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## Funding for Schools and Public Needs: Fight Back with Vision, Values, & Progressive Taxation

**Whereas** the current budget shortfalls from the State of California will create havoc in education, services and public and private employment throughout California; and

**Whereas** since BEFORE Proposition 13 (1978) was passed, both the tax structure of California and local revenue options have needed a radical overhaul based on

- adequate division of existing revenues (apportionment),
- "ability to pay," (progressive income taxes, split roll assessment of residential and commercial property, adequate corporate & wealth taxes, an end to the yacht exemptions, institution of an oil depletion allowance, etc) and
- a vision of adequate and well-funded common public goods (including K-12 education, fire and environmental protection, a social safety net, public health provisions, parks, recreation, public safety, libraries, parks, post K-12 education, transportation options, etc.)

in order to serve the population of this 8<sup>th</sup> richest economy in the world; and

**Whereas** the current crisis presents a historic opportunity to defend public education, the whole public sector AND to encourage progressive tax reform, with state and local components; and

**Whereas** even the Legislative Analyst as of Feb 20, 2008 has indicated key revenue options that the Governor and Legislature should explore BEFORE cutting funds for public education and vital needs; and

**Whereas** a fight back and vision based on PRINCIPLE could help reanimate public debate, give courage and backbone to other public sector unions, community organizations, as well as give many California residents a reason to participate in public life;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the San Francisco Labor Council encourage political mobilization, education and on-going research based on a long-range vision, general approach and analysis that poses funding public education and public goods based on "ability to pay" (progressive taxation) and adequate spending & investment sufficient for the well-being of all citizens and residents of California, especially the most vulnerable and victimized; and

**Be it further resolved** that the San Francisco Labor Council encourage its affiliates and allies and all of their members to seek tax reform at the state level based on progressive taxation and local progressive tax options based on majority rule; and

**Be it finally resolved** that the San Francisco Labor Council seek political and coalition efforts towards a state-wide coordinated campaign (of unions, community organizations, and other allies) including but not limited to a mobilization in Sacramento this Spring, with an intent to STOP the current budget cuts aimed at public education and the public sector, and in favor of progressive taxation.

Submitted by Dennis Kelly, UESF, and passed by the SFLC Executive Committee on May 5, 2008.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson  
Executive Director