

CALIFORNIA

ADULT EDUCATION

*A Newsletter on Adult Education in California
November 2012*

HOORAY FOR PROPOSITION 30

Adult Educators and a broad coalition of supporters were instrumental in the success of Governor Brown's Proposition 30 by a 54% to 46% margin. This success happened in spite of loud "no new taxes" messages and the infusion of a last minute \$11 million by outside-the-state interests into the "No on 30" campaign.

Its success benefits education since it counters the need to make cuts totaling over \$5 billion statewide. It specifically benefits Adult Education because it lessens the need for school districts to make midyear cuts that could lead to a further sweep of Adult Education funds.

Now the Weighted Student Formula

It is predictable that Governor Brown will reintroduce the Weighted Student Formula as school finance reform and as part of his state budget proposal in January 2013. This formula calls for combining categorical programs into one source and redistributing on a K-12 per pupil basis. This combining could include Adult Education, thereby, leading to the elimination of the program.

Immigration Reform Closer to Reality

Nationally, it is being recognized that Latinos contributed significantly to the success of President Obama's reelection. Immigration reform is identified as a priority for this group. Republicans are also recognizing the impact of the Latino vote. With both political parties interested in securing the future votes of this group, the potential has now increased for Congressional action on immigration reform. Predictably new federal immigration laws would necessitate educational programs to prepare eligible individuals for citizenship. California's Adult Education program would play a major role in responding to this educational undertaking.

What to Do.....

Keep Adult Education out of the Weighted Student Formula. Adult Education is targeted at an adult population and funded on the basis of student attendance, while delivering education opportunities for specific purposes, including English language acquisition and citizenship, high school diplomas/GED's, and employment training. Adult Education makes a significant contribution to the State's economic recovery and is an investment in the future of California.

