

## Advocacy Legislative Chair's Update-April 2020

Additional details are in the September issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- In spite of the pandemic and the unprecedented situation in our schools, the advocacy work of Fourth District PTA continues! Advocacy meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. There will be no trip to Sacramento in February, but online events are being planned.
  - You can get ready to vote in the November General Election by going to [OCVote.com](http://OCVote.com) and making sure your voter registration is up to date. All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail and there are several safe ways to return your ballot to the Registrar of Voters. It's very important to sign the outside of the return envelope so the Registrar can verify your identity.
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- Rock the Census and please encourage via our social media platforms for ALL PTA members to complete the Census by September 30. Not only do the census numbers determine the number of representatives California has in the U.S. House of Representatives and the number of votes we have in the Electoral College, the information is used to redraw districts for the State Assembly and State Senate so that all communities have fair representation.
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- An Advocacy Forum and Training was held on September 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Key topics included Orange County Department of Education and the Orange County Board of Education, the advocacy roles of units, councils and State PTA, ballot propositions that State PTA is supporting, the new Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan that replaces the LCAP this year, and the role of PTA in elections.
  - California State PTA supports Prop. 15, which would change the amount of property taxes paid by commercial and industrial real estate property while protecting homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for all residential property. This would raise as much as \$11.5 billion in additional funding, with 40 percent of that going to schools.
  - State PTA also supports Prop. 16, which would repeal Prop. 209 and restore affirmative action and allow the use of race, gender and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in public education and government hiring and contracting.
  - The Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan that replaces the LCAP this year includes an emphasis on the mental health and emotional well-being of students and staff. Parents should be involved in developing this plan. The *Communicator* has a link to an article at [Ed100.org](http://Ed100.org) that has more information and resources.
  - The Bill 793, the bill to outlaw flavored tobacco has passed the Assembly Health Committee. The bill will be amended by excluding flavored cigars over \$12 and loose leaf tobacco.
  - California State PTA is a member of the Education Coalition, which is urging state legislators to close a projected \$20 billion education state budget shortfall by adopting additional revenue streams. The coalition is comprised of the nine statewide K-12 education associations (including California State PTA) that work closely to advocate for the 8.4 million students in California's public schools.
  - The State PTA Legislation Team will present Advocacy Webinars on the first Wednesday of each month (with a couple of exceptions) from 7 to 8 p.m.
  - Social media challenge has been sent to our social media point, correct?

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