



For Immediate Release
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Teachers, public employees, university faculty and allies say Prop. 1A won't help state budget crisis

Opponents warn voters: "Read it yourself" before casting vote on flawed and confusing measure

Santa Cruz, CA – Santa Cruz and Watsonville teachers, public employees, university faculty and the League of Women Voters today challenged Governor Schwarzenegger's assertion that Proposition 1A would fix California's budget crisis, saying the confusing and deeply flawed proposition will do nothing to stop California's budget chaos this year or next and will actually make our problems worse. The Prop. 1A opponents held a news conference today on the steps of the County Courthouse, surrounded by the entire text of the proposition -- close to 3000 words on large poster boards -- and invited audience members to try to decipher the fine print of the measure.

They urged every voter to "Read it yourself" before voting on the confusing and deeply flawed proposition.

Mike Rotkin, faculty member for nearly forty years at UCSC, has received notice that his services will no longer be required, due to state budget cuts to the UC system. He said, "If Prop. 1A could deliver on its promises, I'd be the first to support it. But if 1A passes, the UC budget is going to get worse, not better."

"We all want to fix the budget, but even after reading all the small print in Prop. 1A you cannot find a single thing it does to solve the immediate budget crisis. What you will find is a lot of confusing information and unintended consequences," said Francisco Rodriguez, president of the Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers, whose members are facing scores of layoffs. "We need to vote NO on Prop.

1A to send the Governor a message that we're sick and tired of political gimmicks instead of real solutions.”

Prop. 1A, on the May 19 Special Election ballot, was hastily written, with no public hearings, by the governor and Legislature in Sacramento and promises a so-called “rainy day fund” and budget cap. But Proposition 1A would do nothing to alleviate the state’s budget crisis over the next two years, and the cap would prevent the state from funding necessary services.

“Just one look at Prop. 1A will reveal to voters its fatal flaws. It is filled with fine print and loopholes that make our budget process even less transparent and accountable,” said Barry Kirschen, president of the Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers.

Joan Lowe, president of the Santa Cruz Council of Classified Employees, noted that “Prop. 1A would lock us into permanent shortages of school support personnel. Teachers can’t teach and students can’t learn without adequate support from classroom aides, secretaries, bus drivers, cooks and custodians.”

“Prop. 1A would prevent California from providing vital health and human services to the people that need them the most. It would give the governor unilateral powers to cut services for seniors, the sick, and the disabled,” according to Joe Keffer, Political Coordinator for SEIU 521.

“If Prop. 1A passes,” said Jennifer Colby, Faculty Rights Chair for the California Faculty Association CSU Monterey Bay chapter, “the California State University system would suffer deep cuts. CSU prepares more than half of California’s K-12 teachers. The state already faces a shortage of 100,000 teachers in the next decade. This is no time to reduce support for the CSU. The Trustees are already balancing the CSU budget on the backs of students with whopping tuition increases. Prop. 1A would push higher education farther from the reach of working families.”

Proposition 1A’s opponents include the League of Women Voters of California, Congress of California Seniors, California Alliance for Retired Americans, Health Access California, California Nurses Association, American Federation of County, State and Municipal Employees, California Federation of Teachers, Consumer Federation of California, Older Women’s League of California, SEIU California State Council, and the California Faculty Association.

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