Make Your Voice Heard
November 8th, 2016!

SAY NO TO MORE TAXES!

Yes on Prop 51*
Prop 51 repairs and upgrades older schools, relieves classroom overcrowding without raising taxes.

Yes on Prop 52*
Additional federal health care money at no cost to taxpayers.

No on Prop 56*
Stop the special interest tax grab.

No on Prop 62*
Victims’ Families & Prosecutors Say No on 62, Yes on 66.

Yes on Prop 66*
Keeps dangerous offenders locked up, focuses on rehabilitation and saves tens of millions.

No on Prop 56*

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Taxpayers Forced to Fund Political Campaigns

BY ALEX TOMESCU

In September, Democrats in the California legislature presented Governor Jerry Brown with a bill that would legalize public financing of political campaigns. This bill, duly signed into law by the governor, is a bad idea that will result in more special interest involvement in elections, and is also an end-around by the legislature to impose its will against that of the citizens they represent. The California Political Reform Act stated that no taxpayer money may be spent by the government on political campaigns. This political spending provision was passed by voter referendum in 1988.

The California Constitution requires that any measure passed by the voters can be undone only by a second ballot measure, unless provided for otherwise in the act. When this ban on taxpayer funding of political campaigns was passed, it specified that only changes that “would further the purposes” of the act would be allowed via legislation. Unsurprisingly, lawmakers have adapted the Orwellian premise that furthering the purpose of a voter-backed ban on taxpayer financing of political campaigns means undoing the ban without assent from the voters.

Forcing taxpayers to fund political candidacies that they oppose will increase the power and leverage that certain special interests wield in the state capitol. To become eligible for taxpayer campaign funds, a candidate must first accumulate a certain number of small, private donations. Knowing this, special interest groups can simply direct members and supporters to contribute enough small-dollar donations to meet the public financing threshold. In this way, a special interest group can turn a number of small donations into massive taxpayer funds directed to their preferred candidate, while the special interest group can still buoy their candidate with independent expenditures. The result is that the hand-picked candidate has the benefit of special interest support and the tax dollars of hundreds of thousands of voters, many of who may not even support the candidate.

Liberal democrats in Sacramento, as eager as ever to retain and expand power, have now conceived of a plan to limit political competition by making it more difficult for candidates to compete against incumbents that are backed by powerful unions, trial lawyers, and other progressive interest groups. Special interest groups are very powerful in California because our state government is very powerful. If lawmakers were truly interested in reducing the influence of special interest money in politics, they would not force taxpayers to fund their campaigns, but rather advocate for legislation that reduces the power and influence the government has over the people.

Yes on Proposition 51*
Prop 51 helps all students learn in safe schools by repairing and upgrading older schools. Relieves classroom overcrowding and protects taxpayers against higher taxes.

Yes on Proposition 52*
Sponsored by California’s 450+ hospitals, Proposition 52 guarantees that our Medi-Cal programs for seniors, children, and low-income families will continue to receive the highest level of federal health care assistance.

No on Proposition 56*
Stop the special interest tax grab. Health insurance companies and wealthy special interests locked in a funding formula giving them 82% of new tax money. Cheats schools $600 million a year.

No on Prop 62* Yes on Prop 66*
Victims’ Families, Prosecutors, and Law Enforcement ask you to Mend, Not End, the Death Penalty. No on 62, Yes on 66! Keep the Death Penalty, End Frivolous Appeals.

Yes on Proposition 57*
Keeps dangerous offenders locked up, focuses on rehabilitation and saves tens of millions. Supporters: law enforcement and crime victims.