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## PRESS RELEASE: EDUCATE OUR STATE

### Kids Protest School Cuts

October 29, 2012. Walnut Creek, CA: Elementary school children from all over Lamorinda and Walnut Creek will gather on El Curtola Blvd. overpass (Patriot's Bridge) in Lafayette at 3pm on Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup> to remind passing cars on the busy I-680/24 interchange to vote YES on Proposition 30 and YES on Proposition 38.

On behalf of the more than six million California public school children, [Educate Our State](http://www.educateourstate.org) is turning to local parents to organize pop up pledge events to vote for education this fall and restore K-12 funds to the state budget. The event is co-sponsored by Lafayette For Education ([www.lafayetteforeducation.weebly.com](http://www.lafayetteforeducation.weebly.com))

Kids will be wearing brightly colored shirts, holding orange pom poms and waving to the cars below to get their attention. "It's election crunch time and if neither of the 2 education props pass, our elementary school district will see 1.5 million dollars of cuts. That is bad for California kids," says Shelly Hamalian, parent and Lafayette resident.

"I'm excited to dance and wave at the cars and get their attention. If they vote and honk they will help my class," says 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Sophia Rich. The focus of the protest will be to urge drivers to vote yes on November's two education ballot initiatives: the Governor's Proposition 30. and the Advancement Project/PTA's Proposition 38. "Who doesn't love seeing cute kids waving and jumping about from afar, we'll do anything at this point to get people educated on what is happening to our schools," says Sophia's mom, Andrea Rich

"Without the funding provided by these initiatives schools will face cuts of nearly \$6 billion dollars, or almost \$500 per kid, a shorter school year, larger class sizes and elimination of all or nearly all enrichment programs," said Crystal Brown, co-founder and Board President of Educate Our State. California already lags behind all but a few states with respect to funding (lower than 43rd), standardized test scores (math 43rd and reading 46th; NAEP 4th Grade 2009), and staff to student ratios (50th, NCES Common Core of Data, 2007-2008).

For more information about "Kids get Cars Honking YES for Education" and please visit [www.educateourstate.org](http://www.educateourstate.org), Facebook at [http://www.educateourstate.org/264/kids\\_get\\_cars\\_honking\\_yes\\_for\\_education#](http://www.educateourstate.org/264/kids_get_cars_honking_yes_for_education#) and follow hashtag #yes4ed.

*Educate our State is a grassroots, parent-led, statewide campaign uniting the voices of Californians in support of high-quality, K-12 public education and to demand real, systemic change. We believe parents, together with community leaders, can organize, mobilize and put pressure on all stakeholders to work together and agree on fundamental changes that put our children's achievement and success first. For more information visit: [www.educateourstate.org](http://www.educateourstate.org).*

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