

# California Ballot Initiatives 2010

Because many of the propositions on the ballot affect the state budget and the generation of revenue, they will have an effect on balancing the budget. Too often, that's done through cutting critical safety net programs, which disproportionately affect low-income women and children. Central to the Foundation's work is a commitment to supporting the health and well-being of low-income women and families, immigrants and communities of color. Our positions reflect that commitment.

## **VOTE YES** on Proposition 19

### **Marijuana**

**Allows adults 21 years of age and older to possess, transport and cultivate one ounce of marijuana for personal consumption**

This proposition lets local government regulate and tax commercial marijuana-related activities, which will generate much needed revenue for the state. Decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana will reduce the costly incarceration of nonviolent women and men accused of petty drug charges. Allowing law enforcement to focus on violent crime will enhance safety for all.

## **VOTE NO** on Proposition 20

### **Congressional Redistricting by Commission**

**Amends the constitution to expand the authority of the Citizens Redistricting Commission so that they can determine the districts for the US House of Representatives**

The Citizens Redistricting Commission is a new entity. Currently the Commission is charged with drawing lines for California's Senate, Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts. Before expanding its authority to draw districts for Congress, the Commission should demonstrate that its existence reduces partisanship and increases accountability.

## **VOTE YES** on Proposition 21

### **State Parks**

**Creates a yearly license surcharge of \$18 to fund state parks and wildlife programs**

This proposition creates a dedicated revenue stream for California's parks and wildlife. It frees up money from the state's General Fund that could be reallocated to other critical safety net programs. Surcharged vehicles gain free entrance to state parks.

## **VOTE NO** on Proposition 22

### **Transportation and Local Government Funds**

**Prohibits the state from using tax revenues that fund transportation or local government projects and services**

This measure amends the constitution and severely restricts the state's ability to use and borrow from local and state tax revenues to balance the budget. It increases General Fund costs by at least \$1 billion and ups the odds that the budget will be balanced through cuts that disproportionately affect low-income women and families.

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## **VOTE NO** on Proposition 23

### **Global Warming Law**

**Suspends AB 32 until unemployment is below 5.5% for a full year**

This measure halts efforts to address climate change. AB 32 encourages innovation in the growing green sector, which offers training opportunities and well-paying jobs for low-income women and men. The current rate of unemployment is 15.3% and economists don't think it will drop to 5.5% for years to come.

## **VOTE YES** on Proposition 24

### **Business Taxes**

**Repeals recent legislation that allows businesses to carry back losses, share tax credits and lower taxable income**

Repealing this measure closes a corporate tax loophole. Businesses would be taxed the way they were prior to the 2008 and 2009 changes. California would receive roughly \$1.3 billion in revenue to fund schools and other General Fund programs that enhance the well-being of women and families.

## **VOTE YES** on Proposition 25

### **2/3 Vote to Pass State Budget**

**Amends the constitution to reduce the vote requirement to pass the budget from 2/3 to a simple majority**

This measure aligns California with the 47 other states that pass a budget through a majority vote. It's one step toward improving governance in California. To ensure timely passage of the budget, a further step would be companion legislation that reduces the 2/3 vote on raising taxes to a simple majority vote.

## **VOTE NO** on Proposition 26

### **2/3 Vote to Raise Taxes and Fees**

**Amends the state constitution and requires a 2/3 vote to enact or increase fees**

This measure shifts the financial burden of environmental hazards from industry to the state. It reverses the Sinclair decision which allows California to "impose fees on industries whose activities result in health, environmental, or social burdens on society." It would be almost impossible to raise revenue to ensure Californians are protected from the damage caused by pollution, hazardous waste and other toxins.

## **VOTE NO** on Proposition 27

### **Redistricting by the Legislature**

**Amends the constitution to return the redistricting process to the legislature**

It seems short-sighted to dismantle the Citizens Redistricting Commission before it's been tested. The selection process for Commission members was rigorous so as to have fair representation from citizens. The Commission needs a chance to fulfill its mandate to advance competitive elections.