

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**SS-F12-2, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Urging that
California Voters Become Well Informed About the Current
State of Funding for Public Education in California and the
Potential Impacts of Passage or Failure of Proposition 30**

Legislative History: At its meeting of September 24, 2012, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Lessow-Hurley for the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
Urging that California Voters Become Well Informed About
the Current State of Funding for Public Education in
California and the Potential Impacts of Passage or Failure of
Proposition 30**

Be it

RESOLVED that the SJSU Academic Senate recognizes the preeminent importance of investing in the future of California through support of adequate and predictable funding for public education at every level.

RESOLVED that the SJSU Academic Senate seek to educate the campus and broader community about the cumulative impacts of successive budget cuts to the mission of the California State University system:

- denial of admission to thousands of qualified students,
- cancellation of hundreds of classes causing many students to take longer to graduate,
- inflation of class sizes and a concomitant reduction of teacher interaction with students and provided feedback,
- closing access of our most popular majors to many new students,
- reducing research that benefits the broader community,

- diminishing the CSU's essential mission to provide all of our qualified citizens with an equal opportunity to use higher education to enhance the quality of life.

RESOLVED that the SJSU Academic Senate seek to educate the campus and broader community about the potential impacts of passage or failure of Proposition 30 (Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding).

RESOLVED That the San José State University (SJSU) commend the CSU Board of Trustees for its efforts to mobilize and educate the electorate to the needs of the California State University.

RESOLVED that the SJSU Academic Senate commend the California State Student Association for its commitment to educate and encourage CSU students to register to vote and to understand how the ballot initiatives impact the CSU.

RESOLVED that the SJSU Academic Senate distribute this resolution to the Office of the Chancellor, ASCSU, the CSU Board of Trustees, the California State Student Association, and CSU campus Senate Chairs, and be it further

RESOLVED that members of the SJSU Academic Senate make every effort to distribute this resolution as widely as possible to the SJSU community.

Rationale:

The issues before the California electorate in the November 2012 election are critically important to the welfare of higher education in the state. The election will take place at a time when California faces a fiscal crisis of unprecedented magnitude that has already resulted in deep cuts to the budgets of California's public schools and public institutions of higher education. The passage or failure of Proposition 30 will largely determine how California deals with this fiscal crisis.

According to the California Secretary of State, if Proposition 30 (Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding) should pass, it would raise approximately \$6 billion annually to offset general budget cuts and it would also raise funds to support K-14 education.

Should Proposition 30 fail, the Legislative Analyst notes that the California State University will be cut an additional \$250 million during this academic year. San José State University's share would be \$16.3 million. Overall, this cut would mean that

state support for the CSU will have decreased by 40% since 2007-2008. The CSU would be forced to make additional cuts in enrollments, cancel classes, limit affordable and accessible options to higher education for those seeking a college degree, endanger the range and quality of programs and services offered by the CSU, and hinder research that benefits not only the university but also the broader community.

Because of the significance of the Proposition 30 decision, many groups and leaders who are stewards of the CSU mission have taken public positions. At its July 17, 2012 meeting, the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees approved a resolution endorsing Proposition 30 “given its direct relationship to the systems’ fiscal stability and funding levels in 2012-13 and beyond.”

<http://www.calstate.edu/BOT/Resolutions/Jul2012.pdf>

Joining the CSU Board of Trustees in endorsing Proposition 30 is the California Faculty Association and the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU).

In addition, the California State Student Association (CSSA) has made a commitment to educate and mobilize CSU students and others to vote and to support efforts to fund the California State University. California's taxpayers benefit from the CSU's 90,000 annual graduates, who become the teachers, scientists, engineers, nurses, architects and myriad other professionals whose work is critical to all Californians. With a college degree, they are more likely to be—and stay—employed and help fuel California's businesses and industries—an exceptional return on the state's investment. Therefore, via this resolution, the SJSU Senate encourages all members of the University community as well as all California citizens to become well informed about the current state of funding for public education in California and the potential impacts of Proposition 30.