

CURRENT ISSUES

Proposition 30

This November we will finally have the opportunity to build some revenue back into the state budget for schools. After years of playing defense against devastating budget cuts, Proposition 30 will ask people who can best afford to fund education to pay their fair share.

Prop 30, the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act, would increase income tax rates on personal incomes in excess of a quarter million dollars per year, and modestly increase the state sales tax by 1/4 cent (an extra penny on a four dollar cheeseburger), to provide desperately needed revenues to rebuild schools and services. It will also fund Governor Brown's realignment of funding for local public safety services while protecting Prop 98.

By beginning to restore fair tax rates on the wealthy, we can bring back some of the funding for our classrooms and services we have lost over the past several years. Polling shows this initiative has a good chance with the electorate, thanks to the increase in progressive income taxes that will bring in nearly 90% of the measure's revenues. In the wake of the Occupy movement, more and more people understand just how dramatically the 1% has transformed the economy and how necessary it is to turn around the trends of the past thirty years so that the 99% can look forward to a more secure future through public education and decent jobs.

Currently the top income tax bracket in California is 9.3%. This measure will increase the progressivity of the state income tax code by adding brackets at 10.3% for single filers making over \$250K and joint filers at \$500K; 11.3% for \$300K single / \$600K joint; 12.3% for \$500K single; and 13.3% for joint filers at \$1 million / year. Only people who make more than a quarter million dollars per year will pay more income taxes. The 1/4 cent sales tax, while affecting everyone, is half the size of the governor's former proposal, and will be the

CCAFF Executive Board

President
Bill Zeman / williamjzeman@yahoo.com

Vice-President
Anne Battle / Abattle922@yahoo.com

Secretary
Mark Wessel / mwessel1999@gmail.com
Treasurer
Monica Lee / mplee@earthlink.net

Representation Officer
Linda Chan / linda.chan42@gmail.com

CFT Field Representative
Karen (KC) Curtis / julstad@cft.org

Mission Statement

Citrus College Adjunct Faculty Federation, (CCAFF), is dedicated to serving its membership by working to:

- Assure a level of professional respect from the District reflected in its policies and practices consistent with the achievement, dedication and professionalism of its adjunct employees.
- Through contract negotiations, maximize members ability to earn a fair wage consistent with education industry standards.
- Work to provide working conditions for adjunct faculty that maximize their effective interactions with students and co-workers.

single largest progressive tax ever passed in California history.

It will have to be, in order to make a dent in the problems created by low tax rates on the wealthy coupled with the effects of the recession. Prop 30 will not solve all the state's problems with one magic wave of the fiscal wand. California now suffers an annual state budget deficit nearly twice the size the state will receive from our ballot measure. But it's an important start, and key to its success is that it gets most of the money from people who have it and can easily afford to pay their fair share. The top one percent of income earners has doubled its share of California's income while paying lower tax rates than it used to twenty years ago.

Operation VETS

by Monica Christianson

In 2010 Citrus College applied and was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant is for the amount of

\$133,000 per year for three years.

The committee that applied for the grant set 4 goals to reach for the grant. The committee named the project Operation VETS, which would use this grant to increase enrollment for veterans, increase persistency for veterans, decrease veterans on probation and dismissal and increase the amount of veterans seeking mental health help. My role is the director of the project, to oversee the budget, oversee the goals are reached by implementing services and interventions that would help reach these goals.

At the veteran center we provide mentors, tutors and peer to peer support to help the veteran transition from military life to civilian student life. Some of the projects we have implemented include bringing the Long Beach VA combat Care unit to the campus, training staff and faculty and increasing awareness to the citrus community. Our main goal is to help the veteran transition better.

The class I teach is the Counseling 160 class, with an emphasis on veterans and family members. The class addresses the typical college success strategies but also incorporates veteran reintegration strategies. We discuss things such as reintegration issues, Traumatic Brain Injury, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma as an example and how to learn with some of these barriers.

Friday, November 2, from 9:00AM - 1:00PM, the Veteran's Center will be hosting The VET NET Ally Program. This is a four hour seminar designed to raise awareness about the unique diversity student Veterans bring to college and university campuses. The VET NET Ally seminar uses a similar methodology as Safe Zone, the lesbian, bisexual, gay, and trans gender awareness program presented at institutions across the U.S. The process of the seminar is also intended to build a network of VET NET Allies comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators committed to creating a welcoming and supportive campus environment for military service members and veterans who attend Citrus College. The event will take place in CI 159. It will include a Q & A with a student veteran panel. Adjunct faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Bill's Beef

Wealth Redistribution Judeo-Christian Commands and Your Vote

by Bill Zeman

In 1785 and 1786 farmers in several states led rebellions in which they closed down courthouses and formed armies. In the most famous of these, Shays' Rebellion, one of their chief demands was debt amnesty. That sounds pretty socialist and this was 62 years before Karl Marx wrote his Communist Manifesto. What were these Massachusetts farmers thinking?

It has been noted by many that our nation has a Christian heritage and that many of our founding fathers cut their teeth by reading the Bible. The yeoman farmers of early America remembered the Jubilee of the Bible and were simply demanding that it be implemented. The Jubilee was a command to wipe out all debt every seven years, (see *Deuteronomy 15:1*). In addition, in the year after seven Jubilees, the 50th year, all people were to receive their original property even if they had lost it to foreclosure, (see *Leviticus 25:10*).

Some will say, yes but this is only the "Old Testament." Well, Jesus followed this command and commanded us to do the same. In his most famous teaching, the "Sermon on the Mount," he commanded, "sell what you have and give to the poor," and "lend hoping for nothing in return," (see *Mark 10:21 and Luke 6:35*). He walked the talk too, routinely selling ex-

pensive gifts and redistributing the money to the poor.

The Old Testament commands and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount have rarely been followed throughout history, but that has not stopped biblically minded debtors from asking for it; Shay's rebels were only one example of many. We in the unions of California are not as good as Jesus and we are only asking people to vote for a very mild form of wealth redistribution in Proposition 30. This is far short of anything like a debt amnesty, but applying even this small amount of godliness will have an extremely ameliorative effect on Citrus College.

Dr. Geraldine Perry recently came to the Academic Senate and told us that we will be running a \$4 million deficit this year, but if Prop 30 passes Citrus College will gain \$3.4 million. Before that Dr. Irene Malmgren told us that they will add around 150 classes in the spring if the voters approve the measure.

If I haven't convinced you to support taxing the rich with arguments from the political left in my past columns maybe I should step aside and let God persuade you. How would Jesus vote?



No on Prop. 32:

Prop. 32 is not campaign finance reform, as its backers claim. Although it appears to rein in campaign contributions by both unions and corporations, the deceptive measure specifically limits the voice of union members while giving special exemptions to Wall Street hedge funds, real estate investors, insurance companies and other well-heeled special interests.

Proposition 32 does nothing to limit special interest influence on politics while severely curtailing working people's ability to stand up to powerful corporate interests. The result would be a devastating tilt in power to banks, CEOs and billionaires that would further undermine California's middle class.

Rock the Vote Project Z

On October 11 a zombie inspired "flash mob" event took place. It was initiated by the students of ASCC and *Project Z / Rock the Vote*. More than forty Citrus College students, as well as Dr. Geraldine Perry and Dr. Arvid Spore, were transformed by the cosmology department into zombies who danced to Michael Jackson's "Thriller". Curious student onlookers were encouraged to register to vote at registration tables for that purpose. The event succeeded in enrolling approximately two hundred new student voters.

AFFILIATIONS

Citrus College Adjunct Faculty Federation (CCAFF) maintains an affiliation with:

- The American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- The California Federation of Teachers (CFT)
- AFL-CIO
- The California Labor Federation
- The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor



Dr. Geraldine Perry with Unidentified Zombie at Project Z / Rock the Vote on October 11.