



November 2010 Initiative Recommendations

SUPPORT Proposition 19: Changes California Law to Legalize Marijuana and Allow It to Be Regulated and Taxed - AKA "Control and Tax Cannabis Initiative"

The PPDC supports this measure, which will

- Control marijuana like alcohol, allowing adults 21 and over to possess up to one ounce, to be consumed at home or at licensed establishments
- Give state and local gov'ts the ability to tax the sale of marijuana
- Generate billions in annual revenue to fund what counts most: jobs, healthcare, public safety, parks, roads, transportation, and more
- Cut off funding to the violent criminal market run by international drug cartels across our border
- Protect our kids, our roads, and our workplaces, by increasing penalty for selling marijuana to minors, banning smoking of it in public places, on school grounds, and while minors are present; maintaining strict criminal penalties for DUI of marijuana, and preserving employers' rights to maintain drug-free workplaces
- Stop wasting valuable police resources targeting non-violent marijuana consumers and enabling police to focus on violent crimes

OPPOSE Proposition 20: Redistricting of Congressional Districts

The PPDC vigorously opposes this proposition, which

- Will transfer authority for redistricting U.S. congressional districts from the Legislature to the Citizen's Redistricting Commission set up by prop. 11 in 2008.
- While a better system for redistricting is needed, **this is not the right system**. It is an expensive, bureaucratic process that carries no guarantee of fair and equitable redistricting. (See Proposition 27, below.)

SUPPORT Proposition 21: Establishes \$18 Annual License Surcharge to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs and Grants Free Admission to All State Parks to Surcharged Vehicles - AKA "The California State Parks Initiative"

The PPDC supports this measure, which will

- Create the stable and adequate funding desperately needed to keep our State Parks open and to conserve critical wildlife
- Ensure the safety of the State Parks surrounding the Palisades by providing adequate funding for patrolling and maintaining them

OPPOSE Proposition 22: Prohibits the State from Taking Funds Used for Transportation or Local Government Projects and Services.

The PPDC opposes this measure, which

- Will deprive the State of general fund revenues (probably in the amount of \$1 billion to several billions) desperately needed for education, health and welfare;
- Again deals with complex state budget issues by constitutional amendment referendum rather than a thoughtful, legislative process.

OPPOSE Proposition 23: Suspends Air Pollution Control Laws (AB 32) requiring Major Polluters to Report and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions that Cause Global Warming Until Unemployment Drops to 5.5% or lower for one year - AKA The "Dirty Energy Proposition"

The PPDC vigorously opposes this measure, which

- Is funded by the Texas oil companies Valero & Tesoro, whose California refineries are among the top ten polluters in our State.
- Will REPEAL California's air pollution and clean energy standards and harm our economy
- Will create more air pollution in California and threaten public health
- Will kill clean technology jobs, innovation, and billions of dollars of investment in California
 - As of Dec. 2008 – There are 500,000 employees working in clean technology or green jobs in California
 - Since 2005 – Green jobs have grown 10X faster than the statewide average
 - Between 2005-2009, \$9 billion in venture capital has been invested in California's clean technology sector
 - There are more than 12,000 clean tech companies in California.
- Will increase our dependence on oil and increase costs to California consumers
 - Prop 23 would reduce consumer choices by making alternatives to fossil fuels much more expensive
 - By keeping us dependent on fossil fuels, Prop. 23 would also increase household electricity costs by 33%, which would reduce economic output in California by more than \$80 million and cost over half a million jobs by 2020.

SUPPORT Proposition 24: Repeals Recent Legislation That Would Allow Businesses to Carry Back Losses, Share Tax Credits, and Use a Sales-Based Income Calculation to Lower Taxable Income - AKA "The Tax Fairness Act"

The PPDC supports this measure, which will

- REPEAL \$1.3 billion in Corporate Tax Breaks that were passed in closed-door budget deal and are set to go into effect in 2011
- Ensure that big business continues to pay its fair share of taxes at a time when the State is making drastic cuts in funding for public schools, health care, public safety and services

Opponents claim corporate tax breaks are needed to create jobs and is a "job tax" **BUT**

- Prop. 24 does not require big business to use revenue to create or save a single job
- Prop. 24 is NOT A TAX; It keeps taxes as is, and stops an unfair tax cut from going into effect in 2011

SUPPORT Proposition 25: Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget From Two Thirds to a Simple Majority. Retains Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Taxes.

The PPDC supports this measure, which will

- Enable the CA State Legislature to pass a budget by a simple majority, thus expediting its passage;
- Retain the 2/3's requirement for raising any taxes;

- Require Legislators to *permanently* forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day after the budget deadline until the Legislature passes a budget bill.

Opponents of this proposition (including major alcohol and tobacco companies) argue that this will open the door to high taxes. **It will not. The proposition expressly retains the 2/3's tax requirement.** Instead, it will help *rid the State of its dysfunctional budget process.*

OPPOSE Proposition 26: Increases Legislative Vote Requirement to Two-Thirds for State Levies and Charges. Imposes Additional Requirement for Voters to Approve Local Levies and Charges With Limited Exceptions – AKA "The Polluters Protection Act"

The PPDC vigorously opposes this measure, which will

- Amend California's Constitution so that regulatory fees and charges would be redefined as "taxes," and therefore *require approval of 2/3's of the Legislature, or by a costly local election* also requiring a supermajority for passage.
- *Make it virtually impossible to enact statewide environmental and health regulations* that generate revenue from polluters, tobacco companies, and alcohol companies that pay for essential programs like oil spill and hazardous waste cleanup, health effects of cigarettes, pesticides, or alcohol, and the environmental costs of air pollution, used containers or tires, and carbon emissions.
- *Cause the State to lose an estimated \$1 billion in revenue annually.*

Opponents claim Prop. 26 'closes a loophole' that has allowed enactment of 'hidden taxes.' **BUT** don't be fooled:

- *Big Oil, Tobacco & Alcohol companies, which have financed Prop. 26, are not worried about taxes. They don't want to pay for fouling the environment, damaging our health, or pay for underage drinking and smoking prevention programs, and neighborhood police protection. Companies like BP should pay for oil spills, not taxpayers.*

SUPPORT Proposition 27: Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting Consolidates Authority for Redistricting With Elected Representatives.

The PPDC supports this proposition, which would

- *Eliminate* the 14-member Citizen Redistricting Commission and consolidate and return authority for redistricting to elected representatives in the Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization;
- Reduce the budget and impose limits on the amount spent by the legislature on redistricting;
- Provide voters with the authority to reject district boundaries approved by the legislature and require that all districts for the same office be exactly the same.

The procedure set up by Proposition 11 does not work and should be eliminated before more CA taxpayer funds are wasted.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Prop 19 - Vote YES	Prop 22 - Vote NO	Prop 25 - Vote YES
Prop 20 - Vote NO	Prop 23 - Vote NO	Prop 26 - Vote NO
Prop 21 - Vote YES	Prop 24 - Vote YES	Prop 27 - Vote YES