



Government Relations Update

LAUSD Office of Government Relations

October 21, 2008

Highlights

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With the conclusion of the state legislative session on September 30th, this issue provides information on education legislation that made it to the Governor’s desk and was signed or vetoed. Following the review is a recap of the state budget signed late in Sacramento.

Signed and Vetoed Bills of Interest 2008 Legislative Session

With the late adoption of the budget, the Governor had a very short period of time in which to sign or veto legislation. Once the budget was adopted on September 16th, he only had until September 30th to review the bills that had made it to his desk. This year, a record 35% of bills that made it to this final stage were vetoed. Many of the bills had a simple veto message that said it was being rejected based not upon its merits, but because there simply wasn’t enough time to deal with it due to the delay in passing the budget. The Governor had to prioritize the bills, and if he decided a bill did not meet a high priority standard, it was vetoed.

Accountability

AB 1885 by Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) - Pupil instruction: intensive instruction and services.

Summary: Specifies that eligible pupils who are enrolled in intensive instruction and services to help them pass the High School Exit Examination shall not be counted as dropouts for purposes of specified data collection requirements. The bill also requires the Superintendent of Public

Instruction to determine how those pupils shall be accounted for and reported by school districts for data collection purposes.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2438 by Assemblymember Curren Price (D-Inglewood) - Schools: accountability.

Summary: Requires the determination regarding meeting growth targets for purposes of the IIUSP to be averaged over the first 2 full years of funding. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

SB 1251 by Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) - School accountability: Academic Performance Index: graduation rates.

Summary: Includes 5- and 6-year graduation rates in the indicators currently reported to the department for purposes of calculating a school's API. The bill specifies a formula to calculate these rates, and provides that schools receive partial credit in their API scores for graduating pupils in 5 and 6 years, except that schools are granted full credit for graduating in 5 or 6 years a pupil with disabilities who graduates in accordance with his or her individualized education program

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

SB 1638 by Senator Elaine Alquist (D-San Jose) – Juvenile; Juvenile Court Schools

Summary: This bill encourages each county superintendent of schools or governing board of a school district and each county chief probation officer to enter into a memorandum of understanding (or an equivalent mutual agreement) to engage in a collaborative process for meeting the needs of wards of the court who are receiving their education in juvenile court schools.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

Adult Education/Career Technical Education

AB 1163 by Assemblymember Paul Krekorian (D-Burbank) – Adult Education.

Summary: This bill increases the cap on adult education entitlement expenditures for approved distance learning programs, as defined, from five percent to fifteen percent. Proposed amendments that have been discussed with the Department of Finance would add language that will ensure the accountability of these alternate delivery programs.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

AB 2078 by Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes (D-Sylmar) - Work-based learning.

Summary: States the findings of the Legislature regarding work-based learning. This bill authorizes school districts that maintain high schools to establish work-based learning programs and to purchase liability insurance for pupils enrolled in programs of study involving work experience, which may include work-based learning, off school grounds. The bill also defines work-based learning to mean an educational approach or instructional methodology that uses the workplace or real work to provide pupils with the knowledge and skills that will help them connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career opportunities. The bill authorizes

partnership academies, regional occupational programs, and other educational programs to deliver work-based learning opportunities for pupils that may include work experience education, community classrooms, cooperative career technical education programs, and job shadowing experience, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2648 by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) - Career technical education.

Summary: Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary for Education, the community colleges, the University of California, the California State University, the Legislature, the Employment Development Department, teachers, chamber organizations, industry representatives, research centers, parents, school administrators, representatives of regional occupational centers and programs, community-based organizations, labor organizations, and others as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent, a report that explores the feasibility of expanding and establishing career multiple pathway programs, as defined, in California. Requires that the report include specified components, including, but not limited to, methods for developing and sharing models of integrated curriculum and instruction, strategies for increasing the course options and instructional time for pupils in high school, and recommendations for supporting regional coalitions in planning and developing the programs. The bill also authorizes the Superintendent to use existing state resources and federal funds to complete the report. If state or federal funds are not available or sufficient, the bill would authorize the Superintendent to apply for and accept grants and receive donations, and other financial support from public or private sources. The bill requires the Superintendent to report to the Legislature as to the status of completing the report, and any preliminary recommendations, by July 1, 2009. The Superintendent is required to submit a final report with recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2009.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

AB 2855 by Assemblymember Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley) - Career technical education: partnership academies: green technology and goods movement.

Summary: Establishes 2 new categories of partnership academies, the Green Technology Partnership Academies and the Goods Movement Partnership Academies. Commencing with the 2009-10 school year, when funds become available for additional partnership academies, as specified, the Superintendent is required to issue grants for the establishment of partnership academies in each of the 9 economic regions established by the state, and is required to give priority to partnership academies dedicated to educating young people in the emerging environmentally sound technologies. The Superintendent is also required to issue grants for the establishment of partnership academies and give priority to the establishment of partnership academies dedicated to educating young people in goods movement occupational areas until at least one academy is established in each of the 4 transportation corridors established by the state. The selection of school districts to establish the new partnership academies and the planning and development of the new partnership academies is required to be conducted pursuant to the procedures and requirements established for all partnership academies under existing law. The bill provides that the funding priorities it creates may be satisfied when the specified number of green technology and goods movement partnership academies are funded, as specified.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

Certificated Employees; Credentials, Legal Issues

SB 1105 by Senator Bob Margett (R-Glendora) - Teacher credentialing; criminal convictions

Summary: Current law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to immediately suspend a credential when the holder has been charged with certain sex or controlled substance offenses and to revoke the credential upon conviction, except in the case of a no contest conviction to a misdemeanor sex offense. This bill expands the definition of “conviction” to include conviction following a plea of nolo contendere to specified offenses (sex offense, controlled substance offense), for the purposes of disciplinary actions by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Reapplication for their credential would be allowed, provided all charges or information is dismissed (as long as the credential has not been revoked because of a misdemeanor sexual offense that does not require registration as a sexual offender). This bill also expands the release of findings from one to five years, to the employing or last known employing school district.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

SB 1110 by Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) - Teacher credentialing; revocation of credential

Summary: This bill calls for the immediate suspension of a credential or license by the CTC when it receives notice another state has taken final action to revoke a credential or license authorizing the holder to work in the public schools of another state. The revocation must be based on acts of misconduct that would be grounds for an adverse action in this state. The CTC is also required to revoke the credential of a holder when it receives notice that the ability of the holder to associate with minors has been limited as a term or condition of probation or sentencing resulting from a criminal conviction in the state, another state, or the United States, or the holder has been ordered to surrender a credential as a term or condition of probation or sentencing resulting from criminal conviction in this state, another state, or the United States.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

SB 1303 by Senator George Runner (R- Antelope Valley) – School Employees: Leaves of Absence

Summary: Requires that a certificated or classified employee who was placed on a compulsory leave of absence after being charged with certain offenses be paid their full compensation for the period of leave if they are acquitted or the charges are dismissed. Provides that, if the charges against the employee are dismissed as a result of the employee’s successful completion of a drug diversion program, the school district would pay to the employee any accrued leave and differential pay for the leave of absence.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

Certificated Employees, Classified Employees; Employer-Employee Relations, PERS, School Finance, STRS, Legal Issues

AB 2167 by Assemblymember Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) – Public school employees: personnel records

Summary: This bill would have prohibited that a statement or document that is false or unsubstantiated, as defined, from being placed in the personnel records of a classified employee of a local educational agency. This bill would have allowed the employee to challenge, and have removed, a statement or document that is false or unsubstantiated. The employee would follow the grievance procedure of the agency as established by a collective bargaining agreement, or (if such an agreement is not in place) by the procedure or policy of the agency. There are exceptions to what may be challenged (i.e., records relating to a criminal investigation, obtained prior to an employee's employment, letters of reference).

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2390 by Assemblymember Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach) – State teachers' retirement: postretirement earnings.

Summary: This bill extends current exemptions from retiree earning limits until June 30, 2010. The recruitment of experienced teachers and school administrators to fill vacant classroom and administrative positions, particularly in Deciles 1-3 schools, continues to be a challenge for school districts. Despite targeted efforts to recruit highly qualified teachers, there continues to be a shortage of credentialed teachers in math, science and special education. In order to comply with the staffing requirements of the Williams settlement and other state and No Child Left Behind mandates, school districts must take action to ensure that schools are staffed with fully credentialed, experienced teachers and school administrators, especially in Deciles 1-3 schools.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

AB 2391 by Assemblymember Jose Solorio (D-Anaheim) – Teachers; Mathematics and Reading Development Program

Summary: Allows a teacher to fulfill requirement to receive follow-up training and instruction in areas that include data analysis, alignment of assessment and instruction, implication of data analysis and effect on increasing pupil achievement, impact on pupil success through diagnostic teaching, differentiating instruction through pacing and complexity, grouping and data management systems. Requires a local educational agency to contract with a training provider approved by the State Board of Education.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

SB 1660 by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) – Teachers; Compensation

Summary: This bill authorizes a school district to use funds received pursuant to the professional development block grant to compensate new and existing mathematics, science, and special education teachers in schools ranking, in the 2008-09 school year or any subsequent school year, in deciles 1, 2, or 3 of the Academic Performance Index, in a manner separate from the uniform allowance for years of training and years of service, as permitted pursuant to the exception described

above. The bill requires a school district to submit an annual educational report to specified government officials of the amount of funds used pursuant to this provision to compensate mathematics, science, and special education teachers.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

Charter Schools

AB 2115 by Assemblymember Gene Mullin (D-South San Francisco) - Charter schools: governing boards.

Summary: Requires a charter school to adopt and comply with a conflict-of-interest policy that includes, but is not necessarily limited to, adherence to specified requirements set forth in existing law. Sets the eligibility qualifications to be elected/appointed to a charter school governing board. Prohibits a school employee from serving unless they resign employments, attempts to deal with board term limits and board member voting requirements. Also requires charter schools to comply with specified acts relating to open meetings.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

Class Size Reduction

SB 1112 by Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) – Class Size Reduction; Apportionments

Summary: Extends the sunset date for the mitigation provisions in the Class Size Reduction Program, in which participating school districts are provided funding for each class in which the class size is reduced to a ratio of 20 or fewer pupils per certified teacher in kindergarten and any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive. Extends the implementation of provisions that require the Controller to reduce funding for participating districts for failing to reduce a class size from the next apportionment or apportionments.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

Dropout Prevention; Instruction, Student Assessment

AB 2138 by Assemblymember Anthony Adams (R-Hesperia) - High School Graduation Requirements

Summary: Amends existing law that prescribes the course of a study a pupil is required to complete while in grades 9 to 12 (inclusive), to receive a diploma of graduation, including additional coursework required by a school district board. Requires a district to exempt a pupil in foster care from the additional requirements under certain conditions. Requires the district to notify the pupil if any waived requirements will affect admission to a postsecondary educational institution and transfer information.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

Facilities

SB 658 by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) - School facilities.

Summary: This bill exempts a school district from increasing school building capacity by the number of pupils reported by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Office of Public School Construction for that grade level pursuant to Section 42268 starting with the 2007-2008 enrollment year. In addition, the bill proposes to reduce the level of funding under the Operational Grant Program by 20% each year beginning in 2008-09 FY and transferring those funds to the California Department of Education to administer the charter school facility program pursuant to SB 740.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

AB 2173 by Assemblymember Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) – Public Schools Facility Financing

Summary: Revises the process by which a governing board of a school district calculates the maximum fee against school facility construction that may be collected. Provides that any member of the public would be able to request a meeting with the board to discuss and understand school facilities needs analysis and the governing board would be required to hold a meeting as requested a certain number of days prior to the public hearing to adopt the school facilities needs analysis.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

Promotion/Retention/Intervention; Student Assessment, Special Education

AB 86 by Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) - Pupil Safety

Summary: Specifies that bullying, as used in these provisions, means one or more acts by a pupil or a group of pupils directed against another pupil that constitutes sexual harassment, hate violence, or severe or pervasive intentional harassment, threats, or intimidation that is disruptive, causes disorder, and invades the rights of others by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment, and includes acts that are committed personally or by means of an electronic act, as defined. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

AB 2040 by Speaker Emeritus Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles) - High school exit examination.

Summary: Requires the Superintendent to recommend, and the state board to select, members of a panel composed as specified, to make recommendations regarding alternative means for eligible pupils with disabilities to demonstrate that they have achieved the same level of academic achievement in the content standards in English language arts or mathematics, or both, required for passage of the high school exit examination, and requires the state board by October 1, 2010, to adopt regulations, taking into consideration the recommendations of the panel, for alternative means for pupils with disabilities to demonstrate that they have achieved the same level of academic achievement required for passage of the high school exit examination, as specified. Commencing January 1, 2011, an eligible pupil with a disability, as defined, would be authorized to participate in the alternative means of demonstrating the level of academic achievement in the content standards

required for passage of the high school exit examination and would be deemed to have satisfied the requirement to successfully pass the parts of the high school exit examination that he or she has not otherwise passed if the school district is notified that the pupil has successfully made this demonstration. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Outcome: **Signed** by Governor.

SB 1446 by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) - High school exit examination: pupils with disabilities.

Summary: Reenacts those provisions for pupils with disabilities who are scheduled to graduate from high school on or before December 31, 2010. The bill repeals those provisions on January 1, 2011. The bill declares the intent of the Legislature that those provisions apply retroactively to pupils with disabilities who are scheduled to graduate in the 2007-08 school year. By reenacting the provisions requiring school districts and state special schools to comply with those requirements, the bill imposes a state-mandated local program.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

SB 1515 by Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) – Pupil Discipline: Restraint and Seclusion

Summary: Prohibits an educational provider from using chemical restraint, mechanical restraint, physical restraint, or seclusion, for the purpose of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation by staff against a pupil (provides certain exemptions). Relates to students with special needs and special education. Allows nonpublic, nonsectarian schools, and certain district-designation alternative programs to use seclusion under specified conditions. Requires safety plans to include restraint and seclusion rules.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor

Student Assessment

SB 1111 by Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) – Pupil Testing.

Summary: Requires the State Board of Education to minimize the amount of testing time and duplication required to complete the state standards tests, but without the reduction of testing rigor or standards. Requires the board to revise testing requirements so that pupils may satisfy any assessment requirement through administration of an achievement test already required by state law. Prohibits the board from requiring the administration of any test based solely on federal requirements but on a state statute.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2077 (Fuentes) – The California English language development test.

Summary: This bill would require the annual assessment of the California English language development test (CELDT) to be conducted during a 3-month test period commencing with the day upon which 65% of the instructional year is completed. The bill would require the State Department of Education to biennially release sample questions from the CELDT for the purpose of instruction and to provide the score a pupil achieves on the CELDT to the parent or guardian of the pupil in English and, if available, in the language reported on the home language survey. The bill would

require that the score be provided in a format that utilizes terminology that is easy to understand and includes an explanation of the purpose of the test, the pupil's score, and the intended use of that score by the school district.

Outcome: Failed deadline.

Student Loan; Scholarship

SB 1301 by Senator Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) Student financial aid: institutional financial aid eligibility.

Summary: Amends the Donahoe Higher Education Act to require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the Regents of the University of California, to establish procedures and forms that enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under that provision, or who meet equivalent requirements adopted by the regents, to be eligible to receive institutional financial aid awards. The bill defines institutional financial aid as financial assistance offered by a campus of the California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California, including grant, scholarship, workstudy, and loan programs. The bill specifies that institutional financial aid does not include a Board of Governors fee waiver. The bill also declares that this provision is a state law within the meaning of a federal statute that permits a state to only provide an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States with eligibility for a state or local public benefit through the enactment of a state law affirmatively providing for that eligibility. This provision would apply to the University of California only if the regents, by appropriate resolution, act to make it applicable.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

Pupils; Miscellaneous

AB 2213 by Assemblymember Guy Houston (R- San Ramon) – Pupils; Work Permits

Summary: Authorizes the principal of a public or private school to issue, or designate another administrator in the school to issue, work permits to pupils who attend the school. Requires that the hour limitations that apply to a work permit issued by any of the officials or employees authorized to issue work permits be based on the school calendar of the school the pupil attends.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2214 by Assemblymember Alan Nakanishi (R-Lodi) – Pupils; Notices Sent to Parents

Summary: Amends existing law which requires that, when 15% or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices or records sent to the parent or guardian of those pupils by the school be written in the primary language, in addition to English. Provides that if a parent or guardian request that the notices, reports, statements, or records be sent to him or her in English only, the school or district is not required to comply with that request.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2396 by Assemblymember Wilmer Carter (D-Rialto) – Pupil Attendance: Civic Engagement Activities

Summary: Includes civic engagement activities offered by a nonprofit organization or a governmental entity among the types of absences that are excused at a public school.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

AB 2843 by Assemblymember Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach) – After School Programs

Summary: Relates to the After School Education and Safety Program Act which requires that each component of a program established pursuant to the act include an educational enrichment element that may include fine arts, career technical education, recreation, physical fitness, and prevention activities. Authorizes a program to include visual and performing arts, instead of fine arts. Includes foreign languages in the educational enrichment component.

Outcome: **Vetoed** by Governor.

News

Finally, A State Budget...For Better or Worse?

After a record-breaking 85 days, a state budget was finally adopted. There were tantrums, in-fighting, and much angst – true political drama. Politicians just couldn't seem to come to any consensus. There were accusations and finger-pointing; Republicans wanted to cut spending, while Democrats wanted to raise taxes to meet the \$15 billion shortfall. Neither position was acceptable to the other group.

Plus, it did not happen to be just legislators who weren't able to 'play nice' with each other. The Governor stepped in, and (in what some feel were threats intended to push the legislators to move forward) threatened to withhold paychecks to state workers, and refused to sign any legislation until the budget issues were worked out.

Most of us know what the budget consists of, mainly that:

- While the budget adopted is not as bad as what was proposed in January, it still cuts education by about \$2.5 billion
- Proposition 98 is funded at the minimum guarantee level of \$58.1 billion
- The Legislature added \$1.3 billion to the May Revision to eliminate the cut (6.5%) to categorical programs and provide a small Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of .68%
- Lottery securitization and the "Rainy Day" (SCA 13) fund are to be on the ballot, and expected to make up for the shortfalls
- Statutory powers are given to the Governor to make mid-year reductions

This adopted budget made very few happy; in fact, the following day many Legislators admitted they had very little understanding of what they had voted on. According to Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, “This isn’t a budget we should be thrilled about, it’s not the kind of budget we should have...” Concurring, Senator Sam Aanstad’s opinion was, “This budget is not a win for anyone.”

Senate Republican Leader Dave Cogdill’s view was that this budget makes sense for today. In light of this uncertain economy, it was necessary. The priority has been to “help Californians struggling with higher prices and an uncertain job market.”

Getting to the point of adoption of a budget is rarely smooth, yet this year it was particularly difficult. In terms of education, the environment has become increasingly difficult due to three factors: politics, economics, and expectations for student performance. These three elements are interdependent and inseparable. In a nutshell:

- There is in essence a “flat” education budget, yet costs keep growing (COLA is 5.68%)
- Expectations continue to grow. After all, a failure to education California’s children harms our economic growth
- Despite the desire to provide for education, there is NO desire to tax more or spend less, so the problem gets worse

While technically, we are not yet in a recession, it certainly feels like we are. When people are not comfortable with the state of the economy, they are not willing to spend. California’s economy is based upon industries that include housing, tourism, technology, financial services, and agriculture – for these industries to do well, the rest of the nation (and world) must have disposable income they are willing to spend in this state. This is not happening; when business in California becomes sluggish, state revenues will decline.

So the difficulty with this year’s budget, and the hurried adoption of a budget that is recognized to be very short-term, was influenced by a multitude of factors. We have long-term economic woes, and it is going to be a slow recovery. Unfortunately, next year (and perhaps mid-year) the struggle to adopt a budget will likely not be better.

Events

November 4, 2008 State Ballot will Include 12 Propositions

The November 4, 2008 ballot is an important one – in addition to choosing the next president, California voters will be voting on some very interesting (and controversial) measures. The Propositions are as follows:

Proposition 1A: Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act

This would authorize \$9.95 billion in bonds to finance a high-speed passenger train system. A network linking San Francisco to Los Angeles would be the “backbone” of what would become a 700 mile network linking all of the state’s major population centers.

Proposition 2: Treatment of Farm Animals

Would require that certain farm animals (calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens and pregnant pigs) be allowed, for the majority of every day, to fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up and turn around freely. Exceptions are made for some categories. Violation would result in misdemeanor penalties, including a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment in jail for up to 180 days.

Proposition 3: Children’s Hospital Bond Act

Would authorize \$980,000,000 in bonds, to be repaid from the state’s General Fund to fund the construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing and equipping of children’s hospitals. 80 percent of funds would be designated to go to hospitals that focus on such illnesses as leukemia, cancer, heart defects, diabetes, sickle-cell anemia and cystic fibrosis. The remaining 20 percent would go to University of California general acute care hospitals. Requires that qualifying children’s hospitals provide comprehensive services to a high volume of children eligible for governmental programs and meet other requirements.

Proposition 4: Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy

Would change the California Constitution, to prohibit abortion for unemancipated minors until 48 hours after physician notification of the minor’s parent(s), legal guardian, or (if parental abuse is reported) substitute adult relative. Would provide for exceptions (medical emergency, parental waiver), and for court’s waiver of notice. Also would authorize for monetary damages against physicians for violation.

Proposition 5: Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole, and Rehabilitation

Would provide for \$460 million annually to improve and expand treatment programs for persons convicted of drug and other offenses. Also would limit court’s authority to incarcerate offenders who commit certain drug crimes, break drug treatment rules or violate parole. Parole for certain drug offenses would be shortened, and parole for serious and violent felonies would be increased.

Proposition 6: Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety Funding

Makes many revisions to CA criminal law (30 revisions), to cover more serious offenses. Increases penalties for several crimes, including gang-related offenses (e.g., violating gang injunctions), using or possessing to sell methamphetamine, or carrying loaded or concealed firearms by certain felons). Eliminates bail for illegal immigrants charged with violent or gang-related felonies, changes evidence rules to allow use of certain hearsay statements as evidence.

This would require a minimum of \$695 million each year to be allocated from state General Fund for police and local law enforcement.

Proposition 7: Renewable Energy

Requires government-owned utilities to generate 20% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2010, and increases this requirement to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025. Imposes penalties for noncompliance, transfers jurisdiction of regulatory matters from the Public Utilities Commission to the Energy Commission, requires utilities to sign longer (at least 20 years) to procure renewable energy, and fast-tracks approval for new energy plants.

Proposition 8: Limit on Marriage

Would change the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. Would eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Proposition 9: Criminal Justice System Victims' Rights. Parole

The goal of this is to give victims rights of notification and opportunities to be heard in critical stages of the criminal justice process. Victim safety is a consideration when determining bail or release from incarceration. This amendment would reduce the number of parole hearings prisoners may have, and establish timelines and procedures regarding parole revocation hearings. Requires written notification to victims of their constitutional rights.

Proposition 10: Bonds. Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy

Would provide that \$5 billion would be allocated from the State's General Fund to: aid in the purchase of high fuel economy/alternative fuel vehicles; fund research, development, and production of renewable energy sources (primarily solar power); provide grants to cities for renewable energy projects and training in colleges in renewable and energy efficiency technologies.

Proposition 11: Redistricting

Rather than continue to allow legislators to draw their own political districts, this would change that authority. The authority for establishing Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization district boundaries would instead be performed by a 14 member commission. This new commission would consist of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four of neither party.

Proposition 12: Veterans Bond Act of 2008

This would provide for a bond issue of \$900 million from the General Fund to provide loans to

California veterans for the purchase of farms and homes. Money would be appropriated from the General Fund to pay bonds if payments from veterans are insufficient.

Legislative Liaison Meeting Held October 3, 2008, by Government Relations Office

LAUSD Advocate Edgar Zazueta gave a discussion on the general climate in Sacramento, and legislation that was important to the educational community. He highlighted several significant bills like SB 658 (School Facilities), AB 1885 (Pupil Instruction), AB 2040 (High School Exit Examination), and AB 2077 (Student Assessment). Although several important bills failed to get signed this year, he did note that this was due to the particular political climate. It was a record year for a number of things – for example, length of time taken to adopt a budget (85 days) and number of bills vetoed (about 35%). Unfortunately, he noted, the reason for many bills not advancing was not due to their merits – it was because they may have had fiscal implications (in which case, due to the budget climate, they were rejected), or because the Governor simply ran out of time to properly consider them.

The next meetings will be November 7, and December 5, January 9. They are held in the Beaudry A-level cafeteria and begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.

2008 Legislative Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

2008

- September 30** Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after September 1 (Art. IV, Sec.10(b)(2))
- November 4** General Election
- November 30** Adjournment Sine Die at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a))
- December 1** 12 p.m. convening of the 2009-10 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a))

2009

- January 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c))
- January 20** Inauguration Day; President takes oath of office