



California Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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*Contact: Steve Hopcraft 916.457.5546 [steve@hopcraft.com](mailto:steve@hopcraft.com)  
Fred Glass 510.523.5238 [cftoakland@igc.org](mailto:cftoakland@igc.org)*

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING INITIATIVE QUALIFIES: PROPONENT PREDICTS PASSAGE**

Sacramento, CA – California Federation of Teachers (CFT) Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Smith responded to today’s certification by the Secretary of State of a proposed community college funding initiative for the next statewide ballot. “This measure will give community colleges the stability they need to better serve their two million students,” said Smith, who is treasurer of Californians for Community Colleges, the coalition spearheading the drive.

“The community college initiative provides for three long-desired outcomes. The initiative will help restore California’s promise to all of its citizens for open access to an affordable quality post secondary education by reducing the community college student fee to \$15 per credit unit while also restricting future fee increases. By creating a separate funding stream tied to community college enrollment within the existing Proposition 98 formula, the initiative will assure that local community colleges have predictable and stable funding necessary to allow for realistic planning by the colleges,” said Smith, who is a long-time community college instructor in the Los Rios District. He added, “The initiative will finally establish community colleges as a full-fledged partner in public education. Community colleges are a critical part of our educational system and this measure will help assure that they will be capable of providing the quality education that a strong and vibrant California deserves. The people of California value their community colleges and we look forward to passage of this measure.”

The Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act was created by the Californians for Community Colleges, a coalition of organizations representing community college faculty, classified staff, chief executive officers, and trustees. The initiative is supported by the California Federation of Teachers, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, the Association of California Community College Administrators, the Los Rios Supervisors Association, and the Los Rios College Federation of Teachers, among others. (end)