



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

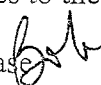
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Executive Office

May 2002

Memorandum

TO: Delegates to the 2002 NEA Representative Assembly
FROM: Bob Chase 
RE: NEA Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund

Attached is the second annual report on the Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund, as required by the guidelines adopted by the NEA Board of Directors in September 2000.

The 2000 RA approved a special dues increase to support the NEA Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to assist state affiliates in combating the increasing number of attacks on public education. Sixty percent of the dues increase is allocated to the Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund and 40 percent to the NEA Media Campaign Fund for a national media campaign to publicize the role of the Association and its affiliates in improving the quality of public education.

The report gives a summary of Fund activity for the year and the allocation of resources to state affiliates. The Association's position in each case is provided.

Attachment

NEA BALLOT MEASURE/LEGISLATIVE CRISIS FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

May 2002

SUMMARY

The NEA Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund provided \$3,016,930 in assistance to 13 state affiliates for ballot measure and legislative crisis campaigns to date in the 2001-02 fiscal year. The NEA Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund budget for 2001-02 contains a total of \$9,152,365, including \$7,002,365 from the special dues increase approved by the 2000 Representative Assembly and \$2,150,000 from the 2001-02 NEA budget. Accordingly, there is a balance of \$6,135,435 in the NEA Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund as of the date of this report.

The Association achieved significant ballot measure and legislative victories with the defeat of an anti-public school funding initiative in Oregon and the enactment of legislation to expand collective bargaining rights significantly in Maryland.

FUND GUIDELINES

In September 2000, the NEA Board of Directors adopted guidelines for the Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis Fund, setting out a process for review and evaluation of affiliate requests for assistance. The guidelines also established a Fund Oversight Committee with responsibility for recommending action on affiliate applications for assistance. The Oversight Committee includes the NEA Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, President of the National Council of State Education Associations, and the NEA Directors of Communications and Government Relations.

The following summary of funding activity is based on information available as of May 24, 2002.

ALLOCATION OF FUND RESOURCES

BALLOT MEASURES

ARIZONA

\$199,900 to the Arizona Education Association's ballot issue committee, the Education Improvement Fund, to support its effort on a ballot initiative to protect revenue generated by the school trust lands:

- Pay for legal counsel and other assistance to Association-supported coalition efforts to develop and promote a ballot initiative to protect revenue generated by the school trust lands.

CALIFORNIA

\$500,000 to the California Teachers Association Issues PAC (as the final payment of a total of \$5 million requested during the 2000-01 fiscal year):

- Proposition 38: Vouchers – **FAILED (33% - 67%)**
The initiative, **opposed by the Association**, would have authorized state payments of at least \$4,000 per student for private or religious school vouchers.

FLORIDA

\$85,000 to the Coalition to Reduce Class Size to support Florida Education Association's effort to gain passage of a ballot initiative that would reduce class size to no more than 18 students in grades pre-K through three, 22 students in grades four through eight, and 25 students in grades nine through twelve:

- Recently, the Florida State Supreme Court approved the ballot initiative as constitutionally valid. As a result, once the required number of voter signatures is collected, the initiative will appear on the November ballot.

\$50,000 to a coalition supported by the Florida Education Association that intends to re-establish a governance structure for higher education in Florida through a constitutional amendment:

- The coalition is close to securing the required number of signatures to put the initiative on the November ballot.

OREGON

\$100,000 to the Our Kids Deserve Better Committee to support the Oregon Education Association's effort to defeat Ballot Measure 13:

- Measure 13: Education Fund – **FAILED (48% - 52%)**
Ballot Measure 13 would have converted the existing Education Endowment Fund into a rainy-day fund so the Legislature could draw on principal and earnings for public education.

UTAH

\$223,800 for polling and assistance to Utahns for Radioactive Waste Control in support of the Utah Education Association's efforts on behalf of a ballot measure to tax radioactive waste stored in Utah. A major portion of the funds generated from this tax would be allocated to public schools for the purposes of textbook purchases, class size reduction, and other appropriate uses:

- The coalition is nearing collection of the signatures required to place this measure on the November ballot.

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE

ALABAMA

\$250,000 to the Alabama Education Association:

- “FIRST (Funding Is Required for Schools to Thrive) Campaign – **ONGOING**
The campaign, **initiated by the Association**, seeks to set the stage for passage of tax measures to fund public education adequately. Legislative efforts will center on removing non-educational “pork” projects and business tax exemptions from the Education Trust Fund, and returning to the Trust Fund the approximately \$200 million in corporate revenues lost in the past year due to tax law changes.

INDIANA

\$10,000 to the Indiana State Teachers Association:

- Increased School Funding – **ONGOING**
A campaign, **initiated by the Association**, seeks to build support for legislation to increase overall school funding, restructure the tax system to derive additional education resources, and provide targeted funds for low-performing schools.

MARYLAND

\$304,930 to the Maryland State Teachers Association:

- Collective Bargaining Strategy – **ONGOING**
A campaign, **initiated by the Association**, convinced the state Legislature to pass legislation that strengthens and expands collective bargaining rights in Maryland, which the governor then signed into law. The plan is now in stage two, which entails training local leaders how to operate under the new legislation. Stage three—membership organizing, especially among ESP staff—will go into effect in the fall.

NEW JERSEY

\$500,000 to the New Jersey Education Association:

- Class Size Reduction – **ONGOING**
The legislation, to be **initiated by the Association**, will require class size reduction with mandated state funding in grades K-3, beginning with classrooms in poor school districts.
- Expanding Scope of Bargaining – **ONGOING**
The legislation, to be **initiated by the Association**, will empower school employees and their representatives to share in the important decisions that affect educational quality. The legislation will include whole school reform issues, professional development, crossover statutes for higher education, transfers and promotions, selection of instructional materials, and class size.

OREGON

\$57,500 to the Oregon Education Association:

- Oregon Voter Education Project – **ONGOING**
The project, **initiated by the Association** and supported by a number of labor organizations, will work to reform and improve Oregon's statutes concerning ballot measures.

SOUTH CAROLINA

\$96,000 to the South Carolina Education Association:

- Preserve School Funding – **ONGOING**
The campaign, **initiated by the Association**, seeks to preserve funding levels for public schools. The campaign will attempt to educate and mobilize SCEA members in a massive lobbying effort, as well as support public relations efforts to educate the public about the need to preserve funding levels.

UTAH

\$47,500 to the Utah Education Association:

- Tuition tax credits - **DEFEATED**
The campaign successfully motivated affiliate members and the public to contact and urge legislators to defeat tuition tax credit legislation.

VERMONT

\$40,300 to Vermont-NEA:

- School Funding Equalization – **ONGOING**
The campaign, **initiated by the Association**, assists coalition work to thwart repeal of school funding equalization laws and state civil rights guarantees.

VIRGINIA

\$500,000 to the Virginia Education Association:

- Brighter Futures for Virginia's Children Campaign – **ONGOING**
The multiyear campaign, **initiated by the Association**, seeks to build support for legislation to increase state education funding, raise teacher salaries, strengthen teacher recruitment efforts and lower class sizes – particularly for classes serving at-risk students.

WYOMING

\$52,000 to the Wyoming Education Association:

- Teacher Recruitment & Retention Compensation Project – **ONGOING**
The campaign, **initiated by the Association**, seeks to revamp the Wyoming school finance system to provide for increasing teacher compensation.

FUND REPORTING

Pursuant to the Fund guidelines, quarterly reports were presented to the NEA Executive Committee and NEA Board of Directors throughout the 2001-02 fiscal year.