



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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California Federation of Teachers opposes all May 19 special election propositions except 1B

Sacramento - After thorough debate, four hundred delegates to the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) annual convention voted yesterday to oppose all propositions on the May 19 Special Election ballot with the exception of Proposition 1B. Says CFT president Marty Hittelman, "We do not believe that these propositions are beneficial to the welfare of the people of California and, in particular, to the students of California."

Proposition 1A would create a maze of rules controlling California budgeting that would severely restrict the state from enacting budgets that adequately address the realities that California will be facing in coming years, especially the ability to address the needs of California's aging population. Proposition 1A, if approved, would also trigger the ability of the Governor to unilaterally reduce individual program budgets without approval of the legislature. Says Hittelman, "This 'power grab' by the governor is not in keeping with the concept of balanced power among legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government embedded in the United States Constitution."

CFT voted to support Proposition 1B because, although Proposition 1B does not fully address the requirements to fund education under Proposition 98, it is a less costly avenue than filing a lawsuit to secure the bulk of that revenue.

CFT opposes Proposition 1C because is an unrealistic scheme to secure \$5 billion in loans from investors in the lottery. CFT believes lottery proceeds will not be able to repay the loans, and that this scheme will drain funding from the state General Fund.

Proposition 1D and 1E would raid important social programs to fund other important needs. CFT supports many of the programs that 1D and 1E would severely reduce and thus opposes 1D and 1E.

CFT opposes Proposition 1F not because we support what the Legislature has done this year, but because it unfairly penalizes all Legislators equally. Explains Hittelman, "Prop 1F is a cynical attempt to convince the public that the inability of the Legislature to pass reasonable budgets is the fault of the majority of the legislators. It is not. The problem is with the two-thirds requirement to pass a budget, which creates a tyranny of the minority that subverts the democratic will of the Legislature and the voters of California."

As the statewide affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, the California Federation of Teachers represents faculty and other school employees in public and private schools and colleges, from early childhood through higher education.

For more information please visit www.cft.org

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