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FEBRUARY 2008 ELECTION BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS & SUMMARIES

STATE PROPOSITIONS:

Proposition 91, Transportation Funds. Initiative Constitutional Amendment: YES

Proposition 91 was originally intended to be placed on the ballot for the November 2006 election as Proposition 1A; instead, the proposal passed by voters was a compromise measure. Current law requires loans to the General Fund, from taxes and fees dedicated to transportation uses, to be repaid within three years. This measure would end the practice of loaning revenues generated from the sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel to the General Fund, and require all previous loans (approximately \$670 million) to be repaid by 2017.

Proposition 92, Community Colleges. Funding. Governance. Fees. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute: NO

This measure would change the current minimum education funding requirements for California Community Colleges in the State Constitution. Passage of this measure would lower community college fees from \$20 per unit to \$15 per unit while significantly limiting the state's authority to increase fee levels in the future. The initiative would cost an estimated \$1 billion over the next three years. It would also increase the membership and administrative authority of an appointed Board of Governors (BOG). The BOG (rather than the Governor) would appoint and set compensation levels for executive officers and have full control over spending appropriated for administrative expenses in the annual budget, without Governor or Legislature approval.

Proposition 93, Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office. Initiative Constitutional Amendment: NO

Currently, an individual cannot serve a total of more than 14 years in the Legislature. Service is restricted to six years in the Assembly (three two-year terms) and eight years in the Senate (two four-year terms). Under this measure, an individual could serve a total of 12 years in the Legislature in either house. For example, an individual could serve six two-year terms in the Assembly, three four-year terms in the Senate, or some combination of terms in both houses. Although this measure would reduce the total number of years lawmakers could serve from 14 years to 12, the addition of a grandfather clause allowing current members to serve additional terms beyond current law is disingenuous.

Proposition 94-97, Gaming Compacts Between the State and Tribes: YES

The four compacts allow for the minimum payment of \$123 million per year to the General Fund until 2020. As these tribes increase the number of gaming machines within their casinos, a larger percentage of revenues will also be directed to the General Fund. Compensation for local law enforcement, public safety, emergency medical services and social programs such as gambling addiction programs will be required for all new projects under the amended compacts. The new

compacts require a heightened level of cooperation and agreement between tribes and neighboring cities and counties. Specifically, the tribes must negotiate and enter into enforceable written mitigation agreements with the county and any impacted city to fully mitigate the impacts of gaming-related projects on the off-reservation environment and government services.

LOCAL PROPOSITIONS:

Proposition C, Poway Unified School District Bond Measure: YES

This is a \$179 million bond measure that would be used to replace and modernize facilities within the District. This measure will not increase the \$55 per \$100,000 of assessed value that was originally passed by voters in 2002 with Proposition U, but rather extend the increase until the year 2044. Passage of this measure will allow the District to qualify for \$30.5 million in state and matching funds. The \$209 million bond project includes projects at 19 different schools, with all projects scheduled for completion by 2011.

Proposition D, Cajon Valley Union School District Bond Measure: YES

This is a \$156.5 million bond measure that would be used to replace and modernize facilities within the District. District taxpayers would be required to pay an additional \$28.21 per \$100,000 of assessed value for the next 40 years. The average homeowner can expect to pay an additional \$72.30 per year in property taxes. This program will address facility needs at 27 campuses throughout the District, including reconstruction of Cajon Valley Middle School, replacement of two 50-year-old elementary schools and construction of three new gymnasiums.

Proposition E, Rancho Santa Fe School Bond Measure: NO

This is a \$34 million bond measure that would be used to modernize and replace facilities at the R. Roger Rowe campus. District taxpayers would be required to pay \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The average homeowner in the District would pay an additional \$600 per year in property taxes. Design estimates have yet to be completed for the projects listed on the ballot, and as a result, it is impossible to determine if the \$34 million bond measure is sufficient to pay for the projects being promised to voters. Furthermore, a facilities needs assessment conducted by the District in 2007 outlined \$46 million in total needs for the campus. It is unclear if the District intends to return to voters in the near future with another tax increase proposal to pay for the remaining projects. Proposition E does not meet SDCTA's criteria for bond support.



The San Diego County Taxpayers Association has completed its review of the February 2008 Presidential Primary Election state and local ballot measures. One of our most important functions is to provide voters with ballot recommendations that we believe satisfy our criteria for cost-effective and efficient government. We take pride in the depth of our analysis and the care we take in arriving at our positions.

A detailed analysis of each Proposition is available at www.sdcta.org. I hope you all vote on February 5th (or before) and that our guide is helpful. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call at (619) 234-6423.

Sincerely,

Lani Lutar
President and CEO