WHEREAS, for four decades, since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, school and community college districts in California have experienced underinvestment and devastating cuts causing California’s school funding to fall behind and resulting in fewer services and resources for students and faculty;

WHEREAS, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will also provide billions in funding annually for cities, counties, and special districts for affordable housing, parks, libraries, health and human services, libraries, and public infrastructure;

WHEREAS, with more than 2.1 million students at 116 colleges, the California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the country—training and educating today’s workforce for jobs that lead to gainful employment and upward economic mobility;

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges serve approximately three times the combined enrollment of the University of California and California State University, yet it receives comparatively fewer resources;

WHEREAS, the state has historically underfunded California’s community colleges and our students on a per-pupil basis compared to the University of California and California State University;

WHEREAS, California’s community colleges serve a diverse student population that reflects the ethnic and racial makeup of the state, significant numbers of students who have learned English as their second language and non-traditional students who have gone back to school to build a better life for them and their families;

WHEREAS, estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) estimate that the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act reclaims $12 billion in property tax revenue every year to ensure that our schools and communities have the resources to educate and support our students;

WHEREAS, the measure invests about $4.5 billion annually for school and community college districts, over and above Proposition 98 funding;

WHEREAS, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will help alleviate the severe budget shortfalls caused by the economic crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 global pandemic and allow community colleges more options to serve their communities;

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges, because of this crisis, is facing a deferral of $662.1 million this academic year to address a shortfall in revenues;

WHEREAS, without additional federal support provided directly to the state, the colleges will be forced to absorb an additional $791.1 million in cash deferrals this year as well;

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges are facing a potential deferral of $1.45 billion this year which will likely cause our community college districts to curtail vital programs and services to students and communities for years to come;

WHEREAS, research has proven that investments in students raise achievement levels, lower poverty, and increase the productivity of the workforce;

WHEREAS, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act has qualified for the November 2020 ballot;

WHEREAS, the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act does not affect property taxes for homeowners or renters because the initiative exempts all residential property;

WHEREAS, the measure levels the playing field for businesses that already pay their fair share in our communities and exempts all small business owners whose property is worth $3 million or less;

RESOLVED, the [DISTRICT NAME] endorses Proposition 15, “The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020”, as it appears on the November 2020 ballot.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the [DISTRICT NAME] urges all California voters to support and vote for the passage of Proposition 15 in the November 2020 general election.