

Union Notes – November 8, 2012

Dear SDEA Members,

Our schools and students won big on Election Day. Thank you to every SDEA member for the important work you do each day – California's future is bright because of you. Thank you to all the members who made calls, knocked on doors and educated our parents and voters about the importance of passing Prop 30.

Every call you made, every door you knocked and every sign you held made the difference. During the campaign I saw members, like Cindy Wasserman at Ibarra Elementary and Joe Wainio at Horton Elementary, bring people together and use the importance of passing Prop 30 to build the union at their schools. I saw members like Bradley Bang from Euclid Elementary spend hours and hours after already long days at work to talk to voters and educate them on the importance of voting to protect our schools. I was so proud to see educators joining together with union members from across San Diego, working together on this important effort. Classroom teachers, classified school staff, counselors, plumbers, nurses, professors and laborers all worked together to move San Diego and California forward. This was an amazing group effort and we couldn't have done it any other way. We truly are stronger together. Our election partners like Lorena Gonzalez and the San Diego Labor Council provided incredible leadership and have achieved an unprecedented election victory, from San Diego's Mayoral office to Congress.

The road to here wasn't easy and was often rocky. I believe that our collective efforts to save the jobs of educators and protect our students played a key role in our success on Election Day. Over the summer we showed our parents and students that we would sacrifice to protect their education, and on Election Day they said "Thank you!" The time and resources that would have been spent on a long and brutal fight over layoffs was instead focused on bringing educators, workers, and families together to pass Prop 30 and stop Prop 32. Along the way we built strong support for Prop Z, which will bring much needed funds to our schools for repairs and rebuilding, and we elected a Mayor that supports teachers and working families. We proved that we've got the backs of our students and parents, and on Tuesday they showed us that they've got ours.

We have much work to do to repair the damage done to our schools after years of cuts, and the road ahead will require a collective effort and hard work. Yet I believe that our victory on Tuesday places us on the road to recovery, a road that we can now navigate together. We have work to do to bring union members, school board members and legislators together to ensure that revenues come into our schools as quickly as possible and that our school year is fully restored. We have work to do to repay the shared sacrifice of our educators so that we can take care of our own families. We have work to do to protect and strengthen our contract, and we have work to do to build the strongest union in San Diego.

I am confident that if we stand together and work together we can achieve great things for our families, our schools, and our students.

Together we are stronger and together we won.

In Solidarity,

Bill Freeman
SDEA President

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