

AFT and District negotiators to bring in mediator

Survey results: Majority of respondents say it's "essential" to get increases in salary & health benefits cap and to maintain adjuncts' full flex pay

During the last week of September and the first week of October, AFT 1493 conducted a brief survey asking faculty to give us feedback on what our bargaining priorities should be and what course of action we should take next, given that contract bargaining between the District and the AFT has come to a standstill.

Majority of almost 300 say pay raise is a must

Despite there being no significant progress in any area and a number of take-backs being proposed by the District, the majority of the almost 300 faculty who completed the survey stated that a salary increase is "essential to have agreement on before the contract is settled."

Another item that a large number of faculty deemed as "essential" was "No reductions in payment to part-time faculty to participate in flex days." While the District negotiators continue to propose reducing part-timers' pay rate for flex day activities from the regular pay rate to the non-instructional special rate, over 70% of part-time faculty said it was essential to prevent such a reduction.

Binding arbitration & FSA protection also ranked high

Increasing the amount the District contributes to full-time faculty health benefits was also listed as "essential" by the majority of respondents, while binding arbitration and protection of faculty FSAs were also considered "essential" for a settlement by significant percentages of the surveyed faculty.

Faculty support three ways to respond to District

When asked about what course of action the AFT should take next

in response to the lack of progress at the bargaining table, faculty supported three main strategies:

- calling an "Impasse" and going into Mediation with a state-appointed mediator,
- carrying out "Work to Rule" – where faculty only do the minimum required work, e.g. no committee work, no SLO work, etc., and
- a campaign in support of AFT's proposals, such as letter-writing, petitions, speaking at Board meetings, community involvement, etc.

Mediator will be called, but "impasse" is not declared

After receiving this feedback from faculty, AFT negotiators met with the District bargaining team on Friday, October 15. At that meeting, it was decided by both AFT and the District to use the services of a mediator; however, we would not formally declare "impasse" at this time. AFT's Executive Committee is evaluating how best to carry out the actions supported in the faculty survey. □

District FTEF Reductions: Fall 2009 to Fall 2010

	Fall 2009 FTEF	Fall 2010 FTEF	DIFFERENCE
CONTRACT	301.88	288.95	(12.93)
Skyline College	104.83	98.79	(6.04)
Cañada College	64.13	60.93	(3.20)
College of San Mateo	132.92	129.23	(3.69)
OVERLOAD	30.80	27.99	(2.81)
Skyline College	15.23	12.54	(2.69)
Cañada College	2.93	2.46	(0.47)
College of San Mateo	12.64	12.99	0.35
ADJUNCT	281.28	235.52	(45.76)
Skyline College	101.88	91.84	(10.04)
Cañada College	75.04	65.17	(9.87)
College of San Mateo	104.36	78.51	(25.85)
TOTAL	613.96	552.46	(61.50)

The chart above shows the reductions in Full-Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF) from the Fall 2009 to Fall 2010 semesters. 16% of all adjuncts' hours--over 45 FTEFs--were cut, while full-time faculty were reduced by 4%--about 13 FTEFs. Overload hours were cut by 9%--just under 3 FTEFs. More details on FTEF reductions, with breakdowns by division, are available at aft1493.org. Click on "Faculty Issues."

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Why the union works on legislation and politics as well as negotiations and grievances

by Monica Malamud, AFT 1493 President

You know that it's the union's job to negotiate and protect the contract. Our contract, or collective bargaining agreement, basically spells out the relationship between faculty (employees) and the District (our employer). But is it the union's business to get involved in legislation and politics? Shouldn't the union just focus on negotiating a contract and making sure it is enforced correctly?



The contract contains many provisions about our employment in the district, but there are also aspects of our employment that are not included in the contract, because they are already governed by law. Our contract is just for us in AFT 1493, but state law applies to everyone in the state. Our contract, for example, contains a clause on part-time faculty rehire rights, giving adjuncts priority for continued employment based on their seniority and satisfactory performance. Many adjunct faculty in community colleges around California work in districts where the contract does not

contain such a provision. Examples of the opposite are also true. For example, other districts have binding arbitration in their contract, but we do not right now.

Working for state-wide changes

At the last CFT Convention, a resolution to "End the casualization of academic faculty" was adopted. This resolution directs the CFT to work towards the goals of employment security, equal pay for equal work, benefits and rights for part-time faculty that are comparable to those of full-time tenured faculty. These are worthy goals for all adjunct faculty, not just those in some districts. While it would be beneficial to part-timers in one district to accomplish these goals through collective bargaining, it is far more desirable to accomplish them for all part-timers. How? By making it state law. This is an example of why it is the union's business to participate in the legislative process and to help elect those candidates who support our issues.

One of the objectives of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) is "to initiate and support state legislation to benefit the students, and educational and health care employees of the state of California" (from CFT Constitution, Article II). In order to do so, the CFT follows directives both from its national parent organization, the AFT, and from its members, as expressed in resolutions submitted by locals and CFT subcommittees to the annual CFT Convention.

Legislation can be the result of either the work of the Legislature, or voter initiatives. The CFT uses both approaches: introducing and supporting bills and resolutions in the Legislature, as well as campaigning to put initiatives on the ballot and to get voters to pass them.

ACR 138: Pushing for more full-timers & part-timer parity

As we all know, there is an increasing over-reliance on part-time faculty in

The Advocate

The Advocate provides a forum for faculty to express their views, opinions and analyses on topics and issues related to faculty rights and working conditions, as well as education theory and practice, and the impact of contemporary political and social issues on higher education.

Some entries are written and submitted individually while others are collaborative efforts. All faculty are encouraged to contribute.

The Advocate's editorial staff, along with the entire AFT 1493 Executive Committee, works to ensure that statements of fact are accurate. We recognize, respect, and support the right of faculty to freely and openly share their views without the threat of censorship.

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Masao Suzuki is Skyline's new AFT 1493 Executive Committee Rep.

Masao Suzuki was elected last May as the new AFT 1493 Executive Committee Rep. from Skyline College for the current two-year term. Masao is Professor of Economics at Skyline where he has taught for ten years. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley in Economics and then went to Stanford where he earned a Ph.D. in Economics. His dissertation was on the economic history of Japanese immigration to the United States. He has also published three articles in the *Journal of Economic History* and *Explorations in Economic History*. Masao lives in San Jose with his wife and daughter, and helps take care of his father, artist and anti-war activist Lewis Suzuki, who lives in Berkeley.

Masao became politically active in high school in the anti-war and Asian

American movements. He has been a member of the Nihonmachi Outreach



Masao Suzuki

Committee (NOC) in San Jose Japantown for more than twenty years and writes articles on the economy for *Fight Back!* newspaper. He became active

in opposing budget cuts last year and helped to organize the Concerned Faculty of Skyline College, and was elected campus co-representative for Skyline College on the AFT 1493 Executive Committee.

Masao hopes to link the issues of economic justice, racial equality, and peace. His emails end with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: "If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight." This quote is from King's speech "A Time to Break Silence," on April 4, 1967 when King publicly announced his opposition to the war in Vietnam. □

President's Letter

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higher education in the U.S. At the same time, part-time faculty are undercompensated and not eligible for the same benefits offered to full-time faculty. The AFT Higher Education Department has been promoting FACE, the Faculty and College Excellence campaign, which seeks to reverse these practices with two basic goals:

- Increasing the percentage of students who are taught by full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty, and
- Striving for fair compensation and benefits for part-time faculty.

In many states, the AFT has already successfully introduced FACE legislation. In California, the CFT, guided both by the AFT at the national level, and by its members' desires as expressed in resolutions like the one mentioned earlier, introduced and lobbied for ACR 138. This resolution, which was approved by the legislature, expresses the legislative intent that community colleges should move to-

wards the goal of having 75% of their credit instructional hours taught by full-time faculty (to the extent funding is provided), and that part-time faculty salaries should be pro-rated on full-time salaries according to the principle of "equal pay for equal work". This resolution in turn is expected to guide the governing boards of community college districts to work towards achieving these goals.

Proposition 25 would help prevent further education cuts

ACR 138 is an example of the CFT's successful lobbying in the legislature. However, not all legislation in California is the result of the work of those elected to the Senate and the Assembly. Voters can also submit initiatives or propositions. One such example is Proposition 25, which is on the ballot for the upcoming election. It was placed on the ballot through petitions signed by eligible voters, as a result of a campaign that involved a broad coalition, which included the CFT.

Proposition 25, if passed, would allow the California budget to be passed by simple majority (as opposed to the current two-thirds vote requirement). This year, California's budget was passed over three months late. Does this affect public education? Yes, it does: until the budget is approved, the state cannot send any payments to school districts, or to any other state-funded agencies. In the meantime, school districts need to use their reserves, and take on expensive loans in order to have enough cash flow to meet their obligations. If the state budget could be approved by simple majority (just like most other outcomes decided by a vote), then California's budget could be passed on time. In addition to ensuring an on-time budget, Proposition 25 would prevent a small minority of legislators from using budget stalemates to force further funding cuts to public education and other vital social services.

In this election, we, the voters, have the opportunity to contribute to the legislative process in our state. Let's not miss that opportunity. Vote! □

DAY OF ACTION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Skyline students and faculty “speak out” against budget cuts

Last year two grassroots organizations--Skyline Against the Cuts, a student group, and the Concerned Faculty of Skyline College--formed at Skyline College in response to serious threats that would have discontinued two academic programs and closed the child care center. Working together, these two groups were actively involved in fighting for the needs of students at Skyline, and as a result of their work, along with the work of many others, the programs and childcare center are still with us.

The article below, originally published in Skyline View, describes a Speak Out that these two groups organized on October 7th, a National Day of Action to support public education. Tina Watts, the new director of the Child Development Center, and a student-parent, Michelle Araica, also came and presented their views about the impacts of closing the child care center, which has been given a two-year reprieve to come up with new funding sources.

By JJ Valdez, Skyline View Features Editor

Students gathered in the Skyline cafeteria on October 7th for the “Speak Out” assembly, which took place from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, where different guest speakers from students to faculty members, came to talk about their experiences with the budget cuts. The event was organized by students Josh Walters, Vanessa Cabos, and Rhea Celudio from the group, Skyline Against the Cuts, and featured

both student and faculty speakers, including ASSC President Ray Parenti-Kurttila and Vice President Amanda Parker. The list of Skyline teachers in attendance ranged from Michael Hoffman to long time instructor Katharine Harer.

Many guest speakers expressed that their views and opinions regarding the budget cuts represent their emotions regarding the financial cuts as well. One such moment was when Vice President Amanda Parker broke down in tears during her speech when talking about how the budget cuts have negatively affected students. “I’ve utilized the programs of CalWORKS, Trio, EOPS and I know that they’ve suffered massive cuts,” said Parker. “It’s because of them I’m at where I am today, and it’s painful to know that there are students

coming in who are in the same position I was--who won’t be able to utilize those services the way things are going now.”

During her speech, she briefly mentioned how it hurts her to know that the Child Care Center was at risk of being completely cut, and knowing that some mothers might not get the chance of pursuing an education. She also expressed her opinions of students, especially here at Skyline, who still haven’t registered to vote, and emphasizing the importance of making your voice heard. “It’s painful to see some of the programs being cut because students aren’t voting that’s why we are here today to encourage students to register now,” said Parker. “I think we are all role models by trying to spread awareness, I mean that’s the biggest part reason for being here.”

Harer joined the assembly with her views on the reality of how many teachers are suffering right now. “We’re trying to get better working conditions, and some form of pay raise to help teachers, both full and part time,” said Harer. “The

truth is you may not see your teachers because they might not have jobs here anymore. These teachers are hurting financially just as much as you guys are.” Although she never gave out any specific names during her time on the podium, she did share with the audience examples of how teachers here at Skyline have had their lives changed dramatically due to cuts. “I know fac-

ulty members who can’t afford gas. I know faculty members whose houses were foreclosed. I know faculty members who were forced to leave the district entirely. In English, we’ve lost four full time teachers to retirement, and none of them have been replaced.” Harer also delved into her personal life as a teacher when she shared that she herself had to switch from a health care provider that she’d been seeing for 15 years because she could not afford it anymore.

Another teacher present at the event was Masao Suzuki, an economics professor here at Skyline, who volunteered to speak mostly in order to shed some knowledge on the current economic climate. “I volunteered to speak because I spoke at

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Amanda Parker speaks at the Oct. 7 Speak Out

photo by JJ Valdez

“Education for Sale?” Cañada professors Paul Roscelli and Elizabeth Terzakis debate the future of higher education

On October 7th, as a part of the nationwide day of action against educational budget cuts, Cañada Strikes Back!, an anti-budget cuts student organization at Cañada College, hosted a debate on the future of higher education between Economics professor Paul Roscelli and English professor and resident socialist Elizabeth Terzakis.



Paul Roscelli and Elizabeth Terzakis

The debate, entitled “Education for Sale?” centered on the question of whether or not higher education should be privatized, with Professor Roscelli arguing for privatization and Professor Terzakis arguing for increased public funding of and control over higher education.

According to *The San Matean*, the event was attended by 150 students, who overall had a positive response. *San Matean* reporter Alex Farr quotes Nadine Assaffat, one of the Cañada students in attendance, as saying, “The debate opened my eyes to what’s going on and has me thinking about my educational choices.”

One of the defining moments of the debate was a ques-

RETIRES

Joe Marchi to speak at December 7 DART event

DART (the District Association of Retired Teachers) will be hosting a social event at the College Vista Clubhouse on Tuesday, December 7th, beginning at 3:00pm in the afternoon. We are fortunate in being able to have famous Joe Marchi give a presentation (which will include music) on the American Musical, beginning at 4:00pm. DART extends the invitation to present faculty, as well as retired teachers to enjoy the activity, which will include the now renowned refreshments (snack food and good wine, as well as soft drinks/juice for healthy living). Please contact John Searle for more information at: searle@smccd.edu.

tion from event organizers about whether an affordable education will be guaranteed to future generations. “I don’t know what that word ‘affordable’ means—as an economist that’s a hard word to define,” was Professor Roscelli’s answer. “There’s a lack of affordable Maseratis, too—what do we do about that? There are trade-offs, and we have to make choices. The pie can be bigger, but it can’t be more than 100 percent.”

Terzakis countered that the problem is not the size of the pie, but the distribution of slices. “There won’t be any guarantee unless we fight for it. We need to stop trying to carve the money from the backs of students and faculty and instead go after the rich—the big money is in the hands of the top two percent of earners and corporations in the state. If they paid their fair share of taxes, there would be no budget crisis.”

Student Blanca Whitehead, also quoted in *The San Matean*, agreed. “This was very healthy for both the students and faculty. We need more dialogue to help resolve our education conflict. I agree with Professor Terzakis in that we could close the budget gap if those that make \$1 million plus pitch in a little more.” □

Skyline Speak Out

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the ‘teach ins’ last fall about the budget situation, and the cut backs to education.” said Suzuki. “So this is one of my areas of expertise, the state and federal budget, and what’s happening with the economy and how it’s affecting Skyline,” explained Suzuki. “There has been a very serious recession that has led to a fall in revenues here in California,” said Suzuki, “and at the same time there have been a series of tax cuts mainly for corporations over the last ten years, and these two factors have really slammed California budgets.” Suzuki also talked about how his father, a World War II veteran, has been denied medical care as an example of how people from all walks of life are being affected by California’s current situation.

Hoffman, too, expressed his sympathy towards the students and fellow faculty, speaking on his own experience with being a new teacher in this district. “I feel very pas-

sionately about the need to organize and educate around the budget cuts. I think we have to try to reverse the trends that are happening,” said Hoffman. “I think students got some important information today, and I think some of them learned of new ways to get involved. I think this was a reminder that there is still an anti-budget cuts movement.”

Hoffman also expressed the importance of things not continuing the way they are, as they are a reflection of us as a society. “It relates to our standard of living,” said Hoffman, “and unless people can organize themselves and demand that resources go towards meeting our needs, these trends will continue. We will see an increasing gulf between the rich and the poor, and a large group of people living in poverty without access to education.” Hoffman feels that there is little hope for us in the future unless certain things are met in achievement. “I am not very optimistic unless we see more people getting involved and getting organized,” said Hoffman, “unless we see a movement.” □

Skyline professor is visited by FBI as part of raids and subpoenas aimed at anti-war activists

by Masao Suzuki, Skyline AFT 1493 Executive Committee Co-Rep.

On Friday, September 24th, an FBI agent showed up at my home in San Jose before 7 am. I exercised my right not to answer his questions, but had no idea why he came. Then I learned that the homes of seven anti-war activists and the office of an anti-war organization had been raided in Chicago and Minneapolis, and that eleven people from Illinois, Michigan, and Minneapolis had been served subpoenas calling them to a Grand Jury in Chicago, Illinois, on October 5. (Three more anti-war activists were served subpoenas on September 27).

Knowing the history of the FBI I was not shocked by the visit. On the evening of December 7th, 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan, FBI and other U.S. government agents began arresting Japanese immigrants. Within days more than a thousand Japanese immigrants were being held by the U.S. government, not for any crime that they committed, but because they were businesspeople, teachers, newspaper editors, or other community leaders. Within months, the more than 100,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were rounded up and sent to concentration camps in mountain and desert areas.

Twenty years later, the FBI and police spied on Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior and other civil rights leaders and organizations. The FBI and its director, J. Edgar Hoover, engaged in a campaign of vilification that intensified after Dr. King began speaking out against the war in Vietnam in 1967, and contributed to a climate of hatred that led up to Dr. King's assassination in 1968. The surveillance and harassment was part of the larger FBI COINTELPRO effort that included spying on and disrupting other civil rights organizations and in particular attacking the Black Panther Party.

Since September 11, 2001, Arab American and American Muslim communities have been the target of FBI and other government agencies surveillance, harassment and disrupting activities. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS - today reorganized into the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE) carried out a "special registration" of non-citizen immigrants from two-dozen predominantly Arab or Muslim countries, all in Asia or Africa. More recently, FBI spying on mosques and U.S. government persecution of Islamic charities contributes to a growing climate of anti-Muslim sentiment in the United States.

This history of the FBI also include persecution of labor activists, Italian and German immigrants during World War II, communists in the 1950s, and anti-war activists in the 1960s that persists until today.

As I spoke to more and more people about the raids and subpoenas and my own experience, I was asked, what do

you have in common with these people? They are all anti-war activists, who helped to organize and lead protests at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2008. I too have participated in the anti-war movement, most recently in organizing support for Iraq-war resistor Lieutenant Ehren Watada. The government seems to be trying to criminalize the political view of these activists, who have spoken out in solidarity with people who have suffered the loss of their lands and their rights under U.S. backed governments in Palestine and Columbia. I too have acted in solidarity with the people of the Philippines who are fighting a repressive and corrupt government backed by the United States.

But when I think of my ties with the individuals whose homes were raided and who were given subpoenas, I do not think of them as only anti-war activists (which they are) or international solidarity activists (which they are). I think of them as activists for peace AND justice because of their long and deep involvement in community organizations and trade unions.

My long involvement in the Japanese American community, mainly with the San José based Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC), and my own research on the economic history of Japanese Americans, have given me a deep appreciation of the importance of immigrant rights. I have spoken to Hatem Abudayyeh, one of the activists targeted by the FBI. Hatem is executive director of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN), and we shared a common interest in the upsurge in the immigrant rights movement, and many times discussed how to try to involve our communities, Arab and Asian, in the immigrant rights movement.

I am also a new activist in the trade union movement, having just been elected to the Executive Committee of AFT Local 1493. I have had many discussions with Joe Iosbaker, another of the activists targeted by the FBI. Joe is a shop steward and long time activist in his union, Service Employee's International Union (SEIU) Local 73, representing workers at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Joe has been very helpful to me in learning about the trade union movement and how to fight to improve the lives of our members. Both of our locals are at public colleges and have been deeply impacted by the budget cuts at our state and campus levels, and we have both tried to support our students fighting back against budget cuts.

I hope that all progressive people, not just anti-war and international solidarity activists, or even those concerned with the erosion of civil liberties under the "war on terror", but everyone, from trade union activists to members of civil rights organizations to student organizations will take up their fight. Thank you. ▣

AFT 1493 endorses Trustee Dave Mandelkern for San Mateo County Treasurer-Tax-Collector

The AFT 1493 Executive Committee endorsed SMCCCD Trustee Dave Mandelkern for San Mateo County Treasurer-Tax Collector at their April 14, 2010 meeting. - Ed.

Dear AFT 1493 members:

Thank you for endorsing my candidacy. I'm writing to ask for your vote on the November 2 ballot for San Mateo County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

While many of you may not be familiar with what this office does, it is a vital part of our County government. I will bring a new vision and perspective to the role our Treasurer-Tax Collector should play in generating more revenue to address our County's structural budget deficit and protect the funding for vital public services such as education, healthcare, public safety, transportation, parks, and libraries. As Treasurer I would also sit on the SAMCERA board and I am committed to protecting the integrity of the retirement system for public employees.

I also see this position as a platform that I can use to speak out on behalf of taxpayer equity, such as advocating for a split roll for property taxes so that commercial property owners pay their fair share. As you may be aware, under Proposition 13 the portion of property taxes paid by commercial property owners has declined from two-thirds to one-third, with the balance being picked up by individual/personal homeowners. This is not right, and is one of the major factors in the revenue gap that has put our state in a structural budget deficit.

I am running against the twenty-year Deputy to our current Treasurer-Tax Collector, who lost \$155 million of taxpayers' money in the September 2008 Lehman Brothers bankruptcy. While I admire my opponent's long-term commitment to serving in County government, the environment we operate in is much more challenging and complex than it was twenty years ago, and frankly the incumbent management team has not evolved or developed a vision to safely and thoughtfully manage this office in this new era.

This is exemplified by the fact that two years after their loss of \$155 million in the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, our current Treasurer's management team still has not put in place adequate safeguards to prevent such a loss from happening again. In this uncertain financial environment, we can't afford to continue with a complacent "business as usual" attitude. Especially when these losses cost us 1650 local jobs and negatively impacted the quality of education that our schools here in San Mateo County are able to deliver, both in K-12 districts as well as at our three community colleges.

When I am elected I will bring my experience as an elected Trustee for our Community College District, where I

AFT 1493 announces Adjunct Faculty Organizer position

As part of its ongoing effort to involve more part-time faculty in the Union and to improve the working conditions for all faculty, AFT 1493 plans to restore and fund the Part-Time Faculty Organizer position (PTFO). Organizing part-time faculty has been difficult in many community college districts precisely because their contingent and often temporary status creates logistical barriers to their participation in non-teaching, professional activities. The inequities of pay and benefits as well as the isolation that part-time faculty experience within the academy often leave part-timers feeling marginalized and exploited. As a result, they may be reluctant to participate actively in their labor unions, the very organizations that try to improve their employment conditions.

Some of the responsibilities of the PTFO position will include: advocating for inclusion of adjuncts in all aspects of campus activities, with pay; recruiting interested part-time faculty from all three district colleges to become active in the Union; attending AFT 1493 Executive Committee monthly meetings and participating in union decision-making on issues of concern to part-time faculty; becoming a member of the Part-Time Faculty Committee of the CFT, and attending its meetings.

Skills and qualifications include: currently employed as a part-time faculty member in the SMCCCD and a member of AFT 1493, problem-solving skills, particularly interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills, and commitment to AFT's mission, values, and goals.

A complete job announcement will be posted on the AFT 1493 website and the PTFO will be appointed by the Executive Committee of AFT 1493. The position starts January 2011.

made sure we treated all employees fairly and equitably, that every year we had a balanced budget with adequate reserves, and was proud to work closely with and support our AFT members in delivering the highest quality educational services to the students of San Mateo County. I also have thirty years experience in managing successful companies in rapidly changing, complex environments. I earned both a bachelors and masters degree from Stanford University. I will use my skills and experience to improve the management of this critical office, deliver a higher level of service to the residents of San Mateo County, and treat our employees with the respect and fairness they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will vote for me on November 2.

Sincerely,
Dave Mandelkern
Candidate for San Mateo County Treasurer-Tax Collector

Vote November 2nd!

The California Federation of Teachers' ballot recommendations are below. Endorsements by other progressive organizations are also included.

NO 20 Stop Congressional redistricting scheme

Would give a non-accountable 14-person commission power to redraw our state Congressional districts. Also opposed by: California Teachers Association, California Nurses Association, California League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club

YES 21 Preserve our state parks

Creates funding to preserve our heritage state parks by adding \$18 to the vehicle license fee, and gives California vehicles free park admission in return. Also supported by: California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Democratic Party, California Labor Federation, California Faculty Association, Defenders of Wildlife, California Council of Churches, Sierra Club

NO POSITION 22 Restricts redirection of funds - Prohibits the state from borrowing funds from cities and counties in times of crisis. Opposed by: California Nurses Association, California Teachers Association, California Democratic Party, Courage Campaign. Supported by: Greenbelt Alliance

NO 23 Don't put the environment on hold

Suspends implementation of AB 32, which limits emission of greenhouse gases known to cause global warming. Also opposed by: Union of Concerned Scientists, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Lung Association in California, Forests Forever, Consumers Union, California League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club California, California Labor Federation, Consumer Federation of California, Congress of California Seniors.

YES Prop 24 Repeal corporate tax breaks

Prop. 24 repeals a shady backroom deal between Sacramento politicians and big corporate lobbyists — tax giveaways to a few huge corporations. These tax breaks don't create a single job in California. Prop. 24 prevents more budget cuts to education and public safety, and saves thousands of jobs. Also supported by: California Teachers Association, Consumer Federation of California, California Tax Reform Association, Health Access, ACLU of Southern California, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), The Utility Reform Network, Friends Committee on Legislation of California.

YES Prop 25 End two-thirds vote to pass budget

Prop. 25 brings California in line with the 47 states that require a majority legislative vote to pass a state budget, instead of California's current two-thirds vote requirement. Prop. 25 forfeits legislator pay each day the budget is late. Supported by labor and education groups, the PTA, Common Cause and the League of Women Voters. Also supported by: California Faculty Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Planning and Conservation League, California Gray Panthers, California Democratic Party, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Consumer Federation of California.

NO Prop 26 No new two-thirds vote requirements

Prop. 26 would add billions to the state budget deficit by changing the vote required for fees charged to corporations from a majority to two-thirds. This translates into more cuts to education, public safety, and home care for seniors and people with disabilities. Prop. 26 is funded by big oil, alcohol, and tobacco companies. Also opposed by: Health Access California, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, Consumer Federation of California, California Alliance of Retired Americans, California Tax Reform Association, California Labor Federation, Friends of the Earth.

YES 27 Return redistricting to the Legislature

Eliminates the 14-person commission put in place by Proposition 11 in 2008, and returns Congressional redistricting power to the state Legislature. Also supported by: California Democratic Party, California for Alliance of Retired Persons, California Labor Federation, California Nurses Association, California Teachers Association.

YES Tom Torlakson for State Schools Chief

Assemblymember Tom Torlakson is a high school science teacher and community college faculty member who has retained his teacher orientation while serving in Sacramento. An effective legislator, Torlakson is endorsed by CFT, CTA, California School Employees Association, and the California Faculty Association.