

# Chapter Talking Points

*May 12, 2020*

## Info for chapter leaders

### Virtual Area meetings this Wednesday, May 13

- With the State of California now predicting a \$54.3 Billion budget deficit, this Wednesday's area meeting is critical to preparing for our fight to protect public education, our jobs and our communities.

Be sure to participate and invite existing and prospective Chapter Action Team members to join.

- **Link and Instructions to join your Area meeting will be sent under a separate email later today.**

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### State faces staggering budget deficit

- California faces billions of dollars in deficit from the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, created by the one-two punch of increased healthcare and unemployment spending and a steep drop in tax revenue.
- Federal support will be critical for getting through this crisis, but red state Republicans are already blaming state budget gaps on mismanagement and suggesting that states short of funding should be forced into bankruptcy. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell says that federal aid can't be used to solve problems that states had "created over the years with their pension programs."
- We've seen this play before: The wealthy get tax cuts and corporations get no-strings-attached bailouts, while teachers and other employees face layoffs and pressure to accept cuts to healthcare, pay, and pensions to prove that schools and social services "deserve" federal money.
- UTLA is organizing around a "no cuts" vision for our schools and communities, targeting the state and federal government for resources and amplifying the demand to raise revenue by

taxing millionaires and billionaires. We call on our elected representatives to reject a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis by fully funding education, ceasing talk of budget cuts and layoffs, and joining the fight for emergency federal funding for public education and other social services. Months of education deprivation must lead to more resources to education, public health, and social infrastructure, not less. In a time when US billionaires added \$282 billion to their combined wealth in just three weeks during this crisis, there is money in this economy that can be redirected to public education and social services, and we are prepared to fight for it.

## **Make the call for federal funding**

- As part of our fight for state and federal resources and increased taxation of millionaires and billionaires, we join CTA's Call to Action for resources for state and local governments. While Congress has allotted various rounds of COVID-19 stimulus, it has yet to fund states and local governments at the levels needed to avoid crippling public services. Specifically, CTA is calling on Congress to provide \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to distribute to states. We know this isn't enough to meet all our communities' needs, but it's a step in the right direction.

### **Call your representative today**

Call **1-855-977-1770** and you will be connected to your member of Congress.

### **Talking points**

1. Tell them your name and where you live.
2. Ask them to support providing at least \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to distribute to states.
3. Ask them to support at least \$2 billion for the E-Rate program to promote internet equity.

Read more [here](#)

## **Join a state-wide action this Friday, May 15 to fight budget cuts**

- Join clergy and community leaders to call for moral courage in this moment of crisis and demand that budget cuts be kept away from our communities.

**Location:** Ronald Reagan State Building, 300 S Spring St #2, Los Angeles, CA 90013

**Time:** Assemble between 9:30-10:00 am for car caravan

## Chapter Chair and Special Category elections

- Thank you to all who submitted a self-nomination form for Chapter Chair and Special Category Elections. UTLA Secretary Arlene Inouye will be reaching out to nominees about the next steps. We are still accepting Special Category ChapterChair self-nomination forms for the positions not yet filled. If you have any questions contact Arlene Inouye [ainouye@utla.net](mailto:ainouye@utla.net)

## Clarity on LAUSD memo: Work from home still in place

- The [Update on Work Expectations memo](#) sent by LAUSD last week has caused some confusion. UTLA members will continue to work from home as we have been. The memo indicates a change to the age that constitutes a vulnerable population from 60 to 65 for most district employees, but this change does not apply to UTLA members because of our side letter agreement. If you are unable to work from home, LAUSD will deduct contractual leave time.

## Tune in to UTLA Wellness Wednesdays at 8:30 am

- May is Mental Health Awareness month and the UTLA Health and Human Services group is hosting a wellness program for members, students, and families. Every Wednesday at 8:30 am there is a Facebook Live presentation highlighting issues related to mental health and providing tools and resources for coping during the pandemic. **#UTLAWellnesswednesdays**

## UPDATED FAQs

We are updating our FAQ pages regularly. Check often for new info.

- [Members-FAQ](#)
- [HHS-FAQ](#)
- [Substitutes-FAQ](#)
- [Parents-FAQ](#)

- [Parents \(Spanish\)-FAQ](#)

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## **UTLA action calendar**

**May 19:** PACE meeting

**May 20:** House of Reps meeting