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CFA HEADLINES

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LAWSUIT FILED & DISSENT GROWS AGAINST BALLOT MEASURES

CFT FILES LAWSUIT ON MONEY OWED TO K-14; WOULD MAKE 1B MOOT

With just 10 days to go before the May 19 Special Election, the battle to protect California's public schools and universities from the legislature's ill-conceived ballot measures is heating up.

On Friday, the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and SEIU Local 99 (who represents classified employees in the Los Angeles school system) filed a lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court to force the state to repay more than \$12 billion in funding required under voter-approved Proposition 98.

The plaintiffs in the case argue that if the lawsuit is successful, it would be a better outcome for California's embattled schools than the yoked 1A/1B proposals on the upcoming ballot. The lawsuit addresses the needs of schools directly rather than tying improvements for K-14 to a budget cap that would do untold damage to other vital public services.

While the CSU would not directly benefit from this lawsuit, faculty leaders applauded the proceedings.

"We know that many CFA members and others in the education community have been conflicted over these ballot measures," said CFA President Lillian Taiz.

"I hope that with this lawsuit in place, our friends in the K-14 community and throughout California can now vote no on Prop 1A with a clear conscience because they know other action is being taken to protect vital K-14 funding," Taiz said.

NEW PPIC POLL SHOWS BALLOT MEASURES ARE TRAILING BADLY

A new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released Friday added to the recent public opinion research predicting the demise of five of the six propositions on the May 19 ballot.

According to PPIC's research, of the six measures placed on the May 19 ballot as part of the budget agreement between Gov. Schwarzenegger and legislative

leaders, only Proposition 1F – which seeks to limit legislative pay – has the support of a majority of likely voters.

To view the poll, go to: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=886>

Prop 1A in particular has drawn the ire of the majority of likely voters and is trailing by a margin of 52% “No” to 35% “Yes” with 13% still undecided.

Even those in favor of Prop 1A doubted the measure’s ability to help avoid future budget deficits. Just 7 percent believe Prop 1A would be very effective in avoiding future budget deficits, and 32 percent believe it would be somewhat effective.

The Poll also demonstrated that while California’s likely voters feel optimistic about the ability of President Obama and Congress to resolve the nation’s current economic problems, they have little confidence in California’s leaders to do the same.

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