

Item 10

(Information/Action)

Update on 2020-21 final State budget and legislative issues, and consideration of statewide initiatives

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the 2020-21 State Budget and legislation relevant to the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) programs and policy priorities, as well as a staff recommendation to endorse Proposition 16.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the following resolution in support of Proposition 16:

Resolved, that the California Student Aid Commission endorses Proposition 16 on the November 2020 General Election ballot, the legislatively referred initiative constitutional amendment to repeal Proposition 209 and allow the use of affirmative action in higher education, given that it could support the ability for historically underrepresented California students to access public colleges and universities.

BACKGROUND:

2020-21 State Budget

Governor Newsom's proposed budget for FY 2020-21 was released in January 2020 and was significantly revised in May 2020 (known as the May Revision) in the context of COVID-19 impacts to the State Budget. The **Update on the 2020-21 State Budget** attachment provides an overview of key outcomes in the final 2020-21 Budget that was passed by the Legislature on June 15th, 2020 and signed into law by Governor Newsom:

It is widely anticipated that there will be further action on the 2020-21 State Budget over the course of July and August as tax receipts collected by July 15, 2020 and any additional federal assistance received provide greater clarity on overall state revenue.

State Legislation

At the March 26, 2020 Commission meeting, the Commission adopted positions on high priority bills, including [AB 376 \(Stone\)](#), [AB 2030 \(Rubio\)](#), and [SB 860 \(Beall\)](#). The **Update on Priority State Legislation** attachment provides an update on the status of these high priority bills. The **Update on Other Tracked Legislation** attachment provides a brief overview of other legislation related to financial aid that Commission staff are tracking, including priority two-year bills that the Commission took positions on in 2019.

California Student Aid Commission

Initiative Constitutional Amendment

On June 24, the legislature voted to place ACA 5 (Weber), a constitutional amendment that would repeal Proposition 209, on the November 2020 for voter consideration. The resulting initiative constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, would repeal the existing ban on affirmative action policies based on race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin that was amended into the California State Constitution by voter approval of Proposition 209 in 1996. The **Background on Proposition 16** attachment provides additional information about the history of Proposition 209 as well as its impact on California higher education and access to the University of California for Black, Latinx, and Native American students.

Staff recommend that the Commission consider adopting a resolution endorsing Proposition 16 given that it could support the ability for historically underrepresented California students to access public colleges and universities.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

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ATTACHMENT(S):

Update on the 2020-21 State Budget

Update on Priority State Legislation

Update on Other Tracked Legislation

Background on Proposition 16