



Californians to Protect Our Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Protect Schools & Taxpayers Act do?

This measure protects schools and taxpayers by stopping special interest carveouts that already shortchange California public schools billions including another threat from the proposed “Wealth Tax” initiative that specifically prohibits 90% of the new revenue from going to schools.

Why is this measure needed?

Decades ago, California voters passed ballot measures to guarantee schools get their fair share of revenue and to ensure taxpayers get rebates when the state exceeds its spending cap. However, over time, **special interests have repeatedly created carveouts to bypass these protections.** The result: schools are losing out on billions of dollars every year, including nearly \$12 billion in 2026-27. And a new “Wealth Tax” could do further damage — shortchanging students by another \$3 billion+ a year.

How does this measure protect schools?

In 1988, California voters approved Prop. 98, a constitutional guarantee that ensures schools get roughly half of any new revenue. This measure requires any new tax to comply with this voter-approved funding guarantee and **stops special interests from continuing to divert education dollars.**

How does this measure protect taxpayers?

In 1979, California voters approved Prop. 4, which established a state spending limit that requires excess revenue to be returned to taxpayers. This measure protects the state spending cap and **prevents special interests from denying taxpayers what they’re owed.** It also reinforces safeguards against wasteful government spending.

Does this measure raise taxes?

No. This measure does not raise taxes and does not create any new taxes. It simply requires any new tax to follow longstanding, voter-approved rules that protect schools and taxpayers.

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