



Schools & Communities First Will Reclaim \$7.5 - \$12 Billion Annually for Schools and Local Communities

More than 1.7 million signatures have been submitted by California voters to put the Schools & Communities First measure on the November 2020 ballot. This is the most signatures that have EVER been collected for any ballot measure in California's history. Polling has consistently shown, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, that California voters are ready to close the corporate tax loophole that has allowed large commercial and industrial property owners to avoid paying their fair share. This has cost our state's schools and local community services billions of dollars, placing even more burden on residential property owners.

The COVID 19 pandemic has placed our schools and local community services in even graver danger; physically and financially. We have an opportunity to address part of the financial challenges that the virus has brought by passing this fair, sensible measure and reassess commercial and industrial properties on a regular basis (like every other State in the country already does). Briefly, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST:

- **RECLAIMS** BETWEEN \$7.5 AND \$12 billion a year for K-14 schools and local community services like first responders, senior centers, libraries, parks, and health clinics.
- **PROTECTS** all homeowners and renters by maintaining property tax protections for ALL residential property.
- **CLOSES** the commercial property tax loophole and ends shady schemes that big corporations and wealthy investors use to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.
- **SUPPORTS** small businesses by giving them a tax break that will save them thousands every year by eliminating the tax on business equipment.
- **LEVELS** the playing field for businesses that already pay their fair share.

About the Corporate Loophole: In 1978 voters passed Prop. 13 to help homeowners, not real estate investors or corporations. Today a small number of large commercial property owners avoid paying billions in property taxes because they are still being taxed based on decades old property values. This robs our schools and community services of desperately needed revenue.

- In 40 years, large commercial property owners have pocketed over \$100 billion that should have supported schools and local services that we all rely on.
- 78% of the \$12 billion our schools and communities lose every year comes from just 6% of commercial properties

Meanwhile:

- California schools rank near the bottom in per-pupil funding and have the most overcrowded classrooms in the nation.
- Local services like first responders, senior centers, public transportation and para-transit services, libraries, parks, and health clinics have been decimated by years of budget cuts.

As an elected official in California, we urge you to:

- ***Endorse the Schools & Communities First Initiative on the November 2020 ballot***
- ***Promote the measure on your website, in your campaign literature, and all of your public appearances, town hall meetings, etc.***