



## Schools and Communities First Signature-Gathering Rap: UTLA Member to Member

**INTRODUCTION:** Hi, have you heard about Schools and Communities First (SCF)? SCF will help reclaim over \$12 billion for K-12 schools, community colleges, and local communities every year by taxing corporate and commercial properties at their market value.

We need your help to qualify Schools and Communities First for the November 2020 ballot. Our UTLA goal is to collect at least 15,000 signatures for the statewide effort.

**THE ASK:** Will you sign the petition to get the Schools and Communities First initiative onto the November 2020 ballot?

If yes – Great! What county do you live and vote in? We need to make sure you sign the petition sheet that you're registered to vote in.

–Also, can you take a sheet for your family members, neighbors, and friends to sign? When can I get that sheet back from you?

If they hesitate or are undecided – Remind them that "your signature just gets this initiative on the ballot so people can vote on it." You can ask them, "Is there a reason why you won't sign the petition to qualify SCF for the ballot?"

### **KEY INFO THAT CAN HELP with the UNDECIDED:**

- We estimate that LA County schools and services would receive approximately \$3.4 billion every year, helping to fund some of our strike victories like lowering class sizes and improving funding for special education.
- Always remind folks that "SCF does not tax homeowners, renters, or agricultural land."
- SCF will tax large corporations that are not paying their fair share of property tax – companies like Chevron, Disney, and Amazon. For example, Chevron "saves" over \$100 million in state property taxes. That is \$100 million not going to any public schools or vital services that the company benefits from every day.
- There are strict accountability and reporting requirements so that the money goes directly to our students and communities with the most needs first.
- SCF will not eliminate Prop. 13 protections for renters, homeowners, or any residential properties.

**THE ASK:** Will you sign the petition to get the Schools and Communities First initiative on the November 2020 ballot?



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How does SCF work? How is it possible that this initiative could raise \$12 billion a year for public schools and vital services?**

Currently large corporations and commercial properties are paying way below the “market value” in property taxes, thus denying the state of California approximately \$12 billion per year. This is \$12 billion LOST from public schools and vital services. The Schools & Communities First initiative (SCF) is designed to ensure that large corporations and commercial properties are reassessed every year and charged the appropriate “market value” in property taxes, thus reclaiming \$12 billion in state revenue.

### **Will my landlord increase my rent due to higher property taxes generated by SCF?**

- ALL residential properties are exempt from any increases in property taxes
- NO homeowner, NO renters will be negatively impacted by SCF

### **How much of the SCF reclaimed \$12 billion will go directly to public education?**

The initiative will ensure that the state allocates at least 40% of SCF funds collected to public education. The other 60% will go to local communities to pay for vital services such as fire services, parks, libraries, health clinics, housing, and emergency medical services. LA County is estimated to receive approximately \$3.4 billion a year for schools and services.

### **How do we really know it will go to K-12 public schools in LAUSD?**

The initiative requires annual public reporting of how the funds are distributed and spent, so the public can hold elected officials accountable. It is up to us to hold our School Board accountable to ensure that our students with the most needs can benefit.

### **How will SCF funds be distributed?**

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) guidelines will be followed to ensure the funding is distributed to school districts with students with the highest needs.

### **Who is EXEMPT from SCF?**

- ALL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ARE EXEMPT – Homeowners and renters are protected
- ALL SMALL BUSINESSES WITH PROPERTIES VALUED AT \$3 MILLION OR LESS
- ALL AGRICULTURAL LANDS

### **Who opposes the Schools & Communities First initiative?**

The opposition to SCF is funded by deep-pocketed special interest groups, including the Business Round Table, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and California Taxpayers Association. Together with large corporations and wealthy investors, they have continued to enjoy vast profits at the expense of our public schools in California. They will stop at nothing to defend their unfair corporate protections offered to them by Proposition 13.