K-12 PARENTS, STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS SAY YES ON PROPOSITION 39

"Thousands of California children go to schools with conditions for which we really only have one word: slums."

Los Angeles Times, May 19, 2000

California schools are crumbling.

Voters like you want to fix them. So, what's the problem?

In many school districts throughout the state, school bond measures have failed, often by a handful of votes. School bond supporters have been unable to convince enough voters that bond funds would not be used for administration or bureaucracy -- or purposes other than repairing old classrooms or building new schools. Taxpayers want assurance that their tax dollars will be well managed and not wasted. They want to be sure that school bonds are justified. Most of all, they want more accountability in the way school construction and repair funds are used.

Proposition 39 solves the problem.

Proposition 39 will fix the system AND fix our schools. It gives our kids the classrooms they need -- and voters the accountability they demand. The initiative prohibits the use of school bond construction money for administration and requires schools to undergo two independent audits every year. To give taxpayers even more protection, legislation automatically goes into effect when Proposition 39 passes that limits how much property taxes can be raised by a local school bond.

Most importantly, Proposition 39 gives back to voters the power to decide whether to invest in our schools. School districts will be required to submit a detailed list of specific school construction and repair projects to voters. Voters can then judge for themselves whether to repair dilapidated old schools or build badly needed new ones.

Do California schools really need fixing? YES! Here's why:

Class-size reduction: Educators and parents agree that smaller class sizes lead to more learning and fewer discipline problems. But putting fewer kids in a classroom means additional classrooms must be built. State funds have paid for more teachers to reduce class sizes but NO extra money was allocated to provide those teachers with classrooms.
Outdated classrooms: How can students possibly learn about technology if their school's electrical wiring cannot even support computers? Using a computer is now a "basic skill" that every Californian needs. Every school must be hooked up to the Internet so no child is left behind.

Safety concerns: When school districts go to voters to ask for money, they rarely ask for "luxuries". Often, simple safety is the main goal. Bonds address asbestos removal, faulty plumbing and leaking roofs, among other safety improvements.

Overcrowded schools: California has more students per classroom than any other state except one. More than two million children in California now spend at least part of the school day in portable classrooms. Other children don't have a classroom at all; their class meets on top of a school stage, in a partitioned section of a gym, or in a closed school library. More classrooms must be built to keep pace with growth. Proposition 39 gives communities a better way to invest in schools and the future of its children while protecting homeowners and taxpayers.

Proposition 39 helps kids and protects taxpayers. That's why it has won the support of Governor Gray Davis and former Governor Pete Wilson. Proposition 39's long list of supporters includes major senior, teacher, parent, taxpayer, labor, ethnic and public safety organizations.

Parents and educators throughout the state are pitching in to help pass Proposition 39. Here’s what you can do:

- Learn about Proposition 39. Background information and the text of the measure can be found on the Web site.
- Join the coalition. Do it online or download the form and mail or fax it in.
- Copy the coalition form and background information and help our coalition grow by signing up other voters, school groups, community groups, businesses and civic organizations. If you need a speaker, the campaign staff is here to help.
- Join our Speakers Bureau or volunteer to distribute information. Just check the appropriate box on the coalition form.
- Share what you know about Proposition 39 with your family, friends, neighbors and other voters.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 39!