Draper’s Prop 38:

Myth vs. REALITY

**Myth 1:**
Prop. 38 gives every parent a $4,000 voucher that would let them send their child to the school of their choice.

But in Reality…
Under Prop. 38, it is private schools -- not parents or children -- who have the choice of which schools our children can attend. The Draper initiative gives billions in taxpayer funds to unaccountable private voucher schools that can discriminate against children for almost any reason, including gender, language, religion, family ability to pay, and academic or physical ability. Furthermore, Draper admits that private schools currently do not have room for more than a few thousand new students.

**Myth 2:**
Prop. 38 will not require a tax increase.

But in reality…
The Draper Voucher Initiative requires the state to provide a $4,000 voucher to the approximately 700,000 students currently in private schools. This is a totally new state expenditure and would have to lead to an increase in taxes or cuts in vital services, such as health care or public safety. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- which opposes Prop. 38 -- states that Draper’s measure “could cost taxpayers billions of dollars a year.”

**Myth 3:**
Prop. 38 gives teachers smaller classes, more money, and new career opportunities where children come before bureaucrats and red tape.

But in reality…
There is nothing in Proposition 38 that deals with any of these topics. In fact, Prop. 38 does nothing to improve our neighborhood public schools. Prop. 38 would abandon them by taking money from local public schools, making it harder to reduce class sizes and to hire and train qualified teachers.

**Myth 4:**
Prop. 38 provides educational accountability to parents and students.

But in reality…
Nothing could be further from the truth. Prop. 38 creates voucher schools that do not require teacher credentials, academic standards or financial audits. The Draper initiative does not require voucher schools to inform parents of what their children are being taught, or to tell taxpayers how their money is spent.

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Myth 5:
California schools rank near the bottom in the nation, and Prop. 38 is the only solution to giving our children a chance to succeed.
But in reality…
Our schools need more help, but Prop, 38 is not the answer. The Draper Voucher Initiative will make things worse by taking money away from schools and will lead to new problems by creating unaccountable and unregulated voucher schools. The track record of voucher schools in other states shows that they do not produce significant increases in student performance and they take money away from local public schools.

Myth 6:
Prop. 38 will increase public school funding to equal or exceed the national average.
But in reality…
This is simply not true. Nothing in Proposition 38 guarantees that funding will reach the national average. In fact, the spokesperson of the Yes on 38 campaign admitted to the San Francisco Chronicle that the national average language “is meant to sweeten the sound of the measure in the eyes of voters,” and “would not fatten public school coffers.”

In addition, the Attorney General’s office has pointed out that there is nothing preventing the state legislature from already doing this. And if the per pupil funding does reach the national average, the Draper Initiative automatically eliminates the constitutional guarantee that 40% of the state budget go to public schools. This would endanger funding guarantees for community colleges, childcare, and schools for the deaf, blind and neurologically handicapped.

Myth 7:
The CTA and powerful education unions are opposed to Prop. 38 because they are afraid of losing political power and their monopoly over our children’s education.
But in reality…
Proposition 38 is opposed by a broad coalition of parents, teachers, business, and community organizations because it is a risky experiment that our children can’t afford. The 300,000 teachers who belong to the CTA are teaming up with groups from all over the state, including the California State PTA, the California Business Roundtable, the NAACP, MAPA, and many others in an effort to defeat Tim Draper and Prop. 38. In contrast, the Yes on 38 campaign has been unable to build a coalition. The Yes on 38 campaign is making these charges in order to distract attention from their own lack of support in California.