

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2020

A Message from the Fourth District PTA Vice President for Advocacy

Dear Friends,

We are starting a school year unlike any we have ever known. I'm sure I don't need to tell you about the difficult decisions and adjustments that are being made by school districts, school staff and parents.

Nevertheless, the advocacy efforts of Fourth District PTA continue!

I am thankful we have electronic options that allow us to meet virtually during this strange and difficult time. We can continue to stay current with the work that our local, state and federal officials are doing. We can still discuss the issues, share ideas, and take action.

For the remainder of this year we will not meet in person for our advocacy training or our advocacy forums. Sadly, we will not travel to Sacramento in February. However, the Advocacy Team is working on alternative ways to provide you important information from local and state officials and education experts.

Better times will come! We are making reservations for 2022 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento in high hopes that we will again meet in our state's capitol.

Meanwhile, stay in touch!

Bev Berryman

Get ready to vote in the November General Election

One of your most important jobs as an advocate is to vote. Now is the time to get ready for the General Election on November 3.

Start by making sure your voter registration is up-to-date by going to <https://www.ocvote.com/vlt/>. You will need the last four digits of your California Driver's Li-

cense or Social Security number. If you want to update your address, marital status, or political party, click on Registration.

The Orange County Registrar of Voters will mail a ballot to every registered voter, beginning on October 5. You can mail the completed ballot (no postage needed), deposit it at any one of more than 100 secure drop-off boxes throughout the county, take it to any Vote Center in the county, or bring it the Registrar's office.

It is very important to sign the outside of the envelope that is used to return your ballot. Your signature will be compared to the signature on file with the Registrar to verify your identity. If you do not sign the envelope, the Registrar will try to contact you, but this will slow down the vote counting process.

If you prefer to vote in person, you can go to any Vote Center in Orange County. The Registrar is identifying larger facilities and will implement safety protocols to assure that the experience is safe.

Plan your advocacy year

All meetings are via Zoom until further notice and some dates may change.

September 11—Advocacy Forum/Training 9:30-11:30

October 16—Council Leg Rep Meeting 9:30-11:30

November 13—Advocacy Forum 9:30-11:30

January 11-12—CA State PTA Legislative Conference

January 22—Advocacy Forum 9:30-11:30

February 5—Sacramento Safari Sneak Peak, time TBA

February 22-26—Sacramento Safari, Virtual, details TBA

March 19—Advocacy Forum 9:30-11:30

April 23—Council Leg Rep Meeting 9:30-11:30

Fourth District PTA

Advocacy Forum and Training

Friday, September 11 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

A speaker from the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) will explain the roles and responsibilities of OCDE and the Orange County Board of Education.

Additional topics will include:

- The role of unit and council advocacy chairs
- The advocacy work of California State PTA
- Prop. 15 – Schools and Communities First
- Prop. 16 – Affirmative Action.
- Federal Update
- Brief overview of SB 98 – New requirements for distance and in-person instruction
- New LCAP – Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan
- Sacramento Safari 2021
- The role of PTA in Elections

There is no charge, but you must be a PTA member to attend.

Register at <https://forms.gle/GGoEBCBmS3Jv4vAu5>

Registration will close on Tuesday, September 8 at 11 p.m.

An email with a link to join the training will be sent out before the event date.

California State PTA supports Prop. 15 and Prop. 16

California State PTA supports two propositions on the November 3 ballot:

Proposition 15: California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act

This initiative would require that commercial and industrial real estate property worth \$3 million or more be taxed on current market value, raising as much as \$11.5 billion in additional funding for schools and other local governments. It protects all homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for ALL residential property. The new funding would be allocated to schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent).

“Our schools have been desperately underfunded for years, and we need this measure to ensure our children have the resources they need in order to learn,” said California State PTA President Celia Jaffe

Proposition 16: Repeal Proposition 209 – Restore Affirmative Action

This constitutional amendment, placed on the statewide ballot by the legislature, asks the voters of California to repeal a previous proposition and thereby allow the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in public education (including col-

Education Coalition asks state to close education funding gap

The Education Coalition in August called on legislative leaders to prioritize education funding and identify additional revenue to close a projected \$20 billion education state budget shortfall during the global pandemic and beyond.

The coalition is comprised of the nine statewide K-12 education associations (including California State PTA) that work closely to advocate for the 8.4 million students in California’s public schools. The \$20 billion shortfall for schools includes \$12.5 billion in deferred costs to K-14 schools and community colleges, \$1.4 billion in foregone COLA for the 2020-21 school year and a \$6.3 billion reduction in Prop. 98 Minimum School Funding Guarantee revenues.

Specifically, Education Coalition leaders are urging the Legislature and Governor to adopt additional revenue streams, such as suspending or eliminating tax expenditures (which includes credits, deductions, exemptions, and exclusions), imposing additional taxes on high income individuals, or corporate tax changes. The Education Coalition looks forward to working with the Legislature and the Administration in identifying and securing these revenues.

lege admissions), government hiring, and government contracting.

California State PTA believes in equity in every aspect of life for all children and youth, and effective governance systems and practices that are rooted in social justice to serve the needs of children, youth and families.

Reminder: While unit, council and district PTAs are not required to work actively for any position, they should not officially oppose a stand taken by California State PTA.

This year’s LCAP includes student mental health and social well-being

This is likely to be the most challenging school year any of us have faced. Parents and educators, and many students themselves, are worried about how school will proceed. There will be stress and anxiety for everyone.

Since it is such an unprecedented year, California has suspended the normal Local Control and Accountability Plan. Instead, each school district will be required to submit a Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan, which must include a description of how the district will monitor and support the mental health and emotional well-being of students and staff.

As with the previous LCAP, the new plan must be developed with the participation of parents. PTA parents should be involved!

Click [here](#) for an Ed100.org article with more information and resources.

CAPTA Advocacy Webinars

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team during monthly Advocacy Webinars to discuss all the latest information.

The webinars take place the first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 8 p.m. (with some exceptions). Webinars are scheduled for September 2, October 7, November 11 (second Wednesday), February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2. There will be no webinar in January.

Webinar registration link for all dates:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/31940121174953740>

If your computer does not have speakers or you otherwise have trouble hearing the audio once you’ve logged in, mute your speakers and call 1 (631) 992-3221 to hear the discussion. Use attendee PIN number 300-067-555.

(Note: you cannot use this phone number to hear the webinar unless you register and log in through the above link first.)