

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

JULY 14, 2011

I am extremely honored and excited to serve you as the 56th President of CTA. After spending more than 30 years as a classroom teacher, counselor and proud CTA member, with the past eight years as your Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, I look forward to working with you to uphold, promote and protect public education. I want to meet with you in your chapters, schools and colleges to hear your ideas and concerns as we work together to create the future of public education, celebrate and strengthen our profession and build a better California. You can always reach me at dvogel@cta.org.

Approved State Budget Prevents Additional Layoffs



Dean

E. Vogel
CTA President
dvogel@cta.org

It's not the [state budget](#) that we all hoped for and it is far from what our students need and deserve, but our hard work and organizing did make a difference as the [Governor signed](#) a budget that closed the state's multi-billion dollar deficit while maintaining current funding for local school districts and preventing summer layoffs.

As part of the budget package, lawmakers approved AB 114, which for this year prevents school districts from issuing additional layoffs in August and essentially waives three-year reserve requirements. The law repeatedly states that each school district shall project the same level of revenue as it received in 2010-11 and shall maintain staffing and programs commensurate with that

level. Some school district officials are crying foul, but let me be clear this law is designed to ensure stability for students and schools, avoid midyear cuts and prevent districts from gaming the system.

Funding public education and other essential services shouldn't be partisan issues, but every Republican refused to extend the temporary taxes or even let voters decide for themselves. I do want to thank the Governor and Democratic leaders for engaging in the work they were elected to do. The state's existing tax structure benefits the wealthy and big corporations at the expense of the middle class. It's also helped build the state's structural budget deficit that Republicans are now using to starve public programs. For example, California is now funding public schools at \$7,900 per student compared to New York at \$15,000 per student. CTA is working with other labor unions and community groups to restore fairness and bring some common sense changes to the state's tax system.

The approved budget also protects the integrity of the state minimum school funding law by requiring that any funding shortfalls must be restored and it fully funds CTA's [Quality Education Investment Act](#), which provides additional resources to lower-performing schools. Sadly, the budget makes more dramatic cuts to our colleges and universities. The CSU and UC systems each lost \$650 million, sparking more tuition increases for students. CSU tuition has doubled in the last five years. Read more [budget details](#) on the CTA website.

California Leaves its Mark on the NEA RA

With nearly 1,200 delegates, CTA was the largest delegation at the [NEA Representative Assembly](#) earlier this month in Chicago. It was a lively convention with passionate debate from educators across the country. Delegates re-elected NEA President [Dennis Van Roekel](#) and approved the early [endorsement of Barak Obama](#) for U.S. President. While we certainly don't agree with all of his education policies, this endorsement was about fighting for the future of our country, the middle class and our rights as union members. It was the right decision for NEA and the California delegation supported the recommendation. [Vice President Joe Biden](#) laid out what's at stake in a commanding speech to delegates.

Expressing our concerns about Obama's education policies, CTA led efforts to pass [New Business Item C](#) which directs NEA to communicate aggressively, forcefully, and immediately that we are appalled with many of the so-called school reforms from Education Secretary Arne Duncan. This includes his policies of using test scores to measure student and teacher achievement, focusing on unproven and limited solutions for improving schools and failing to correct the problems of No Child Left Behind.

NEA delegates adopted a new policy statement on [Teacher Evaluation and Accountability](#). The [new policy](#) focuses on enhancing the practice of teaching, instead of identifying teachers for dismissal. CTA led efforts to ensure that any test not designed to measure both student learning and a teacher's performance cannot be used to take employment actions against a teacher.

Delegates also united against the unprecedented attacks on educators and America's working class by approving a \$10 dues increase to support NEA's Crisis Fund. The money is designed to help

states with pro-public education outreach. In California, we are facing attacks on our secure retirement and a new “Paycheck Deception” initiative. This initiative, which would restrict how union members spend their own dues money and participate in elections, is now in circulation by well-financed, anti-union forces. Do not sign these petitions and spread the word to your colleagues, family and friends.

And finally, there was more than good policy debate in the air. Join me in a special congratulations to CTA members José Alcalá and Ashley Bettas who made their [wedding engagement](#) official on the RA floor.

See You in Monterey and LA

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Presidents Conference next week in Monterey. More than 400 chapter presidents are scheduled to attend. [Tax fairness](#) and understanding how the state's tax structure impacts funding for public education will be an important training session. And you still have time to register for CTA's [Summer Institute](#). The leadership conference at UCLA provides training in bargaining, school finance, professional development, communications, community outreach and much more.

About CTA

The preeminent voice for educators in California's public schools and colleges, CTA is also a powerful and passionate advocate for students and public education.

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CTA Conferences

CTA offers statewide conferences designed to provide knowledge and skills for members as they go about the work of the organization.

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California Teachers Association

1705 Murchison Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010

Phone: +1 650 697 1400 · E-Mail: webmaster@cta.org



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