

POLITICAL PROCESSES

State and Federal Legislation

As elected representatives of the people, the Governing Board believes it has a duty to actively advocate good fiscal and public policy that impacts K-12 education. Board members are responsible for studying and articulating the community's educational needs. This responsibility includes that of lobbying at the state and national levels and informing members of the community about these activities.

The Board may join with other groups in promoting legislation to maintain and improve the educational program. The Board also may provide members of the community with information which may help them communicate with their legislators about educational needs.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

Statewide Election Measures

The District shall investigate ballot measures that affect the schools and may furnish students, parents/guardians and community members with fair, complete and impartial statements of objective, relevant factual information about the impact of statewide ballot measures on the District, as well as California public schools in general. However, California law clearly prohibits public agencies from spending public funds to influence the outcome of statewide ballot measures.

The Governing Board respects the free speech rights of its members and the public. Any Board discussion of the effect statewide measures will have on the District shall be conducted in such a manner as to provide a public forum for all sides to be heard. If based on its findings the Board takes a position on a statewide measure, this position may be provided to individuals requesting such information; however, the Board does not allow its positions to be disseminated by the District for campaign purposes.

Local District School Measures

The Board or any Board member may prepare or disseminate information or make public or private appearances or statements urging the passage or defeat of any local District school measure. Upon request, any District administrative officer may appear before a citizens' group to discuss the need for an issuance of bonds or an increase in the maximum tax rate and to answer taxpayers' questions about the cost of such proposals. Any use of District funds, services, supplies, or equipment for the purpose of urging the passage or defeat of local school measures shall be limited to activities specifically authorized by law.

POLITICAL PROCESSES (continued)

(cf. 4119.25 - *Political Activities of Employees*)
(cf. 9000 - *Role of Board and Members*)
(cf. 9010 - *Public Statements*)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054 *Use of District property*

7056 *Soliciting or receiving political funds*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

35172 *Promotional activities*

35174 *Urging the passage or defeat of school measures*

Citizens Legal Defense Alliance, Inc., Jarvis v. Miller et al, Los Angeles Unified School District, Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 1978, No. C 230935

Stanson v. Mott (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206

League of Women Voters v. Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (1988) 203 Cal.App.3d 529, 250 Cal. Rptr. 161, rev.den.

73 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 255, 258 (1992)*

73 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 255 (1990)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

81000-91015 *Political Reform Act*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18225 *Definitions*

Management Resources:

CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

0619.87 *Political Activities of School Districts and Governing Boards*