



February 25, 2009

First off, thank you for the great responses to the request for "thank you" letters and personal notes for those leaders instrumental in the community college portion of the budget. Typically, lawmakers and legislative staff receive hundreds of contacts leading up to a major decision, and then nobody sticks around to say "thanks" after it has been made. While there is a lot in this budget to dislike, the fact is that community colleges were treated extraordinarily well given the budgetary circumstances.

In tomorrow's Capitol Weekly newspaper, we will have a full page ad thanking the governor and legislative leaders, and I wanted you to be the first to see it. The newspaper is widely circulated inside and around the Capitol.

Of course, if we were completely truthful, the ad would say "Thank You Community College Advocates," as it was only through your advocacy efforts and the hard work you do on our campuses every day that enabled us to escape the worst cuts.

We now turn to the next fight. League staff is currently analyzing the ballot measures on the May 19 ballot and working to coordinate our positions with other community college and education organizations. While Proposition 1B would provide approximately \$1 billion over the next seven years to enable us to restore the 11% in missed cost-of-living adjustments, it will only take effect if Proposition 1A's spending cap is also approved. Proposition 1A would likely constrain state investments in non-education areas our students rely on to make their education possible, such as public transportation and child care. And, if Proposition 1A fails, the revenue package included in the budget would end next year, leading us back into another ugly budget fight.

These are difficult positions to take. As always, I look forward to [hearing your thoughts](#) on these issues, which I will share with the League's boards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lay".

Scott Lay
President and Chief Executive Officer

p.s. Yesterday, the United States Senate confirmed former Rio Hondo CCD trustee Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor on a vote of 80-17. What an amazing thought it is that someone who started as a local community college trustee is now a cabinet secretary.

From Friday's e-mail:

We are encouraging thank you letters to the following leaders:

- The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

State of California

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

- The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Senate President Pro Tempore
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
- The Honorable Dave Cogdill
Member of the Senate
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
- The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker of the Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
- The Honorable Mike Villines
Assembly Republican Leader
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Also, while we usually focus on members, we wanted to make a special request that you send a **handwritten "thank you" card** to the Governor's education advisor, Paul Navarro. He was instrumental in reversing \$120 million in planned cuts late in the process, and has been a key player in efforts for community college equalization and fair share state bond funding.

Thus, I hope you'll join me in sending a "thank you" to Paul at:

Paul Navarro
Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

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