SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Leandro, CA

Resolution 20-06
Schools and Communities First

Whereas, since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, school funding in California has experienced severe limitations in what was once the main source of funding for schools, the property tax;

Whereas, while the intent of Proposition 13 is to help homeowners, a loophole in the system permits major commercial and industrial properties to avoid regular reassessment, providing a windfall to commercial property owners at the expense of vital school funding;

Whereas, the share of the property tax burden has shifted away from commercial property and toward residential property throughout the state and in virtually every county;

Whereas, per-pupil support, which relies on state funding, has declined from the top 10 in the nation to the bottom quarter;

Whereas, school funding in California is $2,400 per pupil less than the national average and $10,000 below the top-funded states, while California's cost of living is among the highest in the nation,

Whereas, staffing ratios for teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, and administrators in California rank at the bottom in the nation;

Whereas, public schools in California face challenges in providing an equitable and fair education for a student population with vast differences in language, income, parental education level, and other social, educational, and economic factors;

Whereas, research has proven that investments in high needs students raises achievement levels, lowers poverty, and increases the productivity of the workforce;

Whereas, estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) have identified that reassessing commercial property will raise $11 billion in property tax revenue every year for local schools, cities and counties;

Whereas, USC has identified that nearly 80 percent of the revenue will come from just 8 percent of large properties;

Whereas, USC research shows that a majority of commercial property owners already are assessed at close to market value, making the current system inequitable among businesses, benefitting a relatively small number of properties owned by the largest corporations and wealthy owners who have held land fora long period of time,

Whereas, the current failure to close the commercial property loophole has led to poor land use and inflated land values, particularly limiting the ability to provide adequate high-density housing and land use;

Whereas, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act is on the November 2020 ballot;

Whereas, the measure provides about $5.3 billion annually for K-14 schools;

Whereas, the measure will provide funding to all school districts, over and above Proposition 98 funding, and following the local control funding formula to all students in need in all districts;

Whereas, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will also provide billions in funding yearly for cities, counties, and special districts in locally controlled revenues for affordable housing, parks, libraries, emergency responders, health and human services, libraries, and public infrastructure;

Whereas, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will improve land use, provide a direct tax break to small businesses, and level the playing field between neighboring commercial property owners, now,

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the San Leandro Unified School District endorses the Schools and Communities First Funding Act for a ballot measure in November 2020.

Passed and Adopted on the 14th day of January, 2020.

Peter Oshinski, Board President	Mike McLaughlin, Ed.D., Superintendent