



# Unified Association of Conejo Teachers

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## UACT Executive Board

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## UACT RECOMMENDS

### Yes on Measure I

#### CVUSD School Board

**Brian Sullivan, Pat Phelps, Michael Dunn**

#### Ventura County Community College Board

**Dianne McKay**

In last week's Acorn Letters to the Editor, a candidate claimed that UACT had hired a firm to run the campaigns of our recommended candidates. This is not true. Our state-mandated political reports show exactly how much money has been spent and how it has been spent. Our recommended candidates are those who understand education issues and seek the facts before they make accusations. Our members interviewed the candidates and made recommendations to our Rep Council. The Rep Council accepted the recommendations. UACT does not make any contributions to the candidates directly. We do run campaigns independent of the candidates. CTA does contribute directly to the candidates, but UACT does not.

## ARE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR SALE?

CTA has recommended Tom Torlakson for Superintendent of public instruction. He was a fierce advocate for Proposition 30 that put a stop to the crippling cuts to education. He championed AB 484 to eliminate the STAR testing and take a common sense approach to the new assessments. Torlakson has also stood up to Secretary Arne Duncan's proposals for evaluations based on test scores.

Candidate Marshall Tuck comes from the charter school corporations, is an advocate for evaluations based on test scores, and extending the probationary period for teachers up to 10 years. **In the last two weeks he has raised \$5.5 million dollars for a total of over \$9 million for this election.** Why is there so much interest in this race? Is Tuck's relationship with for profit charter schools the reason?

**We need your help! We will be phone banking for our board candidates, Measure I and Tom Torlakson Monday through Thursday from 4-7:30 in the UACT office at 100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd. Suite 124 until the election. We will also be phoning Sat. & Sun., Nov. 1 & 2, noon to 4.**

## OTHER ASSOCIATIONS RECOMMEND:

### Simi Valley Educators Association

Jeanne Davis  
Scott Blough

### Moorpark Educators

Association  
Nathan Sweet  
Caleb Donner

### Oxnard Educators Association

*Oxnard Elementary*  
Debra Medina Cordes  
Ruby Durias

### *Oxnard Union High School*

Bea Herrera  
Wayne Edmonds

**Measure I precinct  
walking Sat. Nov. 1 at  
the UACT office. Pick  
up materials from  
10-noon.**

**MYVote Student Mock  
Election — Register by  
Oct. 27 to participate.**  
Go to page 3 for details.

**NEA Lanches *Degrees  
Not Debt* campaign.** For  
more information go to  
<http://www.nea.org/degreesnotdebt>. See page 2  
for more information on  
debt forgiveness.

*For CTA scholarship  
information, go to  
[www.conejoteachers.com](http://www.conejoteachers.com)*

*Bad politicians are  
elected by good people  
who don't vote.*

**Vote November 4.**

Because CVUSD is a program improvement district, you may be eligible for loan forgiveness. See the article below from the National Education Association for more information.

discover! NEA degrees not debt



# Say Goodbye to Student Loan Payments

DOES LOAN FORGIVENESS SOUND TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE? IT'S NOT. HERE ARE COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## What is loan forgiveness?

These are federal programs aimed at supporting people in public service jobs, like teaching. The programs forgive the balance of a borrower's federal student loans—after that person has made 120 on-time, full, scheduled monthly payments toward a federal Direct Loan while working full-time in public service. Two other things to know: you must make those payments using a qualified repayment plan, and thanks to recent action by President Obama, your eligibility no longer depends on when you borrowed the money.

## Define "on-time, full, scheduled monthly payments."

On-time payments are received no later than 15 days after the due date. Full payments meet or exceed the amount that

you're required to pay each month. If you paid a smaller amount, it doesn't count toward the 120 required payments. Also, lump sum or advance payments don't count.

## What's a "qualified repayment plan?"

There are a few, including the federal income-based repayment plan. (Visit [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov) to learn about the options.) There is no reason educators, who get paid so little as it is, should fork over 50 percent of their take-home pay for loan repayments. Get into one of the federal government's repayment plans to lower your monthly payments to affordable levels.

## Tell me more about "full-time public service."

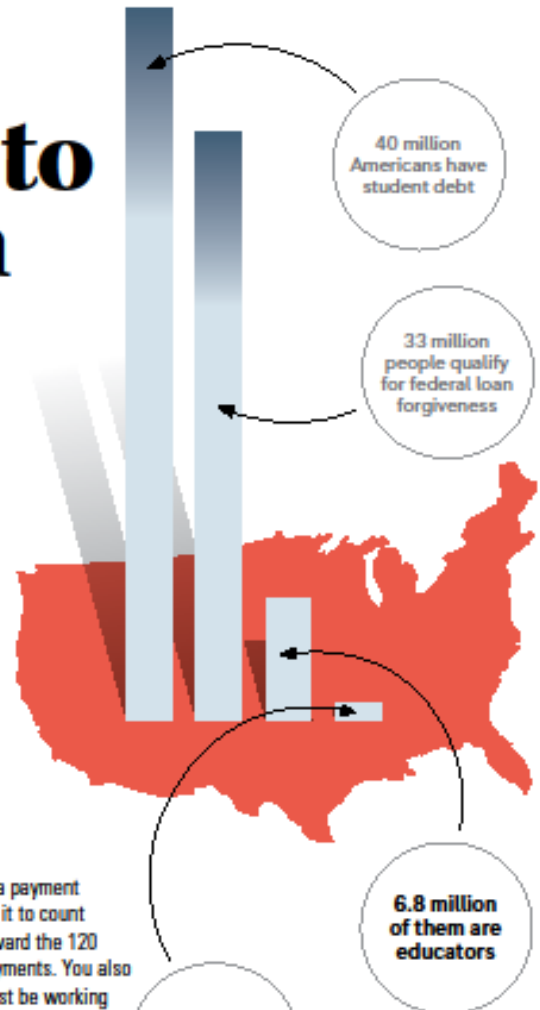
You must be working full-time in public service at the time

of a payment for it to count toward the 120 payments. You also must be working full-time (in public service) at the time of your application to the loan forgiveness program, and at the time forgiveness is granted.

## I think I might qualify. What's next?

Fantastic! Visit [nea.org/loanforgiveness](http://nea.org/loanforgiveness) for more

information and to print forms that will help you take action. But don't stop there. Take the NEA Degrees Not Debt pledge to raise your voice alongside thousands of educators, students, and parents who want more affordable loans and expanded loan-forgiveness programs.



Sign the NEA Degrees Not Debt pledge at [nea.org/degreesnotdebt](http://nea.org/degreesnotdebt) to raise your voice for more college affordability!





## MYVOTE CALIFORNIA STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

Sponsored by Secretary of State Debra Bowen  
and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson

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# MYVOTE

## STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

### Join Us!

The 2014 MyVote California Student Mock Election is on Tuesday, October 28!

The MyVote California Student Mock Election helps young people discover the importance of elections and the power of their votes in our democracy. It gives high school and middle school students firsthand experience with the electoral process by giving them a chance to make their voices heard on the candidates and issues important to them and their families.

### Here's How

Schools register at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm) and select a Student Mock Election Coordinator. The Coordinator serves as the school's primary contact to receive and distribute updates on the Student Mock Election to participating teachers, and report the final schoolwide vote tally to the Secretary of State's office.

The mock election could become a project for the student government, by itself or with other student groups. Or it might involve a broader committee of students, teachers, parents and community volunteers. Voting can take place in classrooms or in one central location on campus. Schools decide on the location and add their own creative touches to make their mock election a rewarding experience.

### Tools and Resources

Engaging, standards-based lesson plans and activities, selected for the Student Mock Election by the Constitutional Rights Foundation on behalf of the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, can help teachers prepare their students to become informed and involved voters. The following mock election tools and resources will be available this summer on the MyVote California Student Mock Election web page at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm):

- Standards-based lessons and activities
- Ballots, posters and "I Voted" stickers
- The Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guides (early fall)
- Links to other election-related resources

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<b>Key Dates</b>	September 19	Schools registering by this date receive materials by mail
	October 27	Schools registering by this date print materials from the website
	October 28	Mock Election Day
	October 29	Announcement of statewide student voting results
	November 4	California General Election

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Register your school for the MyVote California Student Mock Election at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm)