



Update on the California General Election



The November General Election is now behind us, so here are some interesting facts about California's turnout.

We had a 79.42% turnout among registered voters, which is pretty fabulous. Among all eligible voters including those who hadn't registered, turnout was 59.22%, so there's a lot of room for improvement. The best turnout

was in Sonoma County (93.43%). The worst was Merced County (66.57%), one of only two under 70% (Imperial County had 68.48%).

Voter turnout numbered 13,743,177 this year. In the Presidential election, 13,561,900 people cast a vote; that's over 200,000 undervotes at the top of the ticket.

Californians for the Support of Early Education is a broad-based coalition that actively engages in public policy, advocacy efforts, and public education campaigns, so that all California's children have access to quality early education.

As a point of reference, Prop. 3 (the Children's Hospital Initiative) received 12,638,905 votes, an undervote of 1.1 million votes. Most of the propositions were the same, except for Prop. 8 which received 13,402,566 votes.

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OBAMA PLEDGE STIRS HOPE IN EARLY EDUCATION

On January 28, the House of Representatives passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, that includes significant expansion funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, K-12 and other critical programs for children. A vote in the Senate on the economic recovery legislation is expected in the near future. The bill includes,

- \$2 billion for the Child Care & Development Block Grant
- \$2.1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start
- \$13 billion increase for Title I including ECE
- \$13.5 billion increase for IDEA including preschool, infant and toddler projects.
- \$39 billion for state restoration of elementary, secondary and post secondary education and adds language “as applicable, early childhood education”

- \$2.25 billion for Neighborhood Stabilization Program grants of which construction or rehabilitation of early childhood centers serving local income children is an allowable use of funds

- \$353 million for military child development centers

For complete details, visit http://www.naeyc.org/policy/federalbill_compare.asp.

In his presidential campaign, Mr. Obama pledged to establish a Presidential Early Learning Council to coordinate federal, state and local policies; to quadruple financing for Early Head Start; to provide federal challenge grants for states to use for early care and education programs; and to expand home visiting programs for low-income mothers. The Democratic Platform emphasized improving quality, not just reaching more children.

AN UPDATE ON CSEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CSEE PAC)



During the 2008 election cycle, the CSEE PAC provided local

grants for voter education and engagement in three competitive legislative races, Assembly District (AD) 78, won by newcomer Marty Block; SD 19, won by former Assemblyman Tony Strickland; and SD 5 won by former Assemblywoman Lois Wolk. These grants were provided to the local chapters of the non-partisan League of Women Voters in San Diego,

Santa Barbara, and San Joaquin Counties.

The 2008 effort included supporting the League of Women Voters; the plan for 2009-10 is to directly engage state candidates who are running, to hear their views and ideas about early education and make sure that providers, parents, and education advocates are well informed.



CSEE would like to expand its email list so that others can learn about the work of CSEE. Please send us email addresses or lists of colleagues and their email addresses so that we can include them in our next email blitz. Please send them to Anne Broussard at Broussard.anne@aol.com.

CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET: NEW CUTS, NEW REVENUES



To meet the now \$41.6 billion funding shortfall, the Governor proposed a combination of new revenues and program (and

people) reductions. According to Mike Genest, Finance Director, cuts will include health and welfare reductions (a \$1.025 billion reduction in 2009-10, or 3.3% decrease), targeting state employees: the elimination of Caesar Chavez Day, furloughs for management staff, and lower employee health benefits.

There are two new proposals, both of which require voter approval:

Prop. 10: The Governor would eliminate the California Children and Families Commission (First 5) and re-direct all of the state portion (20%) and half of the local portion to the State Dept. of Social Services to be applied to various children's services.

Prop. 63: The Governor would use Prop. 63 funds for Mental

Health Managed Care and provide local flexibility for matching and maintenance of effort requirements.

The revenue-side proposals are a combination of borrowing, Revenue Anticipation Warrants (sold after July 1 so repayment can stretch over two year), some taxes, narrowing of the dependent tax credit, and sale of the Lottery.

According to Tim Fitzharris, CDPI Legislative Advocate, the major general fund workload adjustments for Child Care are as follows:

- a decrease of (cont. on p. 4)

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<http://supporttearled.org>

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008 FACTOIDS....

	<u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>John McCain</u>
Popular Vote:	69,456,897	59,934,786
Percentage:	52.9%	45.7%
Electoral Vote:	365	173
States Carried:	28+D.C.+NE-02	22



- Voter turnout for the 2008 election was the highest in at least 40 years.
- Obama flipped 7 red states that went for Bush in 2004: Virginia by 6.30%; Colorado by 8.95%; Florida by 2.82%; North Carolina by 0.33%; Indiana by 1.04%; Ohio by 4.54%; New Mexico by over 10%, and Nevada by over 10%.
- Obama became the first Democrat to win Indiana since Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Obama became the first Democrat to win North Carolina since Jimmy Carter in 1976. Obama lost Missouri by 0.13% of the vote.
- Obama won 66% of voters between the ages of 18 to 29.
- Fifty-four percent (54%) of Catholics voted for Obama. Obama won 73% of the vote of other faiths. Obama won 75% of the vote of people unaffiliated with any religious faith. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Jewish voters supported Obama; 54% of Protestants voted for McCain.

CA STATE BUDGET (CONT.)



\$42 million to reflect expected savings in CalWORKS Stage 2 Child Care (\$27 million) and CalWORKS Stage 3 (\$15 million) caseload-driven programs based on revised estimates in November.

The major General Fund policy adjustments for Child Care are as follows:

- a decrease of \$55 million to reflect a permanent reduction of anticipated savings for child care programs that show significant and recurring amounts of savings each year, including General Child Care and Preschool, among others. No reduction in families should result.
- reappropriation of an additional \$108 million of anticipated savings in prior-year child care programs to address shortfalls in the one-time sources used to partially fund CalWORKS Stage 2 and Stage 3 in the current year.



EARLY EDUCATION
WATCH BLOG

Early Education Watch provides analysis, reporting and commentary on early education with a focus on policies that affect children’s access to high quality, aligned educational programs from ages 3 through 8.

Early Education Watch can be accessed at <http://www.newamerica.net/blog/early.ed.watch>.

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Please consider supporting the work of CSEE and CSEE PAC. Your contribution will assist us to ensure that politicians and the general public know the value of early education to children, families, and the community.

To donate, please visit our website, <http://www.supportearlyed.org/donate>.

Save the Date!

Upcoming CSEE event: March 26th, 2009 from 4:00 - 6:00 in downtown Sacramento. Join us for our hosted Meet and Greet which coincides with the annual CAEYC Conference. Please mark your calendars.

If you are not on our listserv, please consider joining so that you will receive details of the event.

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