

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**



**Resolution No. 20/21-04, In Support of California Proposition 15:
Schools and Local Communities Funding Act**

WHEREAS, for four decades, since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, school and community college districts in California have experienced underinvestment and devastating cuts causing California's school funding to fall behind and resulting in fewer services and resources for students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will also provide billions in funding annually for cities, counties, and special districts for affordable housing, parks, libraries, health and human services, libraries, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, with more than 2.1 million students at 116 colleges, the California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the country—training and educating today's workforce for jobs that lead to gainful employment and upward economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges serve approximately three times the combined enrollment of the University of California and California State University, yet it receives comparatively fewer resources; and

WHEREAS, the state has historically underfunded California's community colleges and our students on a per-student basis compared to the University of California and California State University; and

WHEREAS, California's community colleges serve a diverse student population that reflects the ethnic and racial makeup of the state, significant numbers of students who have learned English as their second language and non-traditional students who have gone back to school to build a better life for them and their families; and

WHEREAS, estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) estimate that the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act reclaims \$12 billion in property tax revenue every year to ensure that our schools and communities have the resources to educate and support our students; and

WHEREAS, the measure invests about \$4.5 billion annually for school and community college districts, over and above Proposition 98 funding; and

WHEREAS, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will help alleviate the severe budget shortfalls caused by the economic crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 global pandemic and allow community colleges more options to serve their communities; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges, because of this crisis, is facing a deferral of \$662.1 million this academic year to address a shortfall in revenues, of which the North Orange County Community College District's portion of the deferral for the 20-21 fiscal year is estimated to be \$47,535,702; and

WHEREAS, without additional federal support provided directly to the state, the colleges will be forced to absorb an additional \$791.1 million in cash deferrals this year as well; and

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges are facing a potential deferral of \$1.45 billion this year which will likely cause our community college districts to curtail vital programs and services to students and communities for years to come; and

WHEREAS, research has proven that investments in students raise achievement levels, lower poverty, and increase the productivity of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act has qualified for the November 2020 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act does not affect property taxes for homeowners or renters because the initiative exempts all residential property; and

WHEREAS, the measure levels the playing field for businesses that already pay their fair share in our communities and exempts all small business owners whose property is worth \$3 million or less.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Orange County Community College District endorses Proposition 15: "The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020" as it appears on the November 2020 ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Orange County Community College District urges all California voters to support and vote for the passage of Proposition 15 in the November 2020 general election.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the North Orange Community College District, this 13th day of October 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Stephen T. Blount, Jeffrey P. Brown, Barbara Dunsheath, Ed Lopez, and Jacqueline Rodarte

NOES: Ryan Bent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None



Ryan Bent
Board President