

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2024

Schools get funding increases in the 2024-25 state budget

In spite of a huge revenue deficit, the California state budget that passed in June spares K-12 schools and community colleges from serious funding cuts.

With a few exceptions, funding for school programs was maintained or even increased. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), special education, transitional kindergarten, nutrition, and preschool all saw increases in revenue.

State lawmakers and the governor negotiated the budget with “machinations only an accountant would love,” said Carol Kocivar in an Ed100 blog.

These include creating a \$6.2 billion debt for the state general fund, deferring \$2.6 billion in Prop. 98 funding, and suspending \$8.3 billion for schools. Most of the money in the state’s education rainy day fund was drained.

Non-education areas of the budget took the brunt of budget cuts.

While the budget news for schools is generally good, there is still reason to worry. School districts receive most of their funding through LCFF, which is based on daily student attendance, so “many districts with declining en-

New Superintendent of Schools joins OC Department of Education



Orange County has a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stefan Bean. Dr. Bean was appointed to the position in July by the Orange County Board of Education, following the resignation of Dr. Al Mijares due to illness.

Born in Saigon during the Vietnam War, Dr. Bean suffered from polio and was abandoned by his parents. He was brought to the United States and adopted by the Bean family. After attending USC he became an elementary school teacher. He spent the past 25 years as a charter school administrator.

“Fourth District PTA welcomes Dr. Bean,” said Ellen Gravitt, Fourth District PTA president. “We look forward to continuing our close partnership with the Orange County Department of Education.”

More information about Dr. Bean is at [OCDE.us](https://ocde.us) and EdSource.org. Read an article about emotional intelligence by Dr. Bean [here](#).

rollments and high absenteeism rates will face financial challenges,” said John Fensterwald at EdSource. If state revenues don’t increase there could be funding cuts in the future, especially with the rainy day fund gone.

For more information about the budget go to [Ed100](#) and [EdSource](#).

Fourth District PTA supports SB 907

SB 907, which would change the composition and election time of the Orange County Board of Education, has been passed by the state Assembly and Senate and now awaits the governor’s signature.

Fourth District PTA voted in June to support the bill.

Introduced by Senator Josh Newman, [SB 907](#) would increase the number of trustees from five to seven and would shift the board’s election from the primary ballot in the spring to the general election in November.

Among the state’s ten largest counties, Orange County is one of four that have only five trustees on the county board of education, according to Newman’s office. Adding two trustees will ensure a more representative and responsive board of education.

The OC Board of Education is one of only five county of education boards that elect trustees in the primary election. Voter turnout is substantially lower in spring elections as compared to the fall general elections. In Orange County, the Board of Education election is the only electoral contest that is held in the primary election and the only contest where candidates win with a plurality, rather than a majority of votes.

“PTA favors policies that encourage civic engagement, support the diversity and participation of voters, and ensure fair representation of our citizens by elected officials,” Fourth District’s letter of support states. “Increasing the number of Board members from five to seven would offer the opportunity to make the board more reflective of the county’s diversity and larger population, and be better aligned with the principles of local control.”

Calling all newbies!

Is this your first year as the advocacy chair or vice president for your PTA unit or council?

CAPTA tells you what you need to know to do your job [here](#).

Find a list of advocacy resources [here](#).

How your PTA can be involved in the General Election

PTA is a nonpartisan organization, which means we never support or oppose candidates or political parties. It is important that we maintain this neutrality in order to protect our nonprofit tax-exempt status.

There are still many ways we can be involved in the election process. When California State PTA takes a position to support or oppose a ballot proposition, we can use PTA resources to encourage voters in the community to follow PTA's lead. (This does not mean you are required to vote as requested by PTA. However, you should not use your PTA to contradict a position taken by CAPTA.)

Here are other things your PTA can do:

- Encourage high school seniors and others in your community to register to vote. The voter registration deadline for the November election is October 21.
- Provide information about how to [vote](#) in Orange County.
- Sponsor a candidate forum, or send questionnaires to school board candidates and publish the results. Make sure all candidates are invited to participate.

Plan Your Advocacy Year

Advocacy Training Workshop

October 4 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Advocacy Forums

November 15 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

January 24 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

April 25 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Sacramento Safari

Orientation, February 18

Sacramento Safari, February 24 and 25

Safari Debrief, March 14

California State PTA Legislative Conference

February 3 and 4

CAPTA Advocacy Calls

Be sure to participate in monthly Advocacy Calls with the California State PTA Advocacy Team. The virtual meetings will provide you with up-to-date information that will help you do your job as the advocacy representative for your PTA unit or council.

Calls are scheduled on:

Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m.

Monday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

Monday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

For more information and go to CAPTA.org.

Here are some ways to assure that your PTA remains nonpartisan and nonbiased during an election:

- Do not allow campaign literature, buttons, t-shirts and similar items at your PTA meetings. ([Here](#) is a sign you can post to remind your members.)
- Do not invite a single candidate to attend your PTA meeting. Do not allow a candidate who appears at your meeting to make a [speech](#).
- Do not ask a candidate to sign a pledge.
- Do not use your PTA affiliation if you endorse a candidate. Current PTA officers who are well-known in their community should refrain from endorsing any candidates. PTA leaders should also consider whether privately endorsing a candidate (without using a PTA title) could negatively affect a future relationship with an elected official should the other candidate win.

More information about PTA and elections is available in the California State PTA [Toolkit](#).

PTA also encourages future voters

Along with helping existing voters to be informed and actively involved, PTA plays an important role in encouraging our students to become responsible citizens.

CAPTA offers an array of resources to help your PTA accomplish this. This includes information about how to run a voter registration drive and student activities to promote civic engagement.

You can find the information [here](#).

CAPTA supports four propositions

California State PTA supports four propositions on the November 5 ballot:

[Prop. 2](#) Authorizes Bonds for Public School and Community College Facilities. Legislative Statute.

[Prop. 3](#) Constitutional Right to Marriage. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

[Prop. 4](#) Authorizes Bonds for Safe Drinking Water, Wild-fire Prevention, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands from Climate Risks. Legislative Statute.

[Prop. 5](#) Allows Local Bonds for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure with 55 Percent Voter Approval. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

Fourth District PTA Sacramento Safari 2025 February 24 and 25

Don't miss the most exciting advocacy event of the year!
Include about \$900 for each participant in your PTA budget.