

In Partnership with PUBLIC MATTERS







Solutions Showdown

October 4, 2025
University of San Diego

#Politifest2025







How do we ensure that all children receive an excellent education?

Panelists

Moderator: name

- Panelist name, title (lower case), organization
- Panelist name, title (lower case), organization
- Scott Davison, executive director, Carlsbad Education Alliance







Answer: Prohibit Teachers Unions from Contributing to School Board Campaigns

Why?

- · Boards will focus on students, not adults.
- · Data: All student outcomes improve.
- · Teacher pay still goes up!







The Problem: Do You Want to Pick Your Own Boss? Become a Teacher! Run for School Board!



Challenge: Teachers can't serve on their own school boards.

Current Solution: Union funds a candidate to represent teachers!





Does it Work? You Bet it Does!

- 75% of union-endorsed school board candidates win!
- Union funded ~75% of some CUSD board campaigns.
- "Teacher" on the ballot = WIN!









Does it Work...TOO Well?

■ WOICE of SAN DIEGO

Teachers Union Is the Only Big Spender in San Diego Unified School Board Races

by Will Huntsberry October 26, 2020 A California labor union helped oust a Democrat from the state Capitol. His replacement wants to curb union power.











Who Benefits Now? Teachers!

- More teachers on boards = higher teacher salaries!
- Extra paid leave for teacher board members.
- Secret insight into negotiations with other districts.









Who Doesn't Benefit Now? Students!

- Test scores drop.
- Standardized testing eliminated.
- Literacy bills opposed by the CTA.

CALIFORNIA'S READING DILEMMA

Bill to mandate 'science of reading' in California schools faces teachers union opposition

Sponsors seek compromise







Solution?

Prohibit Teachers Unions from Funding School Board Campaigns.





How Would it Work?



- Plan A: Unions become a 501c3 – NO funding of candidates.
- Plan B: Trustees funded by unions can't vote on union interests.





Does it Work? Wisconsin's Act 10

NEWS

Act 10, Scourge of Wisconsin Teachers, Faces Uncertain Future in Court

The controversial 2011 law improved academic outcomes as it weakened unions, research shows. Now a legal challenge could wipe it away.

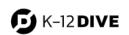


- Legislation weakened teachers unions.
- Student outcomes improved.
- Biggest gains by lowincome students.





Does it Work? Houston ISD State Takeover







Houston ISD reports zero failing schools 2 years after takeover

The improvements follow wholesale reforms in Texas' largest school district, though its state takeover will remain in place at least two more years.

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- Merit-based pay.
- Worst schools improved the most.
- Best teachers teach lowest-performing kids.







So, why should we prohibit teachers unions from funding school board campaigns?

It IMPROVES Outcomes!
It Benefits ALL Students!
School Boards Prioritize KIDS, Not Adults!
Sources at www.opencusd.org

