Proposition 30 and Voter Intimidation: The CSU MACHINE

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THE CSU and Prop 30

When does information cross over to intimidation?
What is Voter Intimidation?

Voter intimidation involves any concerted effort or practice by an individual or group on behalf of a party or candidate to coerce the voting behavior of a particular class or demographic of voters. Voter intimidation puts undue pressure on a voter or group of voters so that they will vote a particular way, or not at all. Intimidation can take a range of forms.
Target Group

• Young people

• Non-white, Latino and Afro-American students

• Aspiring to college, many are first generation college bound
THE PARTY LINE

Proposition 30: “The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act”

- Increases income tax on the rich for 7 years
- Increases the sales tax for 4 years by $\frac{1}{4}$ percent
- Generates $8.5$ billion in the first year and $5-7$ billion each year after. Frees up $5.6$ billion for higher ed and other vital programs.

For CSU students, it means a 9% tuition refund = $498!
BUT WHAT DOES PROP 30 SAY?

• PROP 30 TEMPORARY TAXES TO FUND EDUCATION.

• GUARANTEED LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING.

• INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.
• Restricts State Authority to Expand Program Requirements. Local governments would not be required to implement any future state laws that increase local costs to administer the program responsibilities transferred in 2011, unless the state provided additional money to pay for the increased costs.

• Requires State to Share Some Unanticipated Program Costs. The measure requires the state to pay part of any new local costs that result from certain court actions and changes in federal statutes or regulations related to the transferred program responsibilities.
Prop 30 Proposal

• This measure places into the Constitution certain provisions related to the 2011 transfer of state program responsibilities.

• Guarantees Ongoing Revenues to Local Governments. This measure requires the state to continue providing the tax revenues redirected in 2011 (or equivalent funds) to local governments to pay for the transferred program responsibilities. The measure also permanently excludes the sales tax revenues redirected to local governments from the calculation of the minimum funding guarantee for schools and community colleges.
MOST STUDENTS ARE GIVEN NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE VOTING FOR

• Guarantees funding for public safety services realigned from state to local governments.

  SEC. 4. Section 36 is added to Article XIII of the California Constitution, to read: “Public Safety Services” includes the following:

  • (A) Employing and training public safety officials, including law enforcement personnel, attorneys assigned to criminal proceedings, and court security staff.

  • (B) Managing local jails and providing housing, treatment, and services for, and supervision of, juvenile and adult offenders.
Summary of Prop 30 Fiscal Impact on the CSU

After two years,

Yes vote means -$139 million.

No vote means -$326 million.

THIS WAS ARRANGED BY CAREFUL DESIGN .... MANY, MANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES EXIST.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION WORTH?
(September 19, 2012) – The California State University Board of Trustees today adopted budget contingency measures based on the outcome of Proposition 30 on the November 6 ballot. The board voted 11 to 3 to raise tuition fees by $150 a semester or 5 percent if the Governor’s tax initiative fails and a $250 million “trigger” budget cut to the CSU goes into effect. Alternatively, the board also voted to roll back the 9.1 percent tuition fee increase already in effect for fall if voters approve the tax measure. Faculty trustee Bernadette Cheyne, student trustee Jillian Ruddell and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson voted against the resolutions.
• CSU campuses will hold all applications until the end of this initial application filing period on November 30, 2012. The reason for this action is because there is a measure on the November ballot (Proposition 30) which requires voters to decide whether to provide additional funding to help the state address the ongoing structural deficit. If Proposition 30 is not approved, the CSU budget will be cut an additional $250 million.

• Enrollment capacity on the CSU campuses is necessarily tied to the amount of available state funding. Therefore, if Proposition 30 is not approved, the CSU will have to admit fewer students. Admission decisions are therefore being postponed; students will begin to receive admission notices after the application deadline of November 30, 2012.

VOTER INTIMIDATION AT THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT!
Who wants to reverse that 9% tuition increase?
Who wants to pay MORE for their tuition next term?
CSU Campuses to Host Informational Events on Impact of Proposition 30

With slightly more than one month remaining until the November election, CSU campuses are hosting a variety of informational events detailing the impact of Proposition 30 on campuses and the university system as well as voter registration drives.
The CSU would get cut by $250 million, and tuition could go up $150. Plus no refund – a $648 increase over last year!

If Prop 30 doesn’t pass, the Board of Trustees plans:

❌ Class elimination
❌ Program elimination
❌ Faculty and staff layoffs
❌ Enrollment Cuts
So if you’ve never voted before, THIS ELECTION is the time to start!

Register to Vote!

It’s easy online at: sos.ca.gov
One Party System?

• What are schools for, if not for indoctrination for Prop 30?

• You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, which is sufficient.
CSU political advocacy for Proposition 30 in the classroom or on the CSU Mentor site is unethical. It may also be illegal.
The Law

The law prohibits the use of public funds for political campaign activity. As stated in the leading case which established this principle, *Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206, 210:

“[A] public agency may not expend public funds to promote a partisan position in an election campaign.”
Government Code Section 8314

“It shall be unlawful for any elected state officer, appointee, employee, or consultant to use or permit others to use state resources for a campaign activity . . . which [is] not authorized by law.”
General and Administrative Considerations
Sections 600 - 609

Does not require students, by the authority inherent in the instructional role, to engage in particular political activities.
General and Administrative Considerations
Sections 600 - 609

Allows students the freedom to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in a course of study.

Does not exploit students.
General and Administrative Considerations
Sections 600 - 609

• Encourages the free pursuit of students’ learning and promotes the free and open exchange of ideas as related to the subject matter.

• Exhibits and upholds the highest scholarly and ethical standards of the faculty member’s relevant discipline(s); fosters honest academic conduct; and does not instruct, advise, or supervise students with whom the faculty member has personal or professional conflicts of interest.
Once people begin to reason, all is lost.  

Voltaire
WHAT IS EVEN MORE OUTRAGEOUS....
CSU INTENTIONAL FINANCIAL LOSS

WE LOSE MONEY WHEN WE CUT ENROLLMENT.

The CSU sends the following message about higher education at the CSU:

• Political math trumps real math whenever it is expedient for us.

• Democracy is not worth teaching. Vote as we say or you may not be admitted to class.

• Students are civil rights are not worth respecting.

• The purpose of higher education is to get funding.
The Case for Increasing Enrollment and Leveraging Marginal Costs

The marginal costs/savings for increasing/reducing enrollment are usually overstated for the following reasons:

• Actual SFR's are higher than the published ones.

• Replacement faculty is hired/laid off at the starting level lecturer, more than $20,000 less than the formula used by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

• Changes in enrollment are partially absorbed (and in many programs entirely) by adjustments in class size. A department which offers a required upper-division course with a normal enrollment of 25 students will not open a new section if the enrollment grows by 20%, nor will it cancel the course if enrollment shrinks by 20%.
CSUN Marginal Cost Analysis

At a fee level of $7,000 and 27,000 FTE, CSUN gains

• $320 revenue gain per FTES by increasing enrollment.

• $80 revenue loss per FTES by decreasing enrollment.

This situation is amplified when one accounts for auxiliary income from students, such as parking housing, and food services.

The situation is similar for other large campuses. Small campuses have much higher marginal costs and higher per-student costs.
No on Voter Intimidation

SAY NO TO THE CSU BECOMING A POLITICAL MACHINE.

PROTECT THE CSU MISSION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION.