



## Fact Sheet: Why First 5 Fresno County Filed Lawsuit

*At First 5, we focus on the First 5 years of life. We fund programs and services that help ensure children 0-5 will enter school ready to learn and succeed.*

### **Why First 5 filed lawsuit:**

- In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10 which created First 5.
- Proposition 10 taxes tobacco products and uses the monies to set up a “trust fund” which is completely separate from the state general fund.
- First 5 manages these tobacco dollars and fund programs and services that ensure children will enter school ready to learn.
- The intent of Proposition 10 is to *expand and enhance, as well as fill gaps in services for our children*, NOT to fund existing services that are the responsibility of state and local entities.
- First 5 has been on the ballot three times and three times, voters have supported the intent and purpose of Proposition 10 (the most recent being Prop. 1D in May 2009).
- Now, our state leaders want to circumvent the process and ignore the will of voters.
- The Governor and Legislature have not only decided to illegally take \$1 billion from the Children’s Trust Fund, but they are also proposing to use it in a manner that is **inconsistent** with the intent of Proposition 10.
- In Fresno County, the grab translates to approximately \$17 million from the Children’s Trust Fund.
- First 5 Fresno County refuses to go along with Sacramento and is taking a stand for children and voters.
- We will not play political games and “negotiate” our children’s futures because we do not have that authority – the voters have spoken and we need to respect that.
- We adamantly oppose re-directing monies intended to be used at the local level to Sacramento – these are local dollars and should be controlled locally.

### **Basic info on First 5:**

- First 5 Fresno County (sometimes referred to as the Children and Families Commission) is an independent public entity governed by a board of 9 commissioners and services the entire county.
- The state of California collects the tobacco taxes and distributes it to each county based on birthrate. Each county has its own First 5 Commission to identify local issues and find local solutions.
- Annually First 5 Fresno receives approximately \$12 (m) million
- We currently fund about 140 contracts with service providers
- We currently fund 250 full time positions in our county