

## Keith's State Council Report:

Well, even though my committee was slow, there was a lot going on this time at State Council. The Governor's State Budget Proposal was at the top of everyone's list and you could hear people talking about it everywhere you went.

When I first heard about this "agreement" of loaning \$2 billion to the Governor in exchange for the Education Package containing the items listed below, I was concerned, skeptical, and worried. I thought, "What the heck is CTA doing? How could they work with a governor we didn't endorse?" Being closer to CTA activities than most other members, I have learned more details about it and as I have been learning, I've also been growing a little more comfortable about it. So, let me explain a few of the items.

### **What's the loan?**

The "loan" is actually a "hold-back" if you will of some of our 2004/2005 school year funding. According to Prop 98, we should be given 4 billion dollars, but we all know that the legislature doesn't want to. (They've shown this in their attempts to reduce the levels of Prop 98 and to use education as a pawn to knock against health care and other big money issues.) Even with the \$2 billion loan, we'll still be getting \$2 billion more than we did last year. (And this is with *actual money* that we WILL get - Not deferred payments)

### **In exchange for this loan, we get:**

- A COLA of 1.84% for K-14 schools - up to 2.84% (including a payment of deficit reduction money to qualifying districts – plus an additional 1% for additional equilization money).  
When teachers hear about the budget problems, they think, "well, there goes any chance of a raise," but that's not the case with our tentative agreement with the Governor.

Teachers can see much of this money depending on how districts negotiate.

- No Midyear cuts.
- Paid back on this \$2 billion loan.
- Portions of funding restored to the community colleges.
- Prop 98 reconciliation money paid back on a schedule starting in 2006. (1994 was the last year reconciled under Prop 98. At the end of each year, Prop 98 funding is audited and verified to see if schools got the proper level of funding. If schools didn't receive the minimum amount, they are paid through reconciliation. That means that the budgets from 1995 until 2003 will be audited and the amount of money that was not reconciled during those years will be reconciled and set up on a payment schedule with payments starting in 2006. All future reconciliations are also going to happen.)

Is this guaranteed? No. But it is a good start and we need to support the Gov's budget at this point in time. We also need to keep informed of changes to the budget and keep our members well informed.

Obviously, CTA is supporting Props 55(the K-14 Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004), 56 (State Budget Act – Voting Requirements & Penalties), and will also be recommending Prop 58 (the CA Balanced Budget Act) and Prop 57 (Economic Recovery Bond Act)

Some notes on each Proposition:

*Prop 55:* \$12.3 billion bond issue that will provide community-matched funding for education facilities in K-14 targeted to areas of greatest need. The state will be paying \$823 million a year for 30 years to pay off the \$24.7 billion incurred (12.3 billion principle and 12.4 billion interest) To find out how much money your local area would get, check out [www.yeson55.com](http://www.yeson55.com) and click on the link : “Click here to see how Prop. 55 could benefit your community” with the graphic of the CA state map.

*Prop 56:* allows passage of budget and budget-related tax/appropriation bills with a 55% vote instead of the current 2/3 vote.

*Prop 57:* is the Gov's one-time "up to" \$15 billion bond to retire the deficit.

*Prop 58:* requires the enactment of a balanced budget

Continue with info on prop 58, then write about the dues increases and the info on the CLAD stuff...

With the Staples Printer Cartridge donation of \$1.00 for every cartridge turned in, we have raised \$75,000 so far. Keep those cartridges coming in...

CTA Dues Increases: Remember that the dues structure is set up on a schedule based on the average of the last 6-3 years, so when we have large COLA increases, we feel the increase of the dues averaged in from 3-6 years later. The dues increases are listed below for the following years:

\$23.00 for 04-05

\$11.00 for 05-06

\$7.00 for 06-07

While CTA recognizes that many districts have not received large increases in the last couple of years (with some districts like Oakland actually taking a decrease), unless we eliminate some of the CTA services that we provide {remember all of the legal and grievance help with RIFs last year}

New Book: The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystandard.

[www.kidsareworthit.com](http://www.kidsareworthit.com) No name calling week is March 1-5<sup>th</sup>.

[www.NoCameCallingWeek.org](http://www.NoCameCallingWeek.org) is a great place to find resources on what you can do this week.

CLAD, SB1969, and SB395 update:

There is no “contract” with your credential allowing you to keep teaching. You will never lose your credential, but you can lose your position because the requirements for your position have changed and require the CLAD/Highly Qualified Teacher.