS, FIRST TARGETING ALL PREVIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

**1ST YEAR: ALL PREVIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ALL STUDENTS STARTING KINDERGARTEN ARE ELIGIBLE TO REDEEM.**

The amount of a scholarship, excluding any increases provided pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subdivision, shall be in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, the greater of four thousand dollars ($4,000), one-half of the national average dollar per pupil funding defined pursuant to Section 8.3 of Article IX, or one-half of the amount of funds provided for the support of public schools divided by the enrollment of students enrolled in public schools in grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive if provided pursuant to Section 8.3. (2) If a parent decides to apply for a scholarship to enroll their child in a scholarship-redeeming school, any scholarship amount that exceeds the tuition and fees of the scholarship-redeeming school for any year in which the pupil is in attendance shall be credited to an account on behalf of the parent for each eligible child to be managed by the

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are eligible to redeem vouchers

2nd year: all public AND private K-2
3rd year: all public AND private K-8
4th year: all public and private K-12

Voucher amount is the highest of the following:

a. $4,000
b. 1/2 of national average
c. 1/2 of CA public school (if higher than national average)

Proposition 38 will place any difference in the cost of tuition and the amount of the voucher into savings accounts to be used for K-12 and college tuition.

Student savings accounts are managed by the State Treasurer, with administrative costs paid through interest earnings on the accounts.

(e) The amounts disbursed to parents for scholarships pursuant to this section shall not be calculated toward the amounts provided for the support of public schools pursuant to Section 8.3 of this Article or Section 8 of Article XVI.

(f) Scholarships provided under this section are grants of aid to parents on behalf of their children, to provide parents with greater choice in selecting the most appropriate educational setting for their child, and not to the schools in which parents decide to enroll their children. These scholarships do not constitute taxable income to the parent or their child.

(g) After accepting a scholarship pursuant to this section, a parent may choose a nonpublic educational placement for the child and that selection is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a decision or act of the state or any of its subdivisions.

How vouchers work

Step 1 Parents request voucher by providing proof of enrollment, tuition and fee information, and the address of school to the county office of education.

Step 2 County Office of Education collects information provided by the parent and forwards it to the State Controller.

Step 3 State Controller State Treasurer. A parent may apply that surplus to supplement future tuition or fee costs that exceed the scholarship amount for that child in any of the grades one through twelve inclusive, and through the completion of an undergraduate degree. Any credit remaining on the date the pupil completes an undergraduate degree, or reaches 21 and is not enrolled in a scholarship redeeming school, shall be credited to the state general fund. (3) Costs to the State Treasurer pursuant to this subdivision shall be reimbursed from interest income earned on the management of these funds. The net interest earnings shall be deposited in the state general fund. (4) The legislature may enact statutes governing the management of the parent savings account.

(h)(1) Any parent eligible pursuant to subdivision (c), having enrolled their child in a scholarship-redeeming school, may request a scholarship by providing proof of enrollment, tuition and fee information, and the address of the scholarship redeeming school to the county office of education in the county in which the scholarship-redeeming school is located. The county office of education shall compile this information for all scholarship-redeeming parents within the county and shall submit the statement of current enrollment, tuition and fees, and addresses of scholarship-redeeming schools, to the Controller within 30 days of proof of enrollment. (2) The Controller shall make four quarterly disbursements to the parent in the form of a check for the amount of the scholarship established pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) adjusted for the amount transferred to or from the account established on behalf of the parent pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d). The Controller shall send the check to the address provided in paragraph (1). The parent shall restrictively endorse each quarterly check for application to the parent's account at the scholarship-redeeming school. In any fiscal year, the sum of the quarterly checks to a parent on behalf of a child shall not exceed the tuition and fees for that child at the scholarship-redeeming school. (3) If a pupil of a parent or guardian receiving a scholarship
Proposition 38 includes constitutionally enforced requirements for voucher redeeming schools.

Step 4 Parent MUST restrictively endorse the check to the school for application to the parent's account.

Transfers from a scholarship redeeming school, the school shall provide written notification of the transfer and its effective date to the county office of education within 10 days of the transfer. The county office of education shall notify the Controller of the transfer and the Controller shall prorate the disbursement(s) to reflect only the period of time in which the child was actually enrolled. (4) At the end of each fiscal year, the Controller shall deposit the unused portion of each scholarship in the parent's account established pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d).

Proposition 38 expressly prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color or national origin.

(A) The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color or national origin, or advocate unlawful behavior of any kind. Nothing precludes the establishment of same gender schools or classrooms.

(B) The school does not deliberately provide false or misleading information about the school.

(C) No person convicted of (i) any felony or crime involving moral turpitude, (ii) any offense involving lewd or lascivious conduct, or (iii) any offense involving molestation or other abuse of a child, shall own, contract with or be employed by the school.

(D) A high school shall certify either (i), that the school has obtained notice from the University of California, California State University, or any private college or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency or an accreditation agency recognized by the state, that coursework completed by a pupil at the high school in one or more academic subjects designated by the institution issuing notice will fulfill the institution's admission requirements in the designated subject or subjects if a pupil's grades and the duration of study are acceptable; or (ii), that it has received either accreditation or provisional accreditation from a regional accreditation agency or an accrediting agency recognized by the state.

Voucher redeeming schools must satisfy all the requirements that applied to private schools as of January 1, 1999, including filing affidavits with the CDE and having all employees pass fingerprint and background checks.

(Voucher redeeming schools cannot employ a person who has any crime that would prohibit a person from working at a public school.

Schools must certify that course requirements will fulfill admission requirements for UC, CSU and CA's private colleges and universities.

Proposition 38 ensures financial and educational accountability to the people who matter most: parents and their children.

(3) Each scholarship-redeeming school shall comply with each of the following requirements on an annual basis:
The initiative requires voucher redeeming schools to prepare mandatory annual financial statements that must be made available to parents.

Proposition 38 requires voucher schools to perform the same academic testing as public school children and publish test scores.

Proposition 38 authorizes a code of conduct and discipline in voucher redeeming schools.

Proposition 38 authorizes the legislature to enact new laws to prosecute fraudulent conduct, including the false solicitation of pupils or false redemption of scholarships.

| (A) | Prepare a statement of financial condition that lists the revenues, expenses and debts of the school. These documents shall be provided to parents upon request. |
| (B) | Administer nationally normed reference tests, mandated to be taken by pupils enrolled in public schools and that provide individual student scores, to pupils whose parents have accepted scholarships, for the purpose of monitoring academic improvement of these pupils. The composite results of the test scores of the pupils of parents who accepted scholarships for each grade level tested shall be released to the public. Individual results shall be released only to the child's parents and the school that the child attends. |
| (4) | Any scholarship-redeeming school may establish a code of conduct and discipline and enforce the code with sanctions, including dismissal. The school shall provide to the parent a copy of the written code of conduct and discipline upon the pupil's admission to the school. A pupil who is responsible for serious or habitual misconduct related to school activity or school attendance may be dismissed. A dismissed pupil may use the unused portion of a scholarship for the balance of the year in which the dismissal occurred at any other scholarship-redeeming school that will grant admission, or may return to a public school and forego notify the county office of education in writing within ten days of any such dismissal. |
| (5) | Notwithstanding Section 8.7 of this Article, the Legislature may by majority vote enact civil and criminal penalties for schools and persons who engage in fraudulent conduct in connection with the solicitation of pupils or the redemption of scholarships under this section. |

SECTION 5:

Section 8.7 is added to Article IX of the Constitution, to read:

SEC. 8.7.  
(a) Private schools, including scholarship-redeeming schools, regardless of size, need maximum flexibility to educate pupils. Therefore, private schools shall be free from unnecessary, burdensome or onerous regulation. In any legal proceeding challenging a state statute or any regulation promulgated pursuant to a state statute as inconsistent with this section, the state shall bear the burden of establishing that the statute or regulation is necessary and that the statute or regulation does not impose any undue burden on private schools, including scholarship-redeeming schools.  
(b) Except as provided in this section, private schools including scholarship-redeeming schools, are not subject to any state regulation beyond the state statutes, in effect and as enforced, that applied to private schools on January 1, 1999, including, but not limited to, Article 1 (commencing with Section 32000), Article 2 (commencing with Section 32020), and Article 5 (commencing with Section 32050) of Chapter 1 of Part 19 of, Article 5 (commencing with Section 33190) and Article 10.5 (commencing with Section 35295) of Chapter 2 of Part 20 of, and Sections 44237, 48200, 48202, 48222, 49068, 49069, and 51202 of, the Education Code. No additional statutes shall be enacted by the legislature pertaining to private schools, including scholarship-redeeming schools, unless approved by a three-fourths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature.  
(c) No regulation or ordinance may be enacted on or after the approval by the voters of this section that affects private schools, including scholarship-redeeming schools and that pertains to health, safety or land use and is imposed by any county, city, city and county, district or other subdivision of the state, except by a two-thirds vote of the governmental body issuing or enacting the regulation or ordinance and a majority vote of qualified electors within the affected jurisdiction. In any legal proceeding challenging a regulation or ordinance as inconsistent with this subdivision, the governmental body issuing or enacting the regulation or ordinance shall bear the burden of establishing that the regulation or ordinance meets each of the following criteria:  
(1) It is essential to assure the health, safety or education of pupils, or, as to any land use regulation, that the governmental body has a compelling interest in issuing or enacting the regulation or ordinance.  
(2) It does not unduly burden or impede private schools or the parents of students attending private schools.
(3) It does not harass, injure or suppress private schools.
(4) It does not infringe on a parent or guardian’s freedom to make decisions regarding the quality and content of their child’s education, or whether the child attends a public or private school, including a scholarship-redeeming school.

SECTION 6:
Section 8.8 is added to Article IX of the Constitution to read:

| Allows the voucher program to remain in place for schools not otherwise prevented by a court from redeeming a voucher. |
| SEC. 8.8. |
| If any portion of Section 8.5 of Article IX is enjoined from being utilized by parents to expand their choice in educational settings for their children at any class of schools, it shall not prevent Section 8.5 of Article IX from being operative for any other school or class of schools not explicitly covered by the judicial order. |
Opposition Myths and FACTS to Refute Them

Myth 1: Vouchers will mean NO ACCOUNTABILITY.
Fact: Prop. 38 YES will make schools DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO PARENTS AND TAXPAYERS. If schools are not delivering a good education to its students, parents can use the vouchers to remove their children and enroll in other schools. Schools will have to perform to attract and keep students. The $4,000 voucher is the tool parents can use to keep schools directly accountable to them.

Prop. 38 YES requires voucher redeeming schools to prepare mandatory annual financial statements and make this information available to the people who matter most: parents. Parents will always know how the voucher schools are spending their money.

Prop. 38 YES includes constitutionally enforced requirements for voucher redeeming schools. Voucher schools:

- Must file with the California Superintendent of Public Instruction a statement certifying that the school satisfies the legal requirements that applied to private schools on January 1, 1999
- Cannot discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color or national origin
- Cannot advocate unlawful behavior of any kind
- Cannot hire felons to teach in their classrooms
- Must certify that their course requirements will fulfill admission requirements for the University of California, California State University and California's private colleges and universities
- Must administer nationally normed reference tests, mandated to be taken by pupils enrolled in public schools and that provide individual student scores, to pupils whose parents have accepted vouchers
- Must file affidavits with the California Department of Education and have all employees pass fingerprint and background checks

Myth 2: Vouchers will mean NO ACADEMIC/PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.
Fact: Prop. 38 YES REQUIRES voucher redeeming schools to PERFORM THE SAME ACADEMIC TESTING that is mandated for public school children, and to publish composite test scores.

Voucher schools must administer nationally normed reference tests, mandated to be taken by pupils enrolled in public schools and that provide individual student scores, to pupils whose parents have accepted scholarships, for the purpose of monitoring academic improvement of these pupils. The composite results of the test scores of the pupils of parents who accepted scholarships for each grade level tested shall be released to the public. Individual results shall be released only to the child's parents and the school that the child attends.

Myth 3: Vouchers will mean $3 BILLION IN TAXES.
Fact: Prop. 38 YES WILL NOT RAISE TAXES. The non-partisan California Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), in its fiscal analysis of Prop. 38 YES, found that Proposition 38 will not require a tax increase and will likely save the state billions of dollars in taxpayer money over time.

The LAO reported that per pupil savings from the shift of students to voucher redeeming schools could offset the cost of the program by as much as $6.7 billion, and create an annual net savings to the State of $3.4 billion.
The LAO also found that smaller class sizes as a result of Proposition 38 could save an additional $100 million in bond debt service due to reduced need for construction of public schools.

**Myth 4:**
Vouchers will ALLOW DISCRIMINATION.

**Fact:**
Section 8.5 (i)(2)(A) of Prop. 38 YES expressly PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION based on race, ethnicity, color or national origin.

In reality, the true victims of discrimination are low income and minority families whose children are trapped in the failing public education system with no choice about their future.

**Myth 5:**
Vouchers will ABANDON OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**Fact:**
Prop. 38 YES WILL IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Voucher students who leave public schools only take about half of their per-pupil funding allotment from the state with them to the private schools. The remaining half stays in the system, and can be used to improve conditions at the public schools so the remaining students benefit as well. It is important to note that students who do remain in public schools will receive a guaranteed level of funding at or above the national average - at least $8,000 per student.

Further, the non-partisan California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has indicated in its fiscal analysis that the amounts by which school districts reduce costs as a result of having to teach fewer pupils will offset funding reductions.

**Myth 6:**
Vouchers will TAKE MONEY FROM OTHER VITAL PROGRAMS.

**Fact:**
Prop. 38 YES WILL NOT TAKE MONEY from law enforcement, health care or other vital programs. Prop. 38 YES WILL NOT RAISE TAXES. The non-partisan California Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), in its fiscal analysis of Prop. 38 YES, found that Proposition 38 will not require a tax increase and will likely save the state billions of dollars in taxpayer money over time.

The LAO reported that per pupil savings from the shift of students to voucher redeeming schools could offset the cost of the program by as much as $6.7 billion, and create an annual net savings to the State of $3.4 billion.

The LAO also found that smaller class sizes as a result of Proposition 38 could save an additional $100 million in bond debt service due to reduced need for construction of public schools.

In a recent article, the San Francisco Chronicle called the "No" campaign on their deceptive radio and television ads claiming Proposition 38 threatens critical police, fire and health services.

**Myth 7:**
Voucher schools don't comply with safety standards.

**Fact:**
Under Prop. 38 YES, voucher redeeming schools must satisfy all of the requirements that applied to private schools as of January 1, 1999, including filing affidavits with the California Department of Education and having all employees pass fingerprint and background checks.

No private school can operate without adherence to local building and safety codes, including fire and earthquake standards.
Further, Voucher redeeming schools cannot employ a person who has committed a crime of moral turpitude, child molestation or child abuse, or any crime that would prohibit a person from working at a public school.

**Myth 8:**
School vouchers are subject to income tax.

**Fact:**
Prop. 38 YES school vouchers do not count as taxable income to parents or kids and are not subject to state or federal income tax.

**Myth 9:**
Vouchers don't improve student performance.

**Fact:**
In voucher programs in Milwaukee and Cleveland, students scoring in the bottom third of the country in their prior public school, coming from households well below the national poverty level, realized 2 to 11 national percentile point growth in basic subjects when parents had the right to choose the best school for their child.

**Myth 10:**
Proposition 38 creates a conflict between church and state.

**Fact:**
The Proposition 38 school vouchers program is constructed without intention to support, promote or in any way endorse any religion. A team of legal and constitutional experts has determined that there are no issues that can be raised with respect to the separation of church and state.

**Myth 11:**
Private schools are for only for wealthy and privileged students.

**Fact:**
According to a 1999 Census report, less than one-third of all private school students come from families with incomes of $75,000 or above.

In fact, many private schools are situated in populous urban centers, and provide motivation, instruction and opportunity to those facing the most daunting educational challenges.
Prop 38 Yes Talking Points

Proposition 38 is a simple way to empower California’s parents and grandparents to provide their children and grandchildren with a quality education and an opportunity to learn the skills they need to reach their full potential and achieve success.

Proposition 38:

✓ Provides at least $4,000 per year for every parent to choose the best school for their kids.

✓ Provides a guarantee that the state’s per pupil spending never drops below the national average.

✓ Strengthens public education by reducing class sizes and raising the amount of money spent per student leading to smaller, safer, more disciplined schools.

✓ Saves taxpayers billions of dollars over time.

✓ Provides new and exciting career opportunities for teachers where results will be rewarded and they will have the tools to ensure the best interest of the children in their classrooms come before bureaucratic dictates from Sacramento.

✓ Ensures financial and educational accountability to the people who matter most: parents and their kids.

Proposition 38 means better schools and no cuts for law enforcement, health care, transportation or any other vital programs – and no tax increase!

The need for Proposition 38:

There is no doubt that the once-enviable California public school system has fallen into disrepair. Consider the following:

✗ A whopping 80 percent of California fourth-graders are not proficient in reading.

✗ California ranks 49th in the nation in math scores.

✗ One-Third of ninth-graders will never receive a high school diploma.

Proposition 38 addresses the desires of California’s parents and voters:

➢ 64% of Californians feel that current schools are unfixable or are in need of major reform.

➢ 67% of Californians believe that money is wasted in the current system.

➢ 62% of Californians want schools to be reformed by giving parents more choices, schools more funding and the system more accountability.

➢ 58% of Californians want educational reform that allows parents to have the ultimate authority in deciding.