

Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Board Meeting Date: 3/7/11

Title of Item: Resolution in Support of SCA 5

Background and Analysis:

The state budget crisis has reinforced how erratic state funding is to the detriment of education. Parcel tax revenue, which can be spent according to local priorities, can provide a stable, predictable source of school revenue. Senator Joe Simitian is sponsoring an amendment to the California Constitution (SCA 5) to reduce the two-thirds vote requirement on parcel taxes. The attached resolution expresses the Board's support for SCA 5.

Recommendation: Chancellor Linda Thor recommends approval

Submitted by:	Linda Thor, x6104
Additional contact names:	
Is backup provided?	Yes

Board of Trustees
Foothill-De Anza Community College District

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCA 5

Resolution #2011-04

WHEREAS, Senate Constitutional Amendment 65 (SCA 5 – Simitian), which reduces the two-thirds vote requirement on parcel taxes, will be acted on by the California State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, reductions in the state General Fund revenue have led to reduced school funding; and

WHEREAS, state General Fund revenue is unstable and erratic, which results in unpredictable funding levels for school districts and county offices of education; and

WHEREAS, parcel tax revenue can provide a stable, predictable source of school revenue; and

WHEREAS, passage of SCA 5 will empower local voters to invest in their schools based on the needs of their communities by requiring a tough, but fair, 55 percent vote to pass local parcel taxes, while protecting taxpayers and homeowners with accountability provisions that will ensure that funds generated from parcel taxes are not wasted or mismanaged; and

WHEREAS, revenue from parcel taxes can be spent according to local priorities and are not subject to state control; and

WHEREAS, the two-thirds vote requirements results in minority rule by requiring two “yes” votes to cancel out one “no” vote; and

WHEREAS, passage of SCA 5 will allow local voters to decide to make investments in their neighborhood schools in addition to state funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees strongly urges the California State Legislature to support and adopt SCA 5.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2011.

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSENT: _____
ABSTENTIONS: _____

Linda M. Thor, Ed.D., Chancellor and
Secretary, Board of Trustees