

LVEA TODAY



Proposition 55 – Vote YES!

Help our students thrive – Vote YES on Proposition 55!

Proposition 55 is essentially the renewal of Proposition 30. Proposition 30 passed in 2012 and was a temporary fix for California's disastrous financial crisis that resulted in extreme cuts to educational programs for our students, higher class sizes, lay-offs, furlough days and no pay raises for many years. Proposition 30 helped stabilize our district's finances that led to better educational programs for our students, small class sizes and a 13.5% cumulative raise over the past four years!

The funding from Proposition 30 will phase out over the next two years. That's why it's CRITICAL that we help pass Proposition 55 on this November's ballot. Passing Proposition 55 will raise \$8-11 Billion each year in California that will go into a special fund that supports K-14 education. All of the funding from Prop 55 will come from extending existing state income taxes rates on high wage earners (singles earning over \$250,000/year and couples earning over \$500,000/year).

Proposition 55 does NOT raise taxes; it simply *extends* the current tax rates on high wage earners.

Proposition 55 will provide badly needed funding that will enhance the learning for all of our students. We don't want to return to the dire days of cutting valuable educational programs, higher class sizes, furlough days, lay-offs and no raises.

Check with your rep to see how you can help us pass this critical proposition.

Please vote YES on Proposition 55!

This Week's Disaster Drill

All sites will be participating in the Great California Shakeout on October 20th at 10:20am. The key is to remember to Duck, Cover, and HOLD ON (e.g. to the desk legs to keep your protection over you). It is a good idea to use this opportunity to take stock of your own personal preparedness at your work place and home. The District often takes this opportunity to practice its emergency preparedness by evacuating a school site therefore we would encourage staff to be prepared and ensure plans are in place for this type of action.

LVEA Executive Board

Craig Hochhaus, President
LasVirgenesEA@gmail.com
(805) 402-7347

Brittany Stone, Willow, Vice-President

Robin Frank, Sumac, Treasurer

Carrie McClellan, AHS, Corresponding Secretary

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Sue Levy, Chaparral, Elementary Liaison

Joanne Kress, White Oak, Bargaining Chair

Jake Anderson, CTA Staff
janderson@cta.org
(818) 309-7206

Las Virgenes Educators Association

100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, #124
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(P) (805) 497-8220
(F) (805) 497-1458
(W) www.lveateachers.com



Districtwide Climate Survey Response Update

As previously reported, your LVEA Organizing Committee has met with the District to discuss the following three goals that LVEA created as a result of the Climate Survey results from this past May:

1. For each site to be recognized as an individual site that is allowed to make decisions based on its own needs.
2. For teachers to be able to speak up and share their thoughts without retribution.
3. To create a master calendar of meetings, trainings and testing windows and have it sent out in September.

We have seen progress on goals 1 and 3, especially with our new District Curriculum leaders, Clara Finneran and Ryan Gleason. They are working tirelessly to get our curricular direction focused in a productive and efficient direction. The District has also informed us that it plans to share the survey results shortly with site administration; however, we're helping the District restructure the format of the results so that each site admin sees only its results as well as the district averages – not the results of other schools. The initial questions regarding your site, years at your site, gender, and department as well as all comments have been removed to insure anonymity for our members – a promise that LVEA made and intends to keep to our members!

Your Organizing Committee hopes to meet later this month and then with the District to work on all goals, including #2 above. Stay tuned for more updates.

Staff Development Update

The Staff Development options for this school year are a bit confusing, so here's an overview of how it'll work. The District has also provided good information at: <https://sites.google.com/lvUSD.org/certificated-staff-development?authuser=2>.

There are two parts: Required and Optional.

Required Part: This is unchanged from past years - i.e. the three days (19.5 hours) that are included in your contracted 185 day school year. You will cumulate your hours on a PINK form provided by your office manager. You must complete these hours or risk losing sick days (if you have them) or pay (if you are out of sick days). As in past years, this requirement is broke down as follows:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 6.5 hours | District Staff Development Day on September 19 (Already completed) |
| 3 hours | Whole-District Grade Level or Department Collaborations, Dates TBD |
| 1.5 hours | Tech & Learning Opportunities, After school tech sessions and/or FLIGHT Program |
| 8.5 hours | Site Directed Learning/Collaboration (see your site admin for details) |

Optional Part: This is now called Optional Collaborative Learning Hours. You have the opportunity to work up to 13.0 optional hours this school year and earn your hourly (per diem) rate. You will cumulate these hours on a GREEN form. If you work the hours (any amount up to 13.0) then you get paid. If you do not work any optional hours then you won't get additional pay – it's that simple. You can choose between a district list of pre-approved collaborative learning opportunities OR submit your own Collaborative Learning Proposal Form to the Collaborative Learning Review Team for approval prior to engaging in the collaborative learning activity – in fact, many of you have already submitted a plan! Last school year these two days were the last Thursday and Friday after the school year had ended...not this year, you'll have to work these optional hours during the school year. You'll have the flexibility to submit hours for payment on two occasions: by January 8 and June 16. If you prefer to submit all of your hours by June 16 for the end of the year payment, that's fine.

Question: What if my planned collaborative learning opportunity (self-submitted or district sponsored) could satisfy either the required or option part? **Answer:** If approved by your principal, then the activity can be used for the required 19.5 hour part. In this case, you would actually get to choose whether you want to use it for your required or optional part!