



PRIMARY ELECTION - JUNE 8, 2010 - COMPARISON AND RECOMMENDATION CHART

PROPOSITION	LEGISLATIVE ANALYST OFFICE SUMMARY	CalChamber	Irvine Chamber	Anaheim Chamber	Rationale
13	<p>Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Siesmic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. A YES vote on this measure means: Earthquake safety improvements made to unreinforced masonry (such as brick) buildings would not result in higher property taxes until the building is sold. A NO vote on this measure means: Earthquake safety improvements made to unreinforced masonry buildings would continue to be excluded from property taxes but for only up to 15 years.</p>	Support	Support	Support	Prop. 13 promotes equity among taxpayers who reconstruct or improve structures to comply with local ordinances relating to seismic safety. The measure also eliminates the disparate treatment between seismic safety improvements made to different types of property. It provides equal treatment for all property owners who incorporate seismic safety improvements regardless of the type of building. It assures that any property having undergone a seismic safety retrofit will be exempt from property tax reassessment for that improvement.
14	<p>Elections. Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections. A YES vote on this measure means: All voters would receive the same primary election ballot for most state and federal offices. Only the two candidates with the most votes—regardless of political party identification—would advance to the general election ballot. A NO vote on this measure means: Voters would continue to receive primary election ballots based on their political party. The candidate with the most votes from each political party would continue to advance to the general election ballot.</p>	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Proposition 14 would change the primary election process for congressional, statewide, and legislative races and allow all voters to choose any candidate regardless of the candidate's or voter's political party preference. With this process, voters may be forced to choose between two candidates from the same political party and would make it more difficult for independent and smaller political parties like Greens and Libertarians to participate, further reducing voter choices. Additionally, the cost of elections would increase at a time when the state is in a financial crisis.
15	<p>California Fair Elections Act. A YES vote on this measure means: The state ban on public funding for political campaigns for elected offices would be lifted. For the 2014 and 2018 elections, candidates for the office of Secretary of State could choose to receive public funds to pay for the costs of campaigns if they met certain requirements. Charges related to lobbyists would be increased to pay for these costs. A NO vote on this measure means: The state ban on public funding for political campaigns for elected offices would continue. Candidates for the office of Secretary of State would continue to pay for their campaigns with private funds subject to current rules. Existing charges related to lobbyists would not change.</p>	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Proposition 15 repeals the voter mandated prohibition of taxpayer funds being given to politicians for their campaigns. The proposition would leave no restrictions on how candidates spend taxpayer money.
16	<p>Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. A YES vote on this measure means: Local governments would generally be required to receive two-thirds voter approval before they could start up electricity services or expand electricity service into a new territory. A NO vote on this measure means: Local governments generally could continue to implement proposals involving the start-up or expansion of electricity service either through approval by a majority of voters or actions by governing boards.</p>	Support	Support	Oppose	Proposition 16 would require public utilities to get two-thirds voter approval before providing electricity to new customers, or expanding service to new territories using public funds or bonds. Under existing law, cities can annex new areas that include the expansion of electric service with the approval of a simple majority of the voters in the area to be annexed. If passed, Prop. 16 would require approval by 2/3 of the voters before any expansion of municipal electric service could occur. This vote must be obtained from both the existing service area and the new area to be annexed. Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the largest for-profit utility in the state, is the sole sponsor of Prop. 16 and would benefit from this measure's stifling of competition. The impact would be fewer choices and thus higher rates for consumers, and fewer opportunities for local agencies to offer renewable green power.
17	<p>Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage. Initiative Statute. A YES vote on this measure means: Insurance companies could offer new customers a discount on their automobile insurance premiums based on the length of time the customer had maintained bodily injury liability coverage with another insurer. A NO vote on this measure means: Insurers could provide discounts to their long-term automobile insurance customers, but would continue to be prohibited from providing such discounts to new customers switching from other insurers.</p>	Support	Support	Support	Under current law, drivers who have maintained auto insurance with the same company are eligible for a continuous coverage discount. A flaw in existing law, however, prohibits drivers from taking this continuous coverage discount with them if they switch insurance companies to get lower rates. Proposition 17 can save insured drivers up to \$250 by eliminating a surcharge for changing insurance companies. Prop. 17 will allow insured drivers to take continuous coverage discounts with them if they change insurers, just like good driver discounts.