

**An Official Response To Accusations by Lopez-Maddox and Winsten  
Capistrano Unified Education Association  
February 27, 2010**

Winsten and Lopez-Maddox Defense: Nothing more than political chicanery

Capistrano Unified School Board members Mike Winsten and Ken Lopez-Maddox recently have been served with recall papers from a local grassroots organization, Parents for Local Control. As per the law, Winsten and Lopez-Maddox are afforded the right of a 200 word response.

In their responses, Winsten and Lopez-Maddox blame Capistrano teachers, not the Parents for Local Control, for the recall. Playing upon the public's general antipathy toward unions, Lopez-Maddox and Winsten, must be confident that they can easily retain their seats by convincing the electorate that the recall is union-based.

What the public doesn't know is that Winsten and Lopez-Maddox (former California State Assemblyman) are employing one of oldest political tricks in the history of politics: *divert the electorate's attention away from the facts, and refocus that attention onto another target.*

I am convinced, however, that once voters learn the facts, they will see through the political chicanery and vote to recall Mike Winsten and Ken Lopez-Maddox.

What are the facts? Winsten and Lopez-Maddox have siphoned hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the classroom and into the pockets high-priced lawyers and consultants; they have failed to deliver on campaign promises of reform, transparency, fiscal responsibility and accountability; and most egregious of all, Winsten and Lopez-Maddox approved the payment of out-of-court settlements to their political donors and campaign supporters. (For more, see recall website, [www.caporecall2010.org](http://www.caporecall2010.org)).

Even though the teachers' professional organization, Capistrano Unified Education Association, was not involved in the creation of the recall campaign, I anticipate that teachers will be anxious to assist in the effort to gather petition signatures.

And that is the crux of the problem for Winsten and Lopez-Maddox. They know that with the help of over two thousand teachers, the recall has a more of chance of succeeding than without us. Their attempt to vilify the teachers' professional organization is not only designed to misdirect the electorate, but it is also an attempt to marginalize teachers as active participants in the recall-election process.

These pathetic political maneuvers, targeted against the very people to whom they rely to maintain the high academic achievement of the students in school district, aptly demonstrates why Winsten and Lopez-Maddox need to be removed from office.