

Why We Should Vote **NO!** on May 19th Special Election Propositions

Republicans have forced California to hold an expensive special election on May 19th. Proposition 1A is the worst poison pill of all. It would *forever limit state spending* based on the budgets of the last decade — no matter what our future needs and state income — for our:

- fire fighters and police
- parks, roads and bridges

- childcare, K-12 education, community and state colleges and universities

Some smaller-in-number but extreme, right-wing Republicans held our budget hostage for months until elected state officials were forced to make *this horrible choice*: either destroy California's credit rating or agree to chop off public safety and services at the knees.

That's why the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club urges you to Vote **NO!** on all Six Propositions

Why are we voting on these six complex, detailed, political mumbo-jumbo initiatives?

Remember all those months that millions of Californians suffered because Sacramento couldn't pass a budget? California is one of only three states that require a 2/3 vote rather than a simple majority to pass a state budget. Democrats hold most of the seats in both the state Senate and Assembly, but not quite enough votes to reach the 2/3 needed to approve the budget.

Anti-government Republicans keep looking for ways to slash money for public services, roads, parks, public colleges and universities (and we're dragged through the same budget crisis again and again). If they get their way, we'd have: Fewer buses, ferries and BART trains to carry people to their jobs; potholes so bad that your car gets worn out in a few years; state parks closed due to lack of park rangers; many more children in every classroom; qualified students denied entry into state colleges.



We're fighting back

We're working on a ballot initiative, hopefully by 2010, so that we can overturn this terrible 2/3 legislative vote requirement to pass a budget in California. We hope you'll help us end this political nightmare, so that the majority of legislators Californians elect can accomplish real and timely change. Meanwhile ... let's not make a bad situation worse. These propositions are political blackmail by the Republican minority.

On May 19th Vote NO! on all the propositions

Vote NO on all the propositions on the May 19th ballot

PROP. 1A – Imposes a permanent spending cap based on a rolling 10- year average of revenues, extends recently approved tax increases (\$18 billion) for 5-years, creates ‘rainy day’ fund.

The tight, inflexible spending cap on state spending is permanent, but tax increases associated with the budget deal will end in five years. Therefore the drastic cuts in services imposed this year will be mostly permanent and will cripple future possibilities of significant new programs for education, health care, and other needed state services when the economy improves. If 1A is defeated the tax increases made as part of the budget deal will expire in two years when a better long term solution for the structural budget deficit could be developed **Vote No!**

PROP. 1B - Restores Prop. 98 school funding formula for years after 2010 so cuts made to public education as part of this year’s budget deal can be restored in future years, but is dependent on state revenues increasing.

Will only take effect if Prop. 1A passes. While there is merit in protecting education funding in future years if proposition 1A passes, this could also be done directly by the legislature so proposition 1B is unnecessary. **Vote No!**

PROP 1C. - Borrows up to \$5 billion against future increased lottery revenues to go into general fund this year.

State promotion of gambling is irresponsible. A better place to bring in additional revenue is increasing taxes on the

wealthiest citizens and corporations. **Vote No!**

PROP. 1D - Children’s Services (“First 5”) funding

Allows funds specified for younger children’s services collected by special tobacco tax to be used for a wider variety of education and social services previously financed through general fund. **Vote No!**

PROP. 1E - Mental Health Funding - Allows special fund for mental health services previously passed by voters to be spent for a wider variety of health and social services currently supported primarily by the general fund.

Taken together the money shifted to the general fund by Props. 1D and 1E will close only about \$1.5 billion of a \$42 billion dollar budget deficit. Rather than raid funds passed by voters to prioritize needed children’s and mental health services, we should find new sources of revenue, such as an oil severance tax, to help close the budget deficit. **Vote No!**

PROP. 1F - Prevents payment of Cost of Living salary increases to state legislators and Constitutional officers whenever the budget is in deficit.

While understandably there is anger directed at all legislators for the drawn-out budget process, this is a gimmick that misses the real villain here— extreme right wing groups pressuring Republican legislators to “shrink government down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub” by starving it of revenue. **Vote No!**



Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

RENEWING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FROM WITHIN

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The Wellstone De-mocratic Renewal Club (WDRC) is composed of individuals working together to renew and invigorate the Democratic Party. **Our goals are to:**

- 1. BUILD A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT** for progressive change.
- 2. TRANSFORM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY** to make it a consistent vehicle for the articulation and mobilization of populist and progressive values and political power; and
- 3. ELECT DEMOCRATS TO ALL OFFICES** up and

down the ballot and end the right wing stranglehold of our government in Congress.

JOIN US! If you share our passion for peace, freedom, civil liberties, racial and gender equality, a sustainable environment and economic justice, help us renew America’s Democracy.

We meet every 4th Thursday of the month.
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