

ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

**ELECTION ON:
TUESDAY, OCT. 7, 2003**

Information current as of Sept. 8, 2003



A project of Humboldt Organized for People and the Environment - The H.O.P.E. COALITION
Box 385, Arcata, CA (707)826-9313
hopecoalition@igc.org
www.hopecoalition.org
Contributions in support of this educational effort can be made to the above

PROPOSITIONS:

Y=Yes N=No

ORGANIZATION	53	54
Amer. Assoc. of University Women (AAUW)		N
CA Faculty Association		N
CA Teachers Association (CTA)		N
CA State PTA		N
CA Federation of Teachers	N	N
CA Democratic Party		N
CA Republican Party		Y
Green Party		N
Libertarian Party of Humboldt	N	Y
CA Labor Federation	N	N
Chamber of Commerce	Y	
California Nurses Association (CNA)		N
California Medical Association		N
Asian Health Services		N
CA Council of Churches	N	N
Capitol Research Inst. (Christian Coalition)		Y
Friends Comm. on Legislation (FCL) (Quakers)	N	N
Common Cause		N
League of Women Voters (LWV)	N	N
CA Taxpayers Assoc. (will make recommendations 9/26/03)		
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)		N
Sierra Club		N
CA Planning and Conservation League		N
Farm Bureau	Y	
CA National Association for Women (NOW)	N	N
Women's Foundation of California		N
CA Planned Parenthood		N
Congress of CA Seniors	N	N
Mexican American Legal Defense and Ed. Fund		N
Nat. Assoc. Adv. Colored People (NAACP)		N
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center		N
	53	54

Some organizations are taking no positions for this election, or had not made recommendations by the September 8 print deadline. Those that had contributed previously to this list include: California Association of Realtors, National Resources Defense Council, California School Board Association, California State Employees Association, California League of Conservation Voters

53: California Twenty-First Century Infrastructure Investment

Fund-- Official Summary: Generally dedicates up to 3% of General Fund revenues annually to fund state and local (excluding school and community college) infrastructure projects. Fiscal Impact: Dedication of General Fund revenues for state and local infrastructure. Potential transfers of \$850 million in 2006-07, increasing to several billions of dollars in the future years, under specified conditions.

SUPPORTERS SAY: 1) The Legislature has failed to keep up with critical infrastructure needs such as highways, water systems, and universities in California, and that is damaging both our economy and our quality of life. 2) Proposition 53 would meet those needs without raising taxes by requiring a stable pay-as-you-go system of infrastructure financing.

OPPONENTS SAY: 1) Less than 30 percent of the state budget is currently discretionary. Proposition 53 locks in spending increases out of limited existing revenues, meaning that the money will come at the expense of other important services such as education, health care, and public safety. 2) It is a blank check with no oversight or guidelines, which will allow more pork barrel spending by the Legislature.

54: Classification By Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National

Origin-- Official Summary: Prohibits state and local governments from classifying any person by race, ethnicity, color, or national origin. Various exemptions apply. Fiscal Impact: The measure would not result in a significant fiscal impact on state and local governments.

SUPPORTERS SAY: 1) Labeling people as to their ancestry and racial background without their knowledge and/or consent is an invasion of their privacy. 2) Government imposed racial classifications have been used to divide people by emphasizing minor differences rather than common interests and values. We should stop categorizing citizens and create a color-blind society where we're all just Americans. 3) The California Constitution forbids state and local governments from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment based on race: therefore, there is no need to classify people by race, ethnicity, color or national origin.

OPPONENTS SAY: 1) Preventing the collection, analysis and use of race related data will hinder the ability to address disparities by race and ethnicity in public health, education, crime prevention, and civil rights enforcement. 2) The exceptions leave open questions about the scope of the prohibitions, making numerous legal challenges a certainty. 3) America is not close to being a color-blind society. We need to understand our differences in order to deal with them in a positive way.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: SEPT. 22, 2003

First day to apply for an absentee ballot: Sept 8, 2003
Last day county elections officials will accept absentee ballot application by mail: Sept 30, 2003.

See LWV's www.smartvoter.org for complete Pros & Cons on propositions, your polling place, candidate statements, voter registration qualifications, sample ballot, & other info

Duplication of these recommendations is encouraged.

Please do not add or delete any information without permission. Any contributions to the HOPE Coalition will go towards expenses of printing further election recommendations.

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Research: Chuck Harvey and Stan Larson Editing: Mayer Segal