



OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 22, 2010
TO: Mayor Jerry Sanders, City Council
FROM: Job Nelson, Director Intergovernmental Relations *JN*
RE: June 2010 State Ballot Measures

In determining whether or not the City should support or oppose a given ballot measure, the Intergovernmental Relations Department generally applied the criteria that were used as a guide in establishing the City's 2008-2010 legislative priorities:

1. Does the proposal provide significant revenues or funding opportunities to the City?
2. Does the proposal provide significant cost savings if enacted?
3. Does the proposal enhance public safety?
4. Does the proposal provide the City with greater ability or flexibility to provide municipal services to its citizens?
5. Does the proposal limit or enhance local control?

These criteria do not prohibit individual Councilmembers or the Mayor from taking an individual position of support or opposition to any ballot measure.

Proposition 13: Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings

Currently, a tax assessment is required for all property or building upgrades or new construction. This ballot measure would exempt properties with earthquake-safety upgrades from tax reassessment until the property is sold. It also removes the disincentive for property owners to upgrade unreinforced masonry structures that are unsafe during earthquakes. This proposition encourages seismic retrofitting thus enhancing public safety.

IRD Recommendation: *Support*

Proposition 14: Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections

A similar ballot put forth in 2004 (Proposition 62) did not pass. Passage of this proposition would amend the California Constitution to require that all candidates for statewide or congressional office run in a single primary open to all registered voters. The two top vote-getters, regardless of their political party preference, would advance to the general election. Changes to the current system would include:

- Independent candidates would appear on the primary ballot
- Candidate's party affiliation will not appear on the ballot next to their name
- Only the top two vote getters would move on to general election rather than the top contender from each party
- Voters will not be able to write in a candidate for the general election

IRD Recommendation: *No Position*

This measure does not meet the criteria for a formal city position.

Proposition 15: California Fair Elections Act

Passage of this proposition would amend elections in two ways: it would lift the ban on public funding of political campaigns and would create a pilot program to establish public funding for Secretary of State candidates in the 2014 and 2018 elections. Candidates demonstrating sufficient public support would receive the same amount of funding and comparable funding to non-participating candidates. Candidates would agree not to raise or spend additional private money. Public funds would come from contributions and from a fee on lobbying firms. This system could be renewed after it expires in 2019 and be replicated for other elected positions if successful.

IRD Recommendation: *No Position*

This measure does not meet the criteria for a formal city position.

Proposition 16: Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers

Voters would be given the option to approve (by a two-thirds majority) a local government's plan to start up or expand electric services to new customers. Currently a public vote is not required. This includes spending of public funds on community choice electricity programs. The vote would take control away from local governments and would potentially limit public options for electricity providers. This proposition not only reduces local control but eliminates a significant bargaining tool that cities use to get the best rates for themselves and their residents.

IRD Recommendation: *Oppose*

Proposition 17: Allows Auto insurance Companies to Base their Prices in part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage

Automobile insurance companies would be allowed to offer a discount to drivers who have continuously maintained auto insurance coverage, even if they change insurance companies. Currently, there is a surcharge for changing insurance providers.

IRD Recommendation: *No Position*

This measure does not meet the criteria for a formal city position.

Cc: Jay Goldstone, COO
Mary Lewis, CFO
Kris Michell, Deputy COO- Community and Legislative Affairs
Julie Dubick, Director of Policy
Andrea Tevlin, IBA