



*Berkeley, CA:* Judy Appel, current Berkeley School Board Trustee and candidate for Assembly District 15, joins Roseann Torres, Oakland School Board Member and Madeline Kronenberg, West Contra Costa Unified School District in calling for Sacramento legislators to give local school districts more power to deny charter schools in their communities.

"We believe that elected school boards, like the boards on which we serve, are very limited in their abilities to prevent new charter schools from coming into the district and taking per-pupil dollars. Not only are we unable to prevent charter schools from coming to our districts, we are required by law to provide the charter school free space," they wrote in an op-ed published by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) on Tuesday, May 29th.

"Our Legislature must act. We need to give local school districts real control to reject charter school petitions. Legislators need to pass legislation to increase transparency and reporting of existing charters before we allow another one to open its doors. We are committed to equity in education, which means making sure that all of our students have equal access to quality education."

The *Chronicle* report earlier this month, "Study says Oakland school district lost \$57.4 million last year because of charters," is a dismaying affirmation of what we've seen happening to public education in our state. The study showed a net loss to the Oakland Unified School District of \$57.4 million in the past school year alone. This is a district that was forced to cut \$9 million from its operating budget halfway through the school year.

*[Judy Appel](#) is currently serving her second term as a Berkeley Unified School Board trustee and is widely regarded as the public education candidate for Assembly District 15. Roseann Torres is an Oakland School Board director, representing District 5. Madeline Kronenberg is a West Contra Costa Unified School Board trustee. Assembly District 15 includes Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Hercules, portions of Oakland, Piedmont, Pinole, Richmond, and San Pablo.*

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