Defeat the Governor’s Special Interest Agenda

No on Proposition 74: “The Punish New Teachers Act” would do nothing to improve public education or deal with the real problems facing our schools. It unfairly attempts to blame teachers for the problems in our public schools, ignoring the realities of underfunding, overcrowding, and the lack of materials and resources needed for effective teaching and learning. If this measure passes, new teachers would serve a five year probationary period rather than the current two years. That means teachers would lose the right to have a fair hearing on their dismissal for a full five years. Current law already allows for firing teachers who are not performing in the classroom, no matter how long they’ve been on the job.

No on Proposition 75: “The Paycheck Deception Act” requires public employee unions – including teachers, college and university faculty, firefighters, nurses, police officers – to gather individual forms from every member annually in order to spend dues money for any political purpose. Far from protecting their rights, the measure is designed to reduce their ability to inform us when politicians harm education, health care and public safety. It is an unnecessary and unfair measure, with a hidden agenda intended to weaken public employees, so corporations can have more control in state government. Meanwhile, corporations already outspend unions in politics by a huge margin. In fact, Proposition 75 will make this imbalance even worse.

No on Proposition 76: “The Cuts School Funding Act” would devastate our public schools, community colleges, universities, and other vital public services by slashing funding for these priorities. It cuts school funding by over $4 billion every year – $600 per student – leading to more overcrowded classrooms, teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials. Our schools lost $2 billion dollars when Governor Schwarzenegger broke his promise to repay the money he took from education, and if this initiative passes, the governor will never have to repay that money to our schools. It does even more damage to our schools by overturning Proposition 98, thus eliminating the funding guarantee for K-14 education. It also cuts funding for local government – cutting police and firefighters, as well as local health care services that protect children and the elderly.

No on Proposition 77: This measure amends the process for redistricting California’s State Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts, putting the process in the hands of a three-member panel of retired judges, selected by legislative leaders. This measure requires immediate redistricting which is unnecessary, costly, and will produce unfair results by using outdated census data. Even Republican Secretary of State Bruce McPherson believes this measure is fatally flawed because it cannot be implemented under the timeline contained in the measure.
**No on Proposition 78: “The Bad Prescription” initiative.** The big drug companies are spending millions trying to fool voters and keep them from passing the real prescription drug relief contained in Proposition 79. Their phony measure says that drug companies can enter a “voluntary” program to reduce prices...but why will they? They have no real incentive to lower the sky-high cost of prescription drugs. A “No” vote on this measure is necessary to provide consumers with real relief from soaring drug prices, because whichever measure gets the highest number of votes becomes law.

**Vote “YES” for Consumer Rights and Corporate Responsibility**

**Yes on Proposition 79: “The Cheaper Prescription Drugs for Californians Act.”** This measure creates a drug discount program that requires participation by drug manufacturers, or companies will lose the right to sell drugs through the state’s Medi-Cal program. It will mean steep discounts for seniors, families, small business, and the state. The initiative allows the state to negotiate directly with the pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices for millions of Californians. The state will save millions of dollars, and California consumers will get cheaper prescription drugs.

**Yes on Proposition 80: “The Affordable Electricity and Blackout Prevention Act.”** A common-sense consumer initiative that will help prevent energy blackouts and massive fraud by unregulated private energy producers like Enron. It will override the failed energy deregulation policies, put utilities back in the business of serving the public, and encourage development of more renewable energy sources. The ultimate result will be more affordable energy for all Californians.

**Make Your Voice Heard.**

**Vote November 8.**