



Easy Voter Guide

MAKING ELECTIONS MAKE SENSE

Make your voice heard!

Vote in the March 2, 2004 California Primary Election

**About the primary
and political parties**

PAGES 2-4

**See the candidates for
President and U.S. Senate**

PAGES 5-12

Ballot measures in plain language

PAGES 14-15

Voting is as easy as 1-2-3

BACK COVER

This **FREE** guide is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean.
VISIT WWW.EASYVOTER.ORG for more information about this election and about voting.

This nonpartisan guide has been funded by the office of California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. The *Easy Voter Guide* is a project of Common Knowledge. Other project partners include the California State Library, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and Literacyworks.

**myVote
COUNTS**



California has seven political parties (see pages 3 and 4). The purpose of this primary election is to narrow down your choice of candidates to one per party for each elected office. The winners will then be chosen in the November 2, 2004 election. Some of the elected offices you will be voting on:

- U.S. President
- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- State Senate
- State Assembly

This guide covers the statewide candidates and four propositions that could change state laws (see pages 14-15). Your ballot will also have local races and maybe local ballot measures. **You do not have to vote on everything.** Choose what you want to learn more about and vote on that.

If you are registered with a political party, your March ballot will have candidates just from that party. You can choose which of these candidates for each office you think should run against the winners from other parties in the November election.

If you decided not to register with a party (“Decline to State”), three of the political parties will let you vote with their party’s ballot:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Republican Party (the ballot will list candidates for all offices except President)

Or, you can choose a nonpartisan ballot that will not have any of the partisan offices listed above.

If you want to change your party registration, just fill out a new registration form and send it in by the February 17, 2004 deadline for this election.

WHAT IS NEW THIS ELECTION

- ★ Many counties will have new voting equipment. Check with your county registrar or www.easyvoter.org to find out if you will be voting a new way.
- ★ If you are voting for the first time, you may have to show identification.
- ★ If you vote with a “provisional ballot” because your name was not on the list at your polling place, you will be able to find out if your vote was counted.

It takes many people to assemble and distribute this nonpartisan guide. Partners at the California Secretary of State’s Office: John Mott-Smith, Tony Miller, Debbie O’Donoghue, Joanna Southard, Mark Vargas, Susan Walsh, Ed Cuellar, Suzanne Gautier and Jaime Poblitz. Special thanks to Mac Taylor of the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

Partners at the California State Library: Diana Paque and Robert Daseler. Partners at the League of Women Voters: Jacqueline Jaccobberger, Robbie Davis, Beth Bhatnagar, Linda Davis and Sharon Wallace. The core editing team of literacy consultants: Gloria Francis, Shaneika Henderson, Sherries Oakmon, Norma Shaw, Resonja Willoughby.

The Easy Voter Guide is a project of Common Knowledge: Susan S. Clark, Director; Antonia Hollander, Program Coordinator. Outreach: Mony Flores-Bauer, Brenda Bonhomme, Barbara Neder. Guide cover: Cheshire Beckerman and Gino Squadrito. Guide graphic production by Gino Squadrito and Tom Luu of Laser.Com. Lead proofreader: Ellen Loebel. Translators: Victor Reyes (Spanish); Claire Y.F. Liu (Chinese); Dzung Pham (Vietnamese); Jacki J. Noh (Korean). The www.easyvoter.org website is designed, hosted, and maintained by Literacyworks: Paul Heavenridge, Director; Cheshire Beckerman, art director; Julie Giles, production.




Visit www.easyvoter.org to see who is distributing these guides or to download a copy in any of five languages.



When you sign up to vote, you can join a political party. A political party is a group of people who share the same ideas about how the government should be run and what it should do. There is no cost to join a party.

There are seven political parties in California. We asked each one what they stand for and what is important to them.

You can use what the parties say to help you decide which one to join. You can also mark “Decline to State” on your voter registration card if you do not want to join a party. If you want to change your party, fill out a new voter registration card.

PARTY	WHAT THEY STAND FOR	TOP PRIORITIES
<p>AMERICAN INDEPENDENT</p> 	<p>The American Independent Party stands for traditional moral values and the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.</p> <p>This party believes government should uphold the United States Constitution, including protection of life and property, and provide a strong national defense, free of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pro-Life; pro-Constitution ■ Parental control of education ■ Pro-jobs; repeal NAFTA, WTO ■ Stop illegal immigration ■ No income tax; abolish IRS <p>299,000 members in California 619-460-4484 www.aipca.org</p>
<p>DEMOCRATIC</p> 	<p>The Democratic Party stands for working families. Democrats want better schools, affordable health care, a woman’s right to choose, safer streets, a cleaner environment, targeted tax cuts, and a strong economy.</p> <p>This party believes the role of government should be to educate its citizens, while protecting their rights and ensuring a stable and prosperous nation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education: Improve the quality of our schools ■ Economic stability: Help workers succeed in the high-tech era ■ Safety: Get assault weapons off the streets <p>6.7 million members in California 916-442-5707 www.ca-dem.org</p>
<p>GREEN</p> 	<p>The Green Party stands for these values: social and economic justice, nonviolence, grassroots democracy, respect for diversity, women’s rights, personal and global responsibility, and protection of the environment.</p> <p>This party believes government should represent the will of the people and provide leadership to develop sustainable practices that protect the planet and society for future generations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A living wage, healthcare and education for all ■ Renewable energy sources and conservation techniques ■ Election reform for better representation and true choice <p>167,000 members in California 916-448-3437 www.cagreens.org</p>



PARTY	WHAT THEY STAND FOR	TOP PRIORITIES
<p>LIBERTARIAN</p> 	<p>The Libertarian Party stands for the live and let live side of America. We do not use government or taxation to force any lifestyle or point of view on others.</p> <p>The Libertarian party believes government should protect individuals with everything in the Constitution. This would shrink government to promote economic and social freedom, bringing prosperity to all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Give people back their civil rights and economic rights ■ Reduce taxes and limits on earning a living ■ Re-assign police from victimless crimes to violent ones <p>90,000 members in California 877-884-1776 www.ca.lp.org</p>
<p>NATURAL LAW</p> 	<p>The Natural Law Party stands for government that prevents problems before they start and proven solutions to raise the quality of life for every citizen.</p> <p>This party believes government should apply scientific knowledge of natural law to public policy. Government should be more efficient, and citizens should be more self-governing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proven education programs to develop students' full potential ■ Proven, preventive health care to improve health and cut costs ■ Campaign finance reform to take back our stolen democracy <p>37,000 members in California 831-425-2201 www.natural-law.org</p>
<p>PEACE & FREEDOM</p> 	<p>The Peace and Freedom Party stands for democracy, cooperation and sharing. They want to organize and educate the public to work together to meet human needs.</p> <p>This party believes the role of government should be to make sure that everyone has jobs, housing, education, health care and equal rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Jobs for all; double the minimum wage ■ One system of free, quality health care for everyone ■ Quality, affordable housing <p>78,000 members in California 510-465-9414 www.peaceandfreedom.org</p>
<p>REPUBLICAN</p> 	<p>The Republican Party stands for helping working families help themselves by reducing taxes and improving education. Republicans want all Americans to have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream.</p> <p>This party believes government should fight for better schools for our children, safe neighborhoods and tax relief.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create an education system that is safe, accountable, and effective. ■ End wasteful government spending ■ Create a business climate that provides more jobs for our families <p>5.4 million members in California 818-841-5210 www.cagop.org</p>

The number of members registered with each party is from 9/30/2003 and has been rounded off.



The President has the most important job in our country. Elected for a four-year term, the President:

- signs or vetoes new U.S. laws
- is in charge of foreign policy and is head of the armed forces
- presents a budget to Congress each year
- oversees most U.S. government agencies

We asked the candidates for U.S. President to tell us about their qualifications and priorities.

In this primary election, you vote for one candidate for President from your party. The winner in your party will run against the winners from other parties in the November election.

The parties are listed in the order of their number of members in California. All of the candidates shown below will appear on their party's ballot; we have noted those who have withdrawn as of 2/20/04. Please check www.easylvoter.org for the most up-to-date status of the candidates for President.

CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Democratic



Gen. Wesley K. Clark (Retired)

Occupation:

U.S. Army Four-Star General (Retired)

Age: 59

Lives in:

Little Rock, Arkansas

Withdrawn from race



Howard Dean, M.D.

Occupation:

Physician, Former Governor

Age: 55

Lives in:

Burlington, Vermont

Withdrawn from race



John Edwards

Occupation:

United States Senator

Age: 50

Lives in:

Raleigh, North Carolina

I've spent my life fighting for regular people – as a lawyer for families against companies, later as a senator. I was the first in my family to go to college, and I want everyone to have the opportunities I had.

- Opportunity. Everyone deserves to make the most of their talents.
- Prosperity. Too many families are struggling to get by.
- Security. Our foreign policy should keep us safe at home and strong abroad.

www.johnedwards2004.com



Dick Gephardt

Occupation:

Member of Congress

Age: 62

Lives in:

St. Louis, Missouri

Withdrawn from race



CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Democratic



John Kerry
Occupation:
 U.S. Senator
Age: 60
Lives in:
 Boston, Massachusetts

I believe that I have the foreign policy and national security experience to keep America secure and restore respect for American ideals, and offer a lifetime of fighting for Democratic values on issues that matter to people.

- Create jobs and revive our economy.
- Ensure the safety and security of the American people and repair our relationship with the world community.
- Provide affordable health care to every American.

www.johnkerry.com



Dennis John Kucinich
Occupation:
 U.S. Congressional Representative
Age: 57
Lives in: Cleveland, Ohio

I have served as Mayor of Cleveland and in the Ohio State Senate. I received the 2003 Gandhi Peace Award. I currently serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and as co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, the largest caucus in Congress.

- End occupation of Iraq and restore international cooperation.
- Create a universal health coverage plan for all Americans.
- Cancel NAFTA - WTO and develop Fair Trade agreements based on human, worker and environmental rights.

www.kucinich.us



Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.
Occupation:
 Economist
Age: 81
Lives in:
 Round Hill, Virginia

On the public record, I am the most consistently successful long-rate economic forecaster of three decades, who has consistently argued against the post-1964 shift of the U.S. from the leading producer society to a self-ruined consumer society.

- End Vice President Cheney's policy of "preventive" nuclear-armed wars. Withdraw from Iraq.
- Return to Franklin Roosevelt-style of economic recovery.
- Revive our Constitution's commitment to the general welfare: return to Hill-Burton law for health care.

www.larouchein2004.net



Joseph Lieberman
Occupation:
 U.S. Senator
Age: 61
Lives in:
 New Haven, Connecticut

Withdrawn from race



Carol Moseley Braun
Occupation:
 Candidate for President
Age: 56
Lives in:
 Chicago, Illinois

Withdrawn from race



CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Democratic



Al Sharpton
Occupation:
 Reverend
Age: 50
Lives in:
 Brooklyn, New York

I am the only candidate who stands up for disenfranchised citizens by leading a national civil rights organization representing constituents in all 50 states. My life's work is dedicated to ensuring everyone receives the justice provided them by our Constitution.

- Universal health care.
 - Strengthen the nation's educational system.
 - Repeal laws infringing on citizens' civil rights.
- www.sharpton2004.org

Republican



George W. Bush
Occupation:
 U.S. President
Age: 57
Lives in:
 Crawford, Texas

For the past three years, our administration has taken decisive action and won important victories for the American people. Together, we have made progress on the nation's priorities including growing the economy, protecting the homeland, modernizing Medicare, improving schools, and strengthening America's military.

- Continue to grow the economy and create jobs.
 - Protect America by securing our ports and borders and ensuring emergency preparedness and response.
 - Fight the war on terror and spread freedom across the globe.
- www.GeorgeWBush.com

American Independent



Michael A. Peroutka, Esq.
Occupation:
 Lawyer
Age: 51
Lives in:
 Millersville, Maryland

I love my country; as co-founder of "The Institute On The Constitution," I know America's unrevised history. I am not a career politician and promise to call for my own impeachment if I ever become one.

- Honor God.
 - Defend the Christian family.
 - Restore our Constitutional Republic.
- www.Peroutka2004.com

Green Party



Peter Camejo
Occupation:
 Financial Investment Advisor
Age: 64
Lives in:
 Oakland, California

I support the Green Party, part of a growing global movement for peace, social justice and environmental protection. I want to improve our democracy. Because I'm not tied to wealthy interests, I will be an independent leader.

- Peace in the world and respect for international law.
 - A "fair tax" budget, to bring fiscal responsibility to our government.
 - An educational and health care system that is fair and open to everyone.
- www.votecamejo.org



David Cobb
Occupation:
 Organizer
Age: 41
Lives in:
 Eureka, California

I am a public interest attorney and social justice organizer. I have dedicated my practice and my career to building a democratic movement to challenge the unlawful corporate takeover of our government.

- Universal health care—health care is a fundamental human right.
 - Publicly funded elections to get corporate money out of elections.
 - Living wages for all.
- www.votecobb.org



CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Green Party



Kent P. Mesplay, Ph.D
Occupation:
 Air Quality Inspector
Age: 41
Lives in:
 San Diego, California

I understand how our environmental, economic and health problems are related. Our party is small but powerful because we honor responsibility to ourselves and to others, not to fast money. I will be a good, kind and just president.

- Respect small businesses, especially farmers, who work hard to provide us with security.
 - Fight political corruption. Big money in politics adds to our problems.
 - Educate people about the Green Party and ask them to register.
- www.presidentkent.org



Lorna Salzman
Occupation:
 Environmental Activist/Writer
Age: 68
Lives in:
 Brooklyn, New York

I am dedicated to restoring democracy. I have experience with congressional campaigns and urgent public issues like the environment. I am committed to the U.S. Constitution and fair elections. I can bring together diverse views and respect individual rights and liberties.

- Halting global warming.
 - Universal single payer health coverage.
 - End to corporate subsidies, tax breaks and bailouts.
- www.lornasalzman.com

Libertarian



Michael Badnarik
Occupation:
 Programmer/Technical Trainer
Age: 49
Lives in:
 Austin, Texas

I am honest and have integrity, qualities not found in large party candidates. I developed an 8-hour class on the Constitution because most of what our government does is unconstitutional. I would veto every unconstitutional act proposed by Congress.

- Repeal 20,000+ unconstitutional gun laws that infringe on your right to self-defense.
 - Make schools private, restoring control of the curriculum to parents and teachers.
 - Get rid of the IRS and (unconstitutional) Federal Reserve to restore our economy.
- www.badnarik.org



Gary Nolan
Occupation:
 Talk Show Host
Age: 49
Lives in:
 Cleveland, Ohio

I have spent more than a decade discussing political issues with public policy experts and the American people. Most importantly, I believe that the power of government must be limited, that government at its best governs least.

- Balance the federal budget and cut taxes by dramatically cutting federal spending.
 - Repeal the USA Patriot Act and restore our full civil liberties.
 - Stop providing aid and support to authoritarian regimes and dictators around the globe.
- www.garynolan.com



Aaron Russo
Occupation:
 Film Producer
Age: 60
Lives in:
 Los Angeles, California

I understand the Constitution. I know how to balance budgets while cutting spending. I have the moral and Constitutional authority to end the war in Iraq.

- End the war in Iraq immediately.
 - Abolish the Patriot Act.
 - Abolish fiat currency.
- www.russoforpresident.com



CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Peace and Freedom



Walter F. (Walt) Brown
Occupation:
 Volunteer Consumer Attorney
Age: 77
Lives in:
 Lake Oswego, Oregon

My life is dedicated to public service: Navy public defender 1952-70, law professor 1970-80, Oregon Senator 1975-87; peace: Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom; freedom: NAACP 1949, and environmentalism: Sierra Club life member, family reforestation farmer. Awarded: B.A., J.D., M.A., M.L.S.

- Provide universal, low-cost health insurance, including prescriptions, like Canada’s popular single-payer program.
 - Raise minimum wage to \$10 per hour, indexed for inflation.
 - Replace U.S. and allied armed forces in Iraq with U.N. peace keeping force.
- www.waltbrownforpresident.org



Leonard Peltier
Occupation:
 Artist and writer
Age: 58
Lives in:
 Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Did not submit a statement.

Natural Law Party

The Natural Law party does not have any candidates for President in this election.

MORE ABOUT PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Other states besides California are also holding primary elections or caucuses on different dates. After these primaries, most of the political parties will hold national conventions in the spring or summer. At these conventions, representatives from each state (“delegates”) cast votes to choose a candidate for President for their party. The winning candidate then chooses a “running mate” (a candidate for Vice President).

The top candidates for U.S. President from each party will run against each other on November 2, 2004. This is the same election day in every state. The winner starts a new term of office in January 2005.

REMEMBER: You do not have to vote on everything on your ballot. Choose what you want to vote on and learn more about it before you vote.



Each state has two U.S. Senators. We are voting on one who will:

- represent California's interests in Washington, D.C. for a 6-year term
- work with other Senators on new U.S. laws
- as a member of Congress, help shape the budget and priorities for our national government

We asked the candidates for U.S. Senate to tell us about their qualifications and priorities.

In this primary election, you vote for one candidate for U.S. Senate from your party. The winner in your party will run against the winners from other parties in the November election.

The parties are listed in the order of their number of members in California. Some candidates may have dropped out of the race after this guide went to press in early January. Please check www.easyvoter.org for the most up-to-date status of the candidates for U.S. Senate.

CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Democratic



Barbara Boxer
Occupation:
 U.S. Senator
Age: 63
Lives in:
 Greenbrae, CA

I have been a United States Senator for eleven years and I work hard to protect California families, jobs and the environment. I am proud to have broad support, which includes workers, business leaders, nurses, firefighters, veterans and teachers.

- Make education a national priority.
 - Move our economy forward with job creation.
 - Ensure quality health care and affordable prescription drugs.
- www.boxer2004.org

Republican



Danney Ball
Occupation:
 Businessman,
 Educator, Musician
Age: 63
Lives in:
 Hemet, CA

40 years of developing good business skills, a successful father, grandfather, volunteer and mentor. I have spent the last three years traveling California listening to the concerns of Californians. I have the intelligence, the energy and persistence to get the job done.

- Stop illegal aliens from entering or staying in California.
 - Firearms safety training for all age groups.
 - Open up more recreational land for off-road use.
- www.beatboxer.com



Toni Casey
Occupation:
 Businesswoman
Age: 59
Lives in:
 Los Altos Hills, CA

As a businesswoman, a Bush Administration official, a mayor, and a mother, I've worked for a better future for California. I first served the public by defending property rights. I'm running for Senate to further protect our rights and freedoms.

- Grow the economy through permanent tax cuts, legal reform, free trade, and a balanced budget.
 - Strengthen national security, homeland defense, and immigration laws.
 - Improve our educational system to assure no child is left behind.
- www.tonicaseyforsenate.com



Barry Hatch
Occupation:
 Teacher
Age: 67
Lives in:
 Arcadia, CA

I am dedicated to resolving that which is undermining California's greatness. I will speak the truth. I put this State and our Nation above self interest, greed, and power. My term as mayor and on city council attests to these facts.

- Uncontrolled illegal immigration is overwhelming our infrastructure. Rule of law must prevail.
 - Health care - the first concern is our great senior population.
 - Jobs must remain, not be outsourced to China, India. Protect our middle class.
- www.barryhatch4ussenate.com



CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Republican



Bill Jones
Occupation:
 Businessman,
 Farmer, Rancher
Age: 54
Lives in:
 Fresno, CA

I am a businessman who has served California for 25 years as a Republican leader in the California Assembly and served two terms as Secretary of State. I successfully authored the "Three Strikes Law." Governors Deukmejian and Wilson endorse me.

- Restore our economy so all have jobs to feed their families and educate their children.
 - Education. Support local control; ensure schools have the highest quality teachers.
 - Win the war against terrorism at home and abroad.
- www.jonesforcalifornia.com



Howard Kaloogian
Occupation:
 Attorney-Businessman
Age: 43
Lives in:
 Carlsbad, CA

I served as Chairman of the history-making Recall Gray Davis Committee. I was elected to serve you in the State Assembly for three terms between 1994-2000. I was honored to serve as Chairman of the Defend Reagan Committee.

- Cut wasteful government spending and lower taxes.
 - Support the President's fight against terrorism and maintain a strong national defense.
 - Stronger border control to stop illegal immigration.
- www.HowardForSenate.com



Rosario Marin
Occupation:
 U.S. Treasurer, Lecturer
Age: 45
Lives in:
 Huntington Park, CA

I have extensive experience in business, as an advocate for disabled children, as a key aide to a Governor of California, as a mayor, and as President Bush's choice to be Treasurer of the United States.

- Support tax cuts; oppose tax increases.
 - Support President Bush's war on terror and strengthen our military.
 - Reform education through less bureaucracy and more accountability.
- www.RosarioforSenate.com



Bill Quraishi
Occupation:
 Small Business Owner
Age: 66
Lives in:
 Half Moon Bay, CA

At a time when our nation needs the best from all of us, I am ready to serve and give my best to America as a citizen legislator and not as a politician.

- Create jobs. Keep the American Dream alive for working families.
 - Lower taxes and simplify the tax system. Boost the strengths of our schools.
 - Work for mass transportation systems. Promote renewable energy to reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- www.Qforcongress.com



James Stewart
Occupation:
 Small Business Owner
Age: 43
Lives in:
 Temecula, CA

As a small businessman, I have a good understanding of revenues and expenditures. As a father, I understand the needs of the family. And as a barber, I have become an expert on the needs of the average Californian.

- Bring common sense back to Washington.
 - Create more U.S. jobs, by addressing the decay of the infrastructure in the nation.
 - Help create a real solution to the disaster in health care (see my website for details on all of the above).
- www.jamesstewartforsenate.com

Oliver Timothy Stoen

Not actively campaigning.



CANDIDATE	STATEMENT	TOP PRIORITIES
-----------	-----------	----------------

Republican



John M. Van Zandt
Occupation:
 Businessman
Age: 78
Lives in:
 Upland, CA

I am an experienced CEO and Board Chairman with 54 years of business experience and also an innovator/consultant to 54 of the Fortune 500. I am a citizen candidate in the true sense the framers of our Constitution visualized.

- Establish total world freedom by the end of this century.
 - Establish Universal Medicare for all U.S. citizens and legal inhabitants.
 - Create jobs by subsidizing new businesses through government loans and loan guarantees.
- www.vanzandfforussenate.com

American Independent



Don J. Grundmann
Occupation:
 Doctor of Chiropractic
Age: 51
Lives in:
 San Leandro, CA

I have greater knowledge of the financial crimes being committed against Californians than any other candidate, and I have the ability to implement the solution to those crimes and stop the greatest financial scandal in our nation's history.

- End the private banking cartel known as the Federal Reserve System; empower the U.S. Treasury to issue U.S. notes as interest/debt-free currency.
 - Eliminate the Internal Revenue Service.
 - Scrap the trade agreement known as NAFTA.
- www.truthusa.org

Libertarian



Jim P. Gray
Occupation:
 Superior Court Judge
Age: 58
Lives in:
 Orange, CA

As a judge in Orange County for 19 years, I have seen it all, and worked with many diverse people to work out solutions. I have implemented Peer Court for young people, and an Inn of Court chapter for legal ethics.

- Decriminalize and tax marijuana for adults, raise revenue, reduce availability for children.
 - Establish "sunset" laws for all federal agencies; increase effectiveness, reduce cost of government.
 - Require federal government to pay costs of illegal immigration.
- www.judgejimgray4senate.com



Gail K. Lightfoot
Occupation:
 Retired Registered Nurse
Age: 66
Lives in:
 Arroyo Grande, CA

America's Founding Fathers believed, as I do, that ordinary citizen legislators would give us the best government possible. I will represent all Californians in Washington, free from the pressures faced by career politicians.

- Education: work to restore local control of schools.
 - Economic: ensure families keep more of the money they earn.
 - Environment: give choices so environmental damage is corrected.
- www.lightfootforussenate2004.org

Peace and Freedom



Marsha Feinland
Occupation:
 Public School Teacher
Age: 54
Lives in:
 Berkeley, CA

I am a teacher and parent. I have been elected to help enforce rent control in Berkeley. I believe ordinary working-class people can produce what we need and preserve the earth better than the greedy owners of corporations.

- Provide for all human needs: decent income, housing, education and health care for everyone.
 - Equal rights regardless of race, nationality or sexual orientation.
 - Stop the war machine; bring our troops home; stop making nuclear weapons.
- www.peaceandfreedom.org



Besides the President and U.S. Senate, there are many other candidates you can vote for. Your representatives in the U.S. Congress and the State Legislature will also be chosen in this election (see the chart below). You may also be asked to vote on candidates for your local government—such as county supervisor, city council or school board.

All of the candidates for your area will be listed on the Sample Ballot that is sent to all registered voters by your County Elections Office. The offices you vote on will depend on where you live.

U.S. GOVERNMENT

President and Vice President

- Elected for 4 years
- Being chosen in this election
(see candidates on pages 5-9)



U.S. Congress

Works on U.S. laws and budget

U.S. Senate

- 2 Senators for each state
- Elected for 6 years
- 1 Senator chosen in this election
(see candidates on pages 10-12)

U.S. House of Representatives

- 52 members for California
- Elected for 2 years
- All being voted on in this election

CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor

- Elected for 4 years
- Next election in 2006



State Legislature

Works on state laws and budget

State Senate

- 40 Senators
- Elected for 4 years
- Half in this election and half in 2006

State Assembly

- 80 Assemblymembers
- Elected for 2 years
- All being voted on in this election

To find out who your elected representatives are right now, go to www.easyvoter.org or www.smartvoter.org. Or, you can check with your local County Elections Office or your local library. All they need to know is your address. You can also get addresses and phone numbers for any of your representatives so you can contact them. **It is your right to let your elected representatives know how you feel about the issues that are important to you!**



Propositions are proposed laws presented to the public to vote on. Propositions 55, 57 and 58 were put on the ballot by the State Legislature. Proposition 56 is an “initiative” that was placed on the ballot by people who collected enough signatures. Propositions 57 and 58 are tied together. They both have to be approved by voters to go into effect.

PROP 55: BONDS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Official Title: Kindergarten-University Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004.

The way it is now: Money to build and repair K-12 schools and public colleges comes mostly from state bonds and local bonds. Most of the money from earlier state bonds has been spent. K-12 school districts say they need new classrooms for 1 million students.

What Prop 55 would do:

Allow the state to sell \$12.3 billion in bonds to build and repair public schools and colleges. Local districts must have matching dollars to use this state money, unless they qualify for special state assistance.

Effect on state budget:

New spending of \$24.7 billion to pay off the \$12.3 billion bonds and \$12.4 billion in interest over thirty years. This would cost about \$823 million per year at current interest rates.



Arguments for:

- Our schools are overcrowded and in need of repair.
- Investing in schools is a good investment for California.

www.Yeson55.com



Arguments against:

- Using bonds to pay for building schools doubles the cost.
- California cannot afford to get any deeper into debt.

www.ProtectTaxpayers.com

PROP 56: VOTE ON STATE BUDGET

Official Title: State Budget, Related Taxes, and Reserve. Voting Requirements. Penalties.

The way it is now: The California legislature passes a bill each year that lays out what the state budget will pay for. This budget is sent to the governor to be approved. The State Constitution requires the State Assembly and State Senate to have a two-thirds (67%) vote to pass the budget bill and any tax increase.

Most years, the state budget sets aside a reserve to help pay for unexpected costs. There is no set amount for the reserve.

The State Constitution has a June 15th deadline for the legislature to send a budget to the governor for the coming year (July to June). This deadline has been missed for the past 17 years.

What Prop 56 would do:

Change the State Constitution to lower the vote required to pass the state budget and budget-related tax increases from 67% to 55%. It also requires that 25% of any extra state income goes into a reserve.

The state legislature has to stay in session until the budget is passed. The legislators and governor lose their pay for each day the budget is late.

Effect on state budget:

Prop 56 could change the state budget in different ways:

- It would be easier to pass the budget and any budget-related taxes.
- The required reserve could make state spending more stable from year to year.
- Passing budgets on time could improve the state’s credit rating, leading to lower interest costs.



Arguments for:

- Prop 56 makes it easier to pass the state budget but the 55% rate is still higher than for 47 other states.
- On-time budgets will help state programs and workers and can also improve the state’s credit rating.

www.budgetaccountabilitynow.org



Arguments against:

- Prop 56 makes it easier for the legislature to raise our taxes. It is like giving them a blank check to spend more.
- It is good to get the budget passed on time, but not a budget with more taxes.

www.NoBlankChecks.com

The arguments for and against are the opinions of the people who support or oppose the propositions.



PROP 57: BONDS TO HELP STATE BUDGET

Official Title: The Economic Recovery Bond Act.

The way it is now: Since 2001, the money coming into the state budget has not been able to cover expenses. Even after cutting programs and raising revenues, there is still a shortfall (deficit). The budget for the current year had planned to use a \$10.7 billion bond to help cover this shortfall. That bond has been challenged in court. Without that bond, the state could run out of cash by June 2004.

What Prop 57 would do:

Allow the state to sell \$15 billion in bonds to help balance the state budget. It will take between 9 and 14 years to pay off the bonds. This would be instead of the \$10.7 billion bond paid off over five years. Prop 58 needs to be approved for Prop 57 to go into effect.

Effect on state budget:

There would be \$4 billion more now to help with the budget shortfall. The bond would be repaid by one quarter of a cent (1/4 of 1¢) of state sales tax, which equals about \$1.2 billion each year. It will take between 9 and 14 years to pay off this bond (compared to 5 years for the \$10.7 billion bond).



Arguments for:

- The Prop 57 bond keeps California from running out of cash without having to raise taxes or make deep cuts in education or health care.
- This is a one-time solution. Prop 58 will make sure we don't have to do this again.

www.yes57and58.org



Arguments against:

- California should not get deeper into debt. This is a huge bond, equal to \$2,000 for every family in California to pay it off.
- Prop 57 does nothing about the out of control spending that got us into this mess. We have to stop overspending now.

www.tommclintock.com

PROP 58: REQUIRING A BALANCED BUDGET

Official Title: The California Balanced Budget Act.

The way it is now: After a strong economy in the late 1990's, income to state government began to drop in 2001. The state budget has fallen badly out of balance. Large deficits have been carried over from year to year. The state faces at least a \$15 billion shortfall in the 2004-05 budget next year.

What Prop 58 would do:

Change the State Constitution so that a balanced budget must be passed each year. If the governor sees the budget beginning to fall out of balance during the year, the legislature is required to take action. Prop 58 also sets up a special reserve account that is set up to reach \$8 billion (5% of the General Fund).

Prop 58 would ban the use of certain borrowing to cover state deficits. The \$15 billion bond in Prop 57 must pass for Prop 58 to go into effect.

Effect on state budget:

Prop 58 could change the state budget in different ways:

- Requiring a balanced budget each year could head off budget shortfalls in the future.
- The larger reserve could make state spending more stable from year to year.
- Balanced budgets and less borrowing would help the state's credit rating and lower interest costs.



Arguments for:

- Prop 58 closes loopholes. Never again will the state be able to spend more than it has coming in. It also sets up a good reserve for the future.
- Prop 58, with Prop 57, is a good plan to fix the state budget crisis. It prevents the current situation from ever happening again.

www.yes57and58.org



Arguments against:

- Prop 58 has no spending limit. The state can still balance the budget with more borrowing.
- Prop 58 suspends, for this one time, the rule in the State Constitution against borrowing to cover deficits. Borrowing should be limited to long-term projects like parks and roads that will benefit future generations.

WHAT ARE BONDS?

Bonds are a way for the government to borrow money. When the government sells a bond to someone, the government is promising to pay back the money and to pay interest. The state government can only sell bonds that are fully supported by the General Fund if they have been approved by the voters.

Voting is as easy as 1-2-3!

1 SIGN UP TO VOTE



- To vote in the March 2 election, you must sign up to vote by February 17. Pick up a voter registration form at a library, post office, or DMV or call **1-800-345-VOTE**.
- When you sign up to vote, you will be asked if you want to choose a political party or “Decline to State” (independent). See pages 3 and 4 of this guide for more information about the parties.
- You must fill out a new voter registration form if you move to a new address, change your name, or want to change your party.

2 GET READY TO VOTE



- To learn about the election, registered voters get two booklets in the mail:
 - The *Sample Ballot* lists the candidates and measures that will be on your ballot. Mark your choices on your Sample Ballot and use it when you vote.
 - The *Voter Information Guide* covers statewide candidates and ballot measures. You can also see this booklet in different languages at www.voterguide.ss.ca.gov.
- You don't have to vote on everything on your ballot. Choose the things that interest you and learn more about them.

3 VOTE!



- **Vote in person:** Look at the mailing label of your Sample Ballot for where to go. Your polling place will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some counties also have places where you can vote before election day.
- **Vote by mail:** The form to request an “absentee ballot” comes with your Sample Ballot. Fill out that form and mail it in to arrive no later than February 24th. When your absentee ballot comes in the mail, fill it out and mail it back to arrive by election day. Or you can drop it off at any polling place in your county by 8 p.m. on election day.

Visit www.easyvoter.org and www.myvotecounts.org for more information about how to vote and about this election.