

# PTA MEMBER BALLOT

## 2011 Virginia PTA Proposed Legislative Program (PLP)

The PLP, the Proposed Legislative Program, contains issues and proposed positions on which PTA members are asked to vote upon. The members will decide if the Virginia PTA should advocate for these issues.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS (LAI)** are requests for the introduction, passage or defeat of specific legislation by the General Assembly and/or regulations by the Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

**POLICY STATEMENTS (PS)** are statements of the Virginia PTA/PTSA on general issues and may be used as the basis for addressing issues before the General Assembly, Virginia Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

**LAI #1** Virginia PTA supports state funding for school districts to implement the *Bike Smart Virginia Schools* program into curriculum as part of the federally mandated Local Wellness Policy required by the Federal School Meal Program under the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

**LAI #2:** VA PTA seeks legislation that would expand gang-free zones to include any school bus stop or publicly owned or operated community center, park, library, or hospital.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

**PS #1:** VA PTA supports charter school plans that are initiated, operated and evaluated by the local school division. These charter schools should meet the following criteria:

- No negative impact on the regular public school programs, including no diversion of funds
- Parental and school staff involvement in the charter's design, implementation, and governance
- Meet the same state regulations as other public schools including required testing (SOLs), reporting and other requirements in the Standards of Accreditation unless these regulations are also waived for all public schools
- Provide adequate procedures for assessment and evaluation as required by the local school division
- Staffed by licensed professionals with adequate safeguards covering contract and employment provisions
- Maintain health and safety standards for all students
- Offer equal educational opportunity and be non-discriminatory

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

**PS #2: Virginia PTA supports the selection of materials utilized to teach gun safety education in public schools to be decided at the local school district level. Further, the Virginia PTA supports the inclusion of the National Crime Prevention Councils materials in those suggested for use by local districts.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

**PS #3: Virginia PTA supports local school districts' efforts to implement the Safe Routes to School program to encourage and enable students walking and bicycling to and from school where feasible.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain