

**Lake Tahoe Unified School District Board of Trustees Resolution in Support of
Proposition 15: Schools and Communities First Funding Act in 2020
Resolution No. 2020/21-10**

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, loopholes in the system have permitted major commercial and industrial properties to avoid reassessment, a windfall to commercial property owners at the expense of vital school funding;

WHEREAS, The property tax 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 10;

WHEREAS, School funding in California is \$3,400 per pupil less than the national average, while California's cost of living is among the highest 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 raise achievement levels, lower poverty, and increase the productivity of the workforce;

WHEREAS, Estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) have identified that reassessing commercial property will bring \$11.4 billion in property taxes to cities, counties, special districts, and schools;

WHEREAS, USC has identified that nearly 80 percent of the revenue will come from just 8 percent of large properties, owned by corporations and wealthy investors, many of them out-of-state;

WHEREAS, USC research shows that a majority of commercial owners already pay close to market value property taxes, making the current system inequitable among businesses, benefitting large owners who have held land for a long period;

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 measure provides at least \$4.5 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, School district bonds will be retired faster or rates lowered;

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 parks, public safety, housing, infrastructure, health and human services, libraries and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will improve land use, provide tax relief to small businesses, and level the playing field among businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lake Tahoe Unified School District endorses the Schools and Communities First Funding Act for a ballot measure in 2020.

Adopted by the Board of Education of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District on October 13, 2020.



Troy Matthews, Board Clerk