



April 28, 2014

ISSUE 54



Friday May 9, 2014 - CaLBOC Statewide Conference Citizen's Oversight: Protecting Integrity and Value Keynote Speaker: John Chiang, State Controller

In This Issue

[PRESENTATIONS - May 9, 2014 CaLBOC Conference](#)

[State to Probe Bond Firm's Dinners to School Officials](#)

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SUMMARIES of PRESENTATIONS

Increasing Use of Long Term Debt to Pay for Short Term Costs

Jon Coupal, President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Proposition 13 limits general property taxes to 1% of assessed value. Local agencies may not increase ad valorem taxes except for general obligation bonds which are to be used for capital items, such as school buildings and jails - assets with long term value. Currently, there are efforts to circumvent Proposition 13's limitation on local government taxing and spending for regular operations by utilizing 55% voter approval school bonds to pay for annual technology budgets. Mr. Coupal will address how this financial shenanigan is nothing more than a legal strategy to circumvent Proposition 13 and additionally, is a costly waste of taxpayer funds, and what concerned citizens can do about it.

Development and Use of a School Debt Toolbox for COEs

Mary Barlow, Assistant Superintendent, Kern County Office of Education

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools is a leader in school business, and the only education agency to support legislative attempts to thwart "pay to play" in school bonds. Dr. Barlow will address the role of a County Superintendent of Schools office and the exemplary effort made by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to provide training and support of school districts to have responsible school bond programs, providing training and support to school districts in the areas of construction management, procurement, budgeting, legal, and most recently, creating a "Debt Management Toolkit" and providing direct advice and training to school districts on debt management best practices. Dr. Barlow will also discuss her personal experiences as a school district superintendent, Deputy Administrative Office of the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), and currently as Associate Superintendent of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools' office.

Pay-to-Play: What it is, and Why it is Wrong

Lori Raineri, Principal, Government Financial Strategies Inc.

Dan Mierzwa, Treasurer, Yuba County

"Pay to play" is a long standing practice of public finance professionals financing or providing local campaigns in favor of bonds in exchange for lucrative work on the sale of those bonds when approved by the electorate. Ms. Raineri will present what "pay to play" is, current legal opinions describing what is illegal about it, her arguments (also presented multiple times to the Legislature) about why it is wrong, and finally, the academic research about what it really costs.

The California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors has been leading the fight against questionable school district bond practices and has made several attempts to get clear legislation illuminating in simple terms that "pay to play" is illegal. The Honorable Dan Mierzwa will share CACTTC's experiences in trying to forward this legislation.

Location: University of California - Sacramento Center
1130 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Individual tickets \$50 - Table & Sponsorships Available
Includes Lunch and Refreshments

Limited Seating - Register Now!

Third Annual CaLBOC
Statewide
Conference
Friday May 9th
2014

AGENDA

9:30 am - Registration

10:00

Introductory Remarks
Michael Day, CaLBOC
President 2013-14

10:15

Increasing Use of Long
Term Debt to Pay for Short
Term Costs
- Jon Coupal, President,
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers
Association

11:00

CaLBOC Anton Jungherr
Award for Service to
Citizen Oversight
- Senator Mark Wyland,
Vice Chair, Senate
Education Committee
- Assembly Member Joan
Buchanan, Chair, Assembly
Education Committee

11:30

LUNCH, Catered by *Plates
Catering*, an outreach
effort of the *St. John's
Shelter for Homeless
Women and Children*

12:15

Keynote Address:
John Chiang
California Controller

1:00 - Break

1:15

Development & Use of a
School Debt Toolbox for
COEs
- Mary Barlow, Assistant
Superintendent, Kern
County Office of Education

2:00

Pay-to-Play: What it is, and
Why it is Wrong
- Dan Mierzwa, Treasurer,
Yuba County
- Lori Raineri, Principal,
Government Financial
Strategies Inc.

2:45 - Closing Remarks

**LIMITED SEATING
Register Now!**

Mission Statement

To promote school district accountability by improving the training and resources available to California's Proposition 39 School Bond Oversight Committees and educating the state legislature, local school boards and the public about the oversight and reporting powers these Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees (CBOCs) have, and to advocate on a state level, where appropriate, on issues of common concern to all CBOCs.

Archived Newsletters

To view all with topics visit:

[calboc.org/reviews.html](#)
[ISSUE 53 - April 21, 2014](#)
[ISSUE 52 - April 10, 2014](#)
[ISSUE 51 - Dec. 17, 2013](#)
[ISSUE 50 -- Nov. 7, 2013](#)
[ISSUE 49 - Oct. 7, 2013](#)
[ISSUE 48 - Sept. 5, 2013](#)
[ISSUE 47 - July 9, 2013](#)
[ISSUE 46 - May 31, 2013](#)
[ISSUE 45 - May 6, 2013](#)

Pay-to-Play | Bill Would Amend the Political Reform Act Sweetwater-Inspired Reform Bill Advances

April 2, 2014 | By Ashley McGlone | www.utsandiego.com

EXCERPT: A bill that seeks to ban school and community college administrators from soliciting or accepting campaign donations for their elected officials cleared its first hurdle Tuesday, passing the state Assembly's Elections and Redistricting Committee.

The committee voted 5-1 to approve AB 1431, legislation authored by San Diego Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, and inspired by revelations of a "pay-to-play" culture among contractors and South Bay public officials at Southwestern College, the Sweetwater Union High School District and the San Ysidro School District. ...

... "Administrators were improperly acting as political moneymen for board members' campaigns," Gonzalez said in a statement, adding that the practice leaves elected officials "beholden to their own senior employees."

"This bill will stop the beholden of interest that are perceived by the public in the best case scenario or real in the instances of the unfortunate scandals at our schools in south San Diego County."

If enacted, the bill would amend the Political Reform Act, and those that violate the ban would be subject to penalties levied by the state's Fair Political Practices Commission.

The bill received support from committee Chair Paul Fong of San Jose as well as from fellow Democrats Henry Perea of Fresno, Freddie Rodriguez of Pomona, Isadore Hall of Compton and Kevin Mullin of South San Francisco. Assemblyman Dan Logue, R-Linda, opposed the bill. ...

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://utsandiego.com/news/2014/apr/02/reform-bill-advances/>

California Legislative Information: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>

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www.CaLBOC.org

California League of Bond Oversight Committees - calboc@mail.com