

From: July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:32:12 AM

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION



Margo Freistadt Item #

Item Name: Info Hearing – Split Roll Initiative

Meeting Date: 7/23/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 7.37

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Margo Freistadt

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Agenda Item(s):

2. Overview of Proposition 15

Comment:

My name is Margo Freistadt. I am a homeowner and small business owner in San Francisco. I support Proposition 15 because it will close the massive loophole allowing large businesses to skip paying their fair share of property taxes in California. My kids attended under-funded public schools, even though my family pays and has paid for many years a disproportionate share of property taxes. The parents at the schools raised money for the copy machine and paper in the school office. We raised money for the school library books, for art and music in the school, even for a PE teacher. And it's been many years since schools in the state have had school nurses. All of these things, which are now considered "extras," were considered completely normal parts of schooling when I was young, when large businesses paid their fair share of property taxes. Even as we, the parents, raised money for our kids' schools, we were aware and felt guilty about the fact that schools serving lower income students didn't have the ability to raise money for "extras" like middle class families did. This clearly increased racial inequities in California education, and continues to do so. Our schools have been starved for decades now, with the harshest resource deficiencies falling on the most vulnerable.

Proposition 15 would reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services. The Board of Equalization has an important role to play in ensuring that Prop 15 is implemented effectively, and that it is fully enforced. We call on the Board of Equalization to rise to the occasion. I am asking you to support Prop. 15 — a fair and balanced reform to put our Schools & Communities First. Sincerely, Margo Freistadt, small business owner, San Francisco