Education system needs a Yes vote on Prop. 30

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There are a number of extremely important decisions that voters will be making on Nov. 6, and Proposition 30 is one of them. As a lifetime resident of Santa Cruz, and someone who has worked in public higher education for 40 years, I can assure you that cuts that have been made in K-12, at Cabrillo College, and at UC Santa Cruz in the past four years have been staggering. The extent of these cuts has been more severe than I have ever seen.

If Proposition 30 doesn’t pass, there will be an additional $5.9 billion in cuts to public education in our state this year, and tuition at our public colleges and universities will continue to rise, making it unaffordable to both low-income and middle-income families.

Needless to say, education is the key to our state’s economic success, and the key to our children’s futures. Every day there are thousands of students working hard to educate themselves in our county’s K-12 system, at Cabrillo College and at UC Santa Cruz. We need to support our students!

Gov. Jerry Brown is sponsoring Proposition 30 to immediately stop this additional $5.9 billion in cuts planned for this academic year. Proposition 30 will raise new state revenue through temporary increases in the state sales tax and the personal income tax of those who earn $250,000 or more per year. These revenues will be used for both K-12 and higher education (Proposition 30 provides revenue solely for K-12).

Currently, I have the honor of serving as a member of the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Council, a volunteer board that represents the voices of more than 4,000 graduates. I am proud that our council has endorsed Proposition 30. These graduates understand how they’ve benefited from our public educational system, and want the same opportunities for future generations of California students. I hope you do too. Please join us in voting “YES” on Proposition 30.