



## Solutions Showdown

October 4, 2025  
University of San Diego

#Politifest2025



@voiceofsandiego

# 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?

A California labor union helped oust a Democrat from the state Capitol. His replacement wants to curb union power.

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

by Will Huntsberry

October 26, 2020



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## *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 **low-income** students.



## *Does it Work? Houston ISD State Takeover*

 K-12 DIVE

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### 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](http://www.opencusd.org)*