

# Chapter Talking Points

*August 31, 2020*

## Info for chapter leaders

### September 2 Area meetings

- At this meeting we will discuss enforcement of the Distance Learning Sideletter and other distance learning issues at schools sites, racial justice work and our critical fall campaigns. We will also have time to discuss issues specific to your Area and how we are dealing with the challenges faced by different school sites or groups. Invite CAT members and others to attend. Zoom links will be sent by Area on Monday, August 31.

### Materials from the 8/27/20 All City Chapter Leader Meeting

- On Thursday Chapter Leaders from across Los Angeles met to launch our campaign to win Proposition 15 -the Schools and Communities First Initiative - which will raise \$12 Billion for schools and social services and the School Board races in Board Districts 3 and 7.

#### **We discussed our three-step plan to win:**

1. Get commitments from every member to vote for Prop 15 by asking them to sign onto this online pledge <https://www.utla.net/yes-prop-15-pledge>
2. Recruit at least 5 members from your chapter to join you for phone banking (from home) for 4 hours in September and 4 hours in October. Sign up here <https://lateacherschoice.org/#campaignnow>
3. Get one on one commitments from chapter members who are noted on your chapter roster as being registered in Board District 3 and 7 to vote for Scott Schmerelson (BD3) and Paty Castellanos (BD7). ChapterRosters will be sent out next week, before the Area meeting.

Attached is a [short power point presentation](#) you can use in your virtual chapter meetings. It is also [attached as a pdf](#) in case you want to print it and see the talking points in the notes section easier.

Also attached is [an FAQ](#) and a [handout](#) on Prop 15.

Chapter Rosters will be emailed to the chapter email next week, ahead of the Area Meeting. The roster will indicate who is registered to vote in Board District 3 or Board District 7, and who has already officially declared their support for Prop 15 by signing the on-line petition.

[Power Point presentation](#) (will download)

[Power Point presentation](#) (PDF)

[Prop 15 FAQ](#)

[Prop 15 Handout](#)

[Prop 15 Pledge](#)

[Phone banking sign up](#)

## **Send in the Notice of Chapter Chair Election Today**

- If you were the 2019-2020 Chapter Chair for your school or chapter and you intend to continue as the chapter chair for the 2020-2021 school year, you must submit a [Notice of Chapter Chair Election](#). There is no automatic extension of your assignment as chapter chair - you are required to submit the form via email to Princess Sykes at [psykes@utla.net](mailto:psykes@utla.net).
- If you are not intending to run, please share this announcement with others at your site so that a chapter chair can represent your school. It is important that we receive this form as soon as possible to complete the election process for your chapter and officially record the name of the 2020-2021 Chapter Chair.
- [Notice of Chapter Chair Elections](#)

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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

**Proposition 15 will give us the funding our schools desperately need**

- The budget shortfall from the pandemic already exceeds \$54 billion. Without funding from Proposition 15, we will be facing recession cuts created by this crisis. Yet, billionaires wealth grew by more than \$175 Billion in the first 3 months of the pandemic. We should not allow wealthy investors and big corporations to continue to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes. Proposition 15 corrects this travesty by closing commercial property tax loopholes benefiting a fraction of corporations and wealthy investors without impacting homeowners or renters. Here are some key points:

### **PROPOSITION 15**

- **RECLAIMS** \$12 billion per year for K-12 schools, community colleges and local communities
- **CLOSES** commercial property tax loopholes that allow big corporations like Chevron & Disney to avoid paying their fair share
- **ENSURES** full transparency & accountability for all reclaimed revenue
- Completely **EXEMPTS** all residential properties.
- **PROTECTS** homeowners and renters
- **EXEMPTS** smaller businesses valued at under \$3 million and agricultural land
- Only 10% of the biggest, wealthiest commercial properties will generate 92% of the revenue.

It is our responsibility as educators to fight for the funds our schools desperately need. Commit to voting for Proposition 15 in November by signing [the online pledge here](#). Talk to family and friends and urge them to Vote Yes on Prop. 15. It is time to put our schools and communities first by voting Yes on Prop.15.

## **Elect Scott Schmerelson and Paty Castellanos for a School Board majority we can trust**

- We need a School Board majority we can trust and work with. Electing Paty Castellanos to the District 7 seat and Scott Schmerelson to the District 3 seat will give us that majority. We can't go back to a School Board controlled by billionaire privatizers and corporate charters. Regardless of where we live or teach, this election will affect all of us because the School Board governs as a body, not as individuals, with the majority making the decisions. Since we can't canvass door to door this year, a robust phone banking campaign is critical. Talk to your ChapterChair about phone banking as a group and commit to phone bank 4 hours in September and 4 hours in October. It is easy and you can do it from

home at a time of your choosing, but the impact on the election will be immeasurable. Sign up at <https://lateacherschoice.org/#campaignnow>

## Racial justice is educational justice

- On August 26, hundreds of educators in Los Angeles and beyond proudly wore our Black Lives Matter shirts in a day of solidarity with the El Camino Charter teacher who was targeted by hate groups for wearing a BLM shirt and choosing anti-racist curriculum. The racists want to see fewer Black Lives Matter shirts — instead, they got more. They want to stop us from teaching equality and racial justice — we are doubling down because Racial justice is Educational justice.

## CTA State Council election at the September 2 Area meetings

- A reminder to those who registered for a ballot by August 28 to vote in the CTA Expired Term election and who received a voting email from Simply Voting, that voting will take place at the September 2 Area meetings between the hours of 4:00 – 5:30 pm. **Only members who registered for a ballot by Friday, August 28, will be able to vote in the election** (and in any runoffs if necessary). If you registered for a ballot and are not a chapter leader, please **contact your chapter chair after August 31 for the Zoom link to attend your Area meeting.**

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## UTLA calendar

**Sept. 2:** Area Meetings

**Sept. 9:** Board of Directors meeting

**Sept. 16:** House of Reps meeting