

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

From: July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:03:10 PM

Ashley Rogers _____ Item # ____

Item Name: Info Hearing – Split Roll Initiative

Meeting Date: 7/23/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 7.106

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Ashley Rogers

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Agenda Item(s):

7. Public Comment

Comment:

My name is Ashley Rogers. I'm a resident of Alameda in Alameda County. I'm a homeowner and tax payer, a former small business owner, a working parent of two elementary aged kids, and I'm a PTA President. Due to COVID, I'm also the sole household income generator and both a part-time teacher and childcare provider for my kids. Based on my extensive resume of child- and school-related roles, I can assure you that our public schools need more funding. PTAs in our state are charged with providing support and enrichment for our students. In other words, we bridge the gap between what a public education should provide and what school districts can actually afford. The way we accomplish this is through fundraising. Lots of it. Fundraising is challenging and time consuming in normal times and a strong economy and almost impossible during a global pandemic and an economic slowdown. Half of our PTA budget covers salaries for our school's reading and math intervention specialists and our part-time mental health professional because our district can't afford to help the students who struggle most. PTAs in less affluent neighborhoods can't even afford that. And now our district will need to divert substantial funds for PPE, new technology for distance learning, and new training for teachers. I applaud our district's efforts, but our students deserve so much more. We have a moral obligation and a civic duty to do everything we can to support them. Proposition 15 will reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services by closing corporate property tax loopholes. The Board of Equalization has an important role to play in ensuring that Prop 15 is implemented effectively. I call on the Board of Equalization to support a change that Californians like me have needed for a very long time. I am asking you to support Prop. 15 — a fair and balanced reform to put our Schools & Communities First. Our children deserve it. Sincerely, Ashley Rogers