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California State PTA

ADVOCACY INSIDER

June 21, 2021

Legislation Team

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ADVOCACY AGENDA FOR EQUITY



California State PTA believes that all children deserve a quality education regardless of the community in which they live, the color of their skin, their language, their gender identity, or their immigration status.

But too many California students from underserved communities are deprived of an equal opportunity to learn. This year we created an equity agenda to address the needs of all of our children.

[Click here](#) to see the bills the California State PTA supports, arranged by category.

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION: *STRANGERS FROM A DIFFERENT SHORE* BY RONALD TAKAKI

Members of the California State PTA Board of Managers have been reading books that give us a deeper understanding of the effects of racial prejudice on our minority populations.

We have read eight books including *The New Jim Crow*, *The Color of Law*, *How to Be An Antiracist*, and *White Fragility*, among others.



We decide to broaden our scope to other minority groups impacted by racism in America. The most recent book we read was titled *Strangers from a Different Shore* by Ronald Takaki. It tells the fascinating and often cruel story of Asian immigration to the U.S.

[Click here](#) to read our review of the book on our blog, and learn about PTA advocacy efforts that attempt to right the wrongs that are still being perpetrated upon immigrants even today.

SB 793 REFERENDUM UPDATE



Bad news. The tobacco companies have succeeded in placing a referendum of SB 793 on the ballot. This means voters will decide whether to outlaw flavored tobacco in California. Now there is one more step we have to take. **We must educate our members and other voters about the referendum process.** If you support outlawing flavored tobacco, you are against what the tobacco companies have done and the natural impulse is to vote no on the referendum. That is incorrect! The referendum wording will say something like:

"Should SB 793, the law enacted by the California Legislature to prohibit the retail sale of certain flavored tobacco products, be approved and go into effect?"

Obviously if we want to outlaw flavored tobacco, **we vote yes on the referendum.**

We do have a problem. Originally this referendum was scheduled to be on the November 2022 ballot. That would give us plenty of time to educate everyone. Unfortunately, this timeline may be shortened. The recall vote for the Governor will occur at the next general election, and there is a possibility the referendum will be placed on the same ballot as the recall. No one knows yet exactly when this election will be held. It will most probably be in October or November of this year, but some are calling for it to be earlier than that.

PTA members have to be ready to fight this referendum whenever it happens. California State PTA will continue to follow this issue. Please watch for alerts and social media which will keep you updated. As soon as we know, we will let you know. We are already working on information you can provide your members.

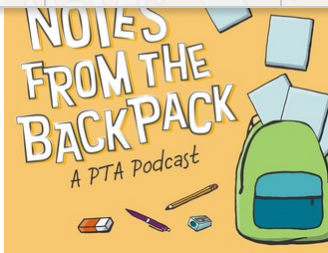
PTA members were instrumental in the passage of SB 793. Now PTA members will be instrumental in protecting our children by voting **yes** on the referendum to ban flavored tobacco.

TAKE ACTION!

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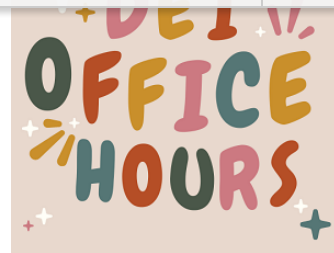
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