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## **Results of Tuesday's elections show need for parcel tax bill to help fund local schools**

**(Sacramento)** – Although only 10 of 24 local parcel tax measures were approved by voters on Tuesday, an additional 11 would have passed under a 55-percent vote – rather than the two-thirds now required – dramatically demonstrating the need for SCA 8, according to school board leaders.

The bill, by Sen. Joe Simitian, D – Palo Alto, would allow the option to lower the voter threshold for parcel taxes from two-thirds to 55 percent. This would make parcel taxes consistent with school bonds, which require only a 55-percent voter approval.

“In the face of severely declining state funding for education, school districts are looking to local sources of revenue in order to avoid basic program cuts and layoffs,” said CSBA Executive Director Scott P. Plotkin. “That’s why CSBA was an early co-sponsor of SCA 8, because it makes it easier for voters to directly invest in their neighborhood schools.”

“As demonstrated by the governor’s broken promise to fully fund education this year, state funding is unreliable and often woefully inadequate,” Plotkin said. “California now ranks 44<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in spending per student. By lowering the majority vote needed to approve parcel taxes, SCA 8 gives school districts access to a stable, reliable source of funds to help offset the billions in state cuts experienced by schools over the past four years.”

Statewide results of Tuesday’s parcel tax elections are available on CSBA’s Web site at [http://www.csba.org/co/05spring\\_elections/index.cfm](http://www.csba.org/co/05spring_elections/index.cfm).

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact CSBA Media Relations Specialist Matt Nichols at (916) 669-3243 or (916) 607-8449 or CSBA Assistant Executive Director, Communication Mina Fasulo at (916) 425-0109.

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