

AB 1045 (NORBY): FACT SHEET

May 25, 2011

- **AB 1045 negatively impacts the ability of school districts to pass local funding measures such as bonds or parcel tax measures.** Every time a school district passes a G.O Bond or parcel tax, facilities and programs are improved and the State's burden to make school districts whole is reduced. Additionally, small to mid-size school districts in particular will have a difficult time participating in the State's facilities program if AB 1045 is enacted.
- **Current law provides that it is unlawful to use public resources for campaign activity.** Under the current system, from 1998 to 2008, school districts in California have been able to raise over \$57.8 billion for facilities and infrastructure locally thereby reducing the State's fiscal burden. This bill is unnecessary given existing laws.
- **Like any bond and parcel tax measure, a well thought out and funded, and efficient, campaign is almost always required.** Small to mid-size school districts, for the most part, but not all, are in rural or non-urban areas, and are often difficult to get to and to attract affordable assistance. Because of their enrollment and general size, the bond amounts they request from their voters are very small compared to their larger counterparts.
- **Small school districts as a rule do not generally have the budget and wherewithal to attract or afford such specialized consultants.** Because of their size and location, large districts are better able to attract and afford specialized consultants for the various tasks required to develop and pass a local tax measure. These consultants usually consist of an independent facilities planner, financial advisor, State Aid consultant, survey pollster, and political consultant.
- **Small schools in particular have relied on firms that are staffed to provide multidisciplinary services at a more efficient and substantially reduced price.** Without these types of firms, the vast majority of school district bonds that have passed would have either never been attempted or would have failed. Small schools can not afford or probably need a political consultant who charges \$20,000-\$45,000 per campaign or a pollster who charges \$18,000 to \$25,000 for a survey or even a consultant who charges \$20,500 for a facilities plan.
- **AB 1045 eliminates options for public school districts.** When consulted, most CA school districts prefer more choice and less restrictions in the current fiscal environment. Without such firms we would not have the success we have had and the burden on Sacramento would only be higher.
- **AB 1045 eliminates this flexibility at a time when it will take the State years to recover and we are left to ourselves to finance our needs locally.** School districts need all the tools currently available in creating local funding options.