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# ***Union News***

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## **Election Day Results in CT & Ballot Initiatives Across the Nation**

Of the 95 candidates CSU-AAUP endorsed for state senate and state representative (see endorsements [here](#)), 83 won their election.

In other election day news, there were several ballot initiatives affecting unions and/or universities this year. California's Proposition 30, which raises taxes for those with a taxable income of more than \$250,000 in order to fund public education, including the state's universities and community colleges, narrowly won approval. As California's state budget has tightened, lawmakers have increasingly reduced funding for higher education and in turn, California's state universities have increasingly raised tuition. It was estimated that California's Board of Regents would have considered a 20 percent mid-year tuition increase had this ballot initiative failed.

While there was success in California in raising taxes to help fund education, Missouri's Proposition B narrowly failed. This initiative would have significantly increased taxes on tobacco and put the revenue towards funding smoking-cessation programs and public education including state colleges. The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reported "estimated revenue that would go to the new trust fund is between \$283-million and \$423-million, with about 30 percent of that amount going to higher education."

Unfortunately, the labor movement in Michigan lost its ballot campaign to amend the Michigan constitution and grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor unions. Earlier this year, Michigan enacted a law to prevent graduate students and research assistants from forming unions. Our AAUP colleagues in Michigan are anticipating right to work legislation to be brought forth in the upcoming legislative session.

Have a question? Get the answer! Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at [benisonell@ccsu.edu](mailto:benisonell@ccsu.edu)