

Organizational Recommendations For CA
Ballot Propositions

Election On:
Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Last Day to Register: Feb. 17

Information current as of Feb. 8, 2004



A project of **Humboldt Organized for
People and the Environment
The HOPE Coalition**

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Contributions in support of this educational
effort can be made to the above.

Organization	Y=Yes N=No			
	55	56	57	58
Amer. Assoc. of Univ. Women (AAUW)				
CA Faculty Association	Y	Y	Y	Y
CA Teachers Association (CTA)	Y	Y	Y	Y
CA State PTA				
CA Federation of Teachers				
CA Democratic Party	Y	Y		
CA Republican Party				
Green Party				
Libertarian Party of Humboldt	N	N	N	N
CA Labor Federation	Y	Y		
Chamber of Commerce	Y	N	Y	Y
California Nurses Association (CNA)				
California Medical Association				
Asian Health Services				
CA Council of Churches	Y			
Capitol Resources (Christian Coalition)	N	N	Y	Y
Friends Comm. on Legislation (Quakers)	Y	Y		
Common Cause	Y			
League of Women Voters (LWV)	Y	Y		
CA Taxpayers Assoc.	Y	N	Y	Y
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)				
Sierra Club	Y			
California League of Conservation Voters	Y			
Farm Bureau	N	N	Y	Y
CA National Association for Women (NOW)	Y	Y		
Women's Foundation of California				
CA Planned Parenthood	Y			
Congress of CA Seniors	Y	Y		
Mexican American Legal Defense & Ed. Fund				
Nat. Assoc. Adv. Colored People (NAACP)				
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center				
	55	56	57	58

Propositions:

55: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities

Bond Act of 2004. Provides \$12.3 billion to repair and upgrade elementary, middle and high schools, community colleges, universities and to build new schools to relieve overcrowding and reduce class sizes. California has the third most overcrowded schools in the nation. By specifically targeting overcrowded classrooms, outdated schools needing repair, and fast-growing communities needing new schools, this bond is an essential investment for future economic growth.

56: State Budget, Related Taxes, And Reserve. Voting Requirements, Penalties. Reduces lobbyists' influence in Sacramento. Almost every year, as few as 27 of the 80-member state Assembly and 14 of the 40-member state Senate hold the state budget hostage until their special interests and campaign contributors receive favors in the budget. Proposition 56 would reduce this power of campaign contributors by requiring they get 37 Assembly members (rather than 27) and 19 senators (rather than 14) to block budget adoption. As a further step towards budget accountability, it removes pay and perks from legislators and the Governor for each day when the budget deadline is missed, and requires the Legislature to stay in session until a budget is passed. It also requires establishment of a "rainy day" fund.

57: The Economic Bond Recovery Act. Shifts the cost of running the state government this year to our children, who do not have lobbyists to help them avoid paying increased sales and use taxes that we don't want to pay now. If the Governor's rosy economic forecasts do not pan out, this measure dips into the general fund, cutting things like health and social services so that today's wealthiest won't have to pay their fair share. Unlike previous bonds that built infrastructure for future Californians, Proposition 57 requires these future Californians to pay today's state operating expenses.

58: The California Balanced Budget Act. Amends the state constitution to require a so-called "balanced budget" and create a reserve fund. The unprecedented powers it grants the Governor to declare an undefined "fiscal emergency" provide no incentive for him to negotiate a budget to meet the needs of all Californians, rather than his campaign contributors.

Analysis of Propositions Courtesy of the El Cerrito Democratic Club.

Some organizations are taking no positions for this election, or had not made recommendations by the February 8 print deadline.

Voters face a special issue: the Recall of recently elected District Attorney Paul Gallegos, Measure F on the ballot. This recall is unique in that it was probably generated and certainly largely financed by Pacific Lumber shortly after the D.A. had charged PL with fraud in the 1999 Headwaters deal. Rarely used, recalls have been applied mostly to cases of malfeasance in office. HOPE, departing from its customary polling on State propositions only, sampled opinions of local organizations. **Proponents of the recall include** PL employees, the Eureka, Arcata, & Fortuna Police Officers Associations, & the Humboldt County Sheriffs Assoc. **Opponents include** the Central Labor Council of Humboldt, the Building & Construction Trades Council of Humboldt, several member unions of those 2 bodies, the Greens, the Democrats, the Sierra Club, & the City of Arcata. Many took no position or hadn't by press time, including most non-profits, the cities of Eureka & Fortuna, the Eureka Chamber of Commerce, & the Republicans.

See LWV's www.smartvoter.org for pros & cons on propositions, your polling place, candidate statements, voter registration qualifications, sample ballots, & other info.

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