

★ ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 15 ★

Special interest campaign contributors have too much influence over our state government and must be stopped.

California government is broken. The state budget crisis is crippling our economy. Education funding is at a historic low. Vital services for seniors and people with disabilities are being decimated. Businesses are closing their doors while middle class families struggle to make ends meet.

But rather than solving California's problems, politicians are busy raising money for their campaigns. We need to get politicians out of the fundraising game so that they will focus on our priorities.

**THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN POLITICS IS OUTRAGEOUS AND CORRUPTING THE SYSTEM**

According to the Fair Political Practices Commission, *over \$1 billion has been raised by California politicians since 2000*. All this fundraising buys access for the special interests, shutting out the rest of us.

We need to change the way we finance election campaigns so politicians stay focused on the job we sent them to accomplish.

Prop 15 creates a voluntary pilot program to provide limited public financing for Secretary of State candidates in the 2014 and 2018 elections.

**UNDER PROP 15:**

- Candidates who agree to use public funds **MUST PROVE THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT** by getting signatures and \$5 contributions from 7,500 registered voters.
- **PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES ARE BANNED FROM RAISING OR SPENDING MONEY BEYOND THE LIMITED FUNDS.**
- **SPENDING LIMITS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** Candidates can only spend on legitimate expenses. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future.
- **TAXPAYERS AND PUBLIC FUNDS ARE PROTECTED.** It will not increase taxes or take away from other important programs.

**POLITICIANS SPEND TOO MUCH TIME RAISING MONEY**

We have many serious problems to fix in California, from our schools to the state budget to the economy, but our elected officials spend too much time in fundraisers and not enough time doing what they are elected to do.

The League of Women Voters of California says:

*"We need to eliminate Big Money's unfair influence on elected officials who ultimately decide the public policies that affect us most. Passing Prop 15 will allow elected officials to start focusing on the public's interests, instead of returning political favors to their campaign donors."*

The California Nurses Association says:

*"Insurance and pharmaceutical companies undermine healthcare reform through massive spending to influence candidates. Prop 15 helps to get big money out of important public policy."*

There are plenty of qualified Californians with good ideas who can't compete in today's money-driven elections. **PROP 15 WILL OPEN UP THE PROCESS SO OUR SECRETARY OF STATE IS THE PERSON WITH THE BEST IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE, NOT JUST THE BEST FUNDRAISER.**

Join the bipartisan coalition of nurses, teachers, small business owners, good government experts, public safety officials, consumer groups, seniors, investors, environmentalists, faith communities, Democrats, Republicans and Independents in voting Yes on Prop 15.

**VOTE YES ON PROP 15, BECAUSE CAMPAIGNS SHOULD BE WON, NOT BOUGHT BY THE SPECIAL INTERESTS.**

For more information, please visit [www.YesonProp15.org](http://www.YesonProp15.org)

**JEANNINE ENGLISH**, California State President, AARP  
**ZENAIDA T. CORTEZ, RN**, President  
California Nurses Association  
**REVEREND DR. RICK SCHLOSSER**, Executive Director  
California Church IMPACT

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 15 ★

Proposition 15 doesn't do anything to solve California's problems. What it **DOES DO** is give taxpayer money to politicians to pay for negative ads and junk mailers.

**NO ACCOUNTABILITY**

Under Prop 15, there's almost no restriction on how candidates spend our tax money. As has happened elsewhere, they could even put relatives or friends on the campaign payroll at taxpayer expense!

Worse, if there isn't enough money to pay for every eligible candidate's campaign, the politicians can take money intended for important existing programs and divert it to fund their political campaigns.

**NO VOTER APPROVAL NEEDED TO EXPAND PROP 15**

Prop 15 is specifically written to allow the politicians to expand this measure **WITHOUT VOTER APPROVAL** to cover every state campaign. This tricky provision could result in the **SAME POLITICIANS** who have **FAILED** to solve California's problems being rewarded with our tax dollars to fund their campaigns.

**POLITICIANS CAN CONTINUE TO RAISE SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY AND ALSO GET TAX DOLLARS**

Prop 15 cynically claims to hurt special interests. In fact, under Prop 15 politicians will be able to get taxpayer dollars to run their campaign **AND ALSO RAISE** unlimited funds from special interest groups for a variety of purposes. That's outrageous!

**PROP 15 RAISES TAXES**

The backers of Prop 15 want you to think it's a free lunch. In fact, Prop 15 raises over \$6 million in **NEW TAXES** to pay for the campaigns of politicians.

Don't be fooled. Prop 15 is **NOT** effective campaign reform. Please vote **NO**.

**T. ANTHONY QUINN, Ph.D.**, Former Commissioner  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
**COLLEEN C. MCANDREWS**, Former Commissioner  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
**WILLIAM HAUCK**, Former Commissioner  
Fair Political Practices Commission

★ ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 15 ★

California has many serious needs, but giving taxpayer money to politicians to fund their campaigns isn't one of them. Here are five good reasons to vote NO ON PROPOSITION 15:

**PROPOSITION 15 IS A TRICK**

Over 20 years ago, voters PROHIBITED taxpayer funds from being given to politicians for their political campaigns. Proposition 15 is a sneaky attempt by those same politicians to undo that prohibition. The text of Proposition 15 says "Section 85300 of the Government Code is repealed" but the politicians who wrote Proposition 15 don't want you to know what that means. Here's what Proposition 15 *repeals*:

*" . . . no candidate shall accept any public moneys for the purpose of seeking elective office."*

This tricky maneuver gives the LEGISLATURE power to EXPAND taxpayer financing for their own campaigns WITHOUT GETTING VOTER APPROVAL!

**PROPOSITION 15 DOES NOT STOP THE INFLUENCE OF SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY**

Proposition 15 doesn't do what it promises. It claims to curb the influence of special interests and lobbyists. Lobbyists are already PROHIBITED from contributing to candidates. Cynically, Prop. 15 actually forces lobbyists to fund the campaigns of candidates for Secretary of State, the same official who regulates lobbyists!

*"It would have been wrong for my campaign to have been funded by the very special interests I regulated as Secretary of State."*

Bill Jones, Former Secretary of State

**PROPOSITION 15 IS FULL OF HIDDEN LOOPHOLES**

Proposition 15 has a giant loophole that lets these same candidates raise money from special interests for their own legal defense (including criminal defense) AND even the candidate's own Inaugural party!

*"You just can't trust politicians to write the campaign laws."*

Gabriella Holt, President, Citizens for California Reform

**TAXPAYER FINANCING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IS A BAD IDEA**

Proposition 15 gives millions of taxpayer dollars to any eligible candidate no matter who the candidate is or what the candidate stands for. In fact, there's almost *no restriction* on how candidates spend the money. Do you really want your taxpayer dollars being used to pay for negative ads and junk mail?

*"We need less negative campaigning, and we certainly don't need taxpayers to pay for it."* Colleen McAndrews, Former Commissioner, Fair Political Practices Commission

**PROPOSITION 15 RAISES TAXES**

Just last year, the Legislature raised taxes by \$12 billion and they still couldn't balance the state budget. Now, they want you to approve even more NEW TAXES—Over \$6 million in new taxes on small businesses, non-profits, and even charities.

But that's not all—a hidden provision in Proposition 15 says that if the new taxes aren't enough to fund every eligible candidate's political campaign, then the Legislature can use "any other sources of revenue from the General Fund or from other sources as determined by the Legislature." You know what that means—MORE TAXES!

*"The last thing California needs is more taxes to fund unnecessary programs."* Jon Coupal, President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

No more tricks. No more loopholes. No more taxes. **NO ON PROPOSITION 15.**

**DEBORAH HOWARD**, Executive Director  
California Senior Advocates League

**JACK STEWART**, President  
California Manufacturers and Technology Association

**PAUL WEBER**, President  
Los Angeles Police Protective League

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 15 ★

**DON'T BE MISLED BY SPECIAL INTEREST LOBBYISTS!** PROPOSITION 15 WAS WRITTEN BY INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN CITIZEN GROUPS AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW EXPERTS. It repeals restrictions on public financing written 20 years ago that stop Californians from changing the way we finance election campaigns. Prop 15 frees the Secretary of State—the referee of our elections—from the influence of special interest money.

**YOU CAN'T TRUST OPPONENTS' CLAIMS.** They say Proposition 15 is funded by "taxes" when it is actually funded by voluntary donations and an annual \$350 registration fee on lobbyists and interest groups that hire them. Currently, lobbyists pay only \$12.50 per year!

**LOBBYISTS DON'T WANT TO SEE CANDIDATES RUN FOR OFFICE WITHOUT BEGGING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SPECIAL INTERESTS THEY REPRESENT. PROP 15 TAKES AWAY THEIR POWER—THAT IS THE REAL REASON LOBBYISTS OPPOSE PROP 15.**

*"Proposition 15 WON'T RAISE TAXES or take funds from other programs. It simply places reasonable fees on lobbyists to get Secretary*

*of State candidates out of the fundraising game."*—Richard Holober, Executive Director, Consumer Federation of California

**PROP 15 IS TOUGH**

It imposes strict new limits on how much money participating candidates can spend and what they spend it on. Politicians and special interests who violate the law will face possible jail time.

Prop 15 will end the dominance of wealthy candidates and donors, so politicians are accountable to their constituents—not their contributors.

**DON'T BE FOOLED BY LOBBYISTS HIDING BEHIND NICE SOUNDING FRONT GROUPS AND FORMER POLITICIANS. VOTE YES ON PROP 15.**

**JANIS R. HIROHAMA**, President  
League of Women Voters of California

**TRENT LANGE**, President  
California Clean Money Campaign

**KATHAY FENG**, Executive Director  
California Common Cause