

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 1, 2006**
THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 82 "PRESCHOOL FOR ALL" BALLOT INITIATIVE

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Support the Proposition 82 "Preschool for All Act" Ballot Initiative *and*
2. Authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 82, the "Preschool for All Act" is a voter initiative that has qualified for the June 6, 2006 ballot. The Act establishes a free, part-day (3-hour per day instructional program offered for 180 days per year) voluntary program for all 4-year old children in California. It will be administered by the state Superintendent of Public Instruction through County Superintendents of Schools. Built upon the existing preschool system, the Preschool for All Act may be delivered by both public and private providers. In Los Angeles County, the Act will be delivered by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP). The Act funds Preschool for All through a 1.7% additional tax on taxable income over \$800,000 for couples filing jointly and over \$400,000 for individuals. It places annual revenues in a trust fund, outside of Proposition 98 and is dedicated solely to providing preschool for all.

In terms of projected local program impact, the 2004 Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee's Child Care Needs Assessment indicates there are approximately 4,300 preschool aged children (3-4 year olds) residing in Pasadena. With regard to the local tax base, the 2000 Census data does not provide specific data on the number of persons/households with annual income in the range subject to the proposed tax. However, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) estimates that approximately 1% of California's population will be affected by this proposed tax. Applying this projection to Pasadena, an estimated 1,400 residents may be affected by this proposed tax.

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Calif. County Superintendents Educational Services Assoc., and the California Police Chiefs Assoc., have taken a position of support for Proposition 82.

The primary provisions of the Act:

- Provides voluntary preschool for all 4-year olds that are high-quality and free.
- Ensure all eligible children have access to a quality preschool education.
- Ensure access to a variety of preschool programs offered by school districts, college universities, community colleges, classroom-based charter schools, licensed preschool providers (including centers and family child care programs).
- An accountable program built upon the existing preschool system and administrated by the Sate Superintendent of Public Instruction and county superintendents of schools or alternative local administrators (In Los Angeles County the Los Angeles Universal Preschool – LAUP will administer the Act) to meet local needs and satisfy requirements of this act.
- Raise professional qualifications for preschool teachers to increase the supply of qualified teachers and provide the time and support necessary to meet the higher standards. Require teachers and instructional aides participating in the program to be well-trained and fairly compensated.
- Ensure adequate facilities and providers to be able to serve enrolled children and build capacity for eligible children.
- Provide a dependable funding stream. Fully fund the program so that General Fund revenues are not required and prohibit an infringement upon state or local education funds.
- Require regular, independent fiscal and program audits and evaluations.

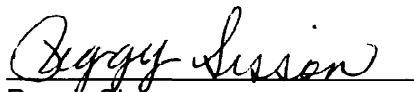
FISCAL IMPACT:

This recommendation has no fiscal impact on City funds.


Respectfully submitted,

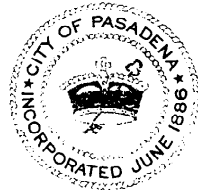

Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:


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Approved by:


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Director
Human Services and Recreation Department



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

May 1, 2006

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FROM: CITY MANAGER
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BALLOT INITIATIVE

At the Legislative Policy Committee Meeting on April 25, 2006 staff presented the agenda report to support Proposition 82 "Preschool for All" initiative which included the City Manager's recommendation to support. After discussion by the members of the Committee, it was decided to forward this agenda report to the full City Council without a recommendation from the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager