



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Contact: Mike Roth 916.444.7170; Steve Hopcraft 916.457.5546

**Fresno Community College faculty, League of Women Voters:
Prop. 1A is another Arnold gimmick that won't help immediate budget crisis**
*Opponents warn voters: "Read it yourself" before casting vote on
flawed and confusing measure*

FRESNO, CA – The Fresno League of Women Voters joined Fresno community college faculty today at a news conference opposing Prop. 1A outside Fresno City College. The Prop. 1A opponents challenged Governor Schwarzenegger to explain how Proposition 1A would fix California's immediate budget crisis. Surrounded by the entire text of the proposition -- close to 3000 words on large poster boards, the local Prop. 1A opponents invited audience members to try to decipher the fine print of the measure.

Fresno League of Women Voters Legislation Director Terri Figgs announced the League's opposition to Prop. 1A, and urged Fresno voters, "Read Prop. 1A yourself." Figgs said, "Prop 1A, on the May 19 Special Election ballot, was hastily written, with no public hearings, by the governor and legislature in Sacramento. 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 help solve the immediate budget crisis. What you will find is a lot of confusing information and likely unintended consequences."

"Just one look at Prop. 1A reveals its fatal flaws. It's filled with fine print and loopholes that make our budget process even less transparent and accountable," said Fresno community college professor Zwi Reznik. "Prop. 1A is confusing and deeply flawed, and will do nothing to stop California's budget chaos this year or next. Prop. 1A will make our future budget problems worse. We need to vote No on Prop. 1A to send the Governor a message that we're sick and tired of the political gimmicks."

Prop. 1A promises a so-called “rainy day fund,” along with an extension of \$16 billion in tax increases that were adopted as part of the budget package. Unlike other May 19 ballot measures, which would provide immediate budget relief, Prop. 1A would do nothing to alleviate the state’s budget crisis over the next two years.

Reznik, a Vice President of the California Federation of Teachers, said supporters of Prop 1A are trying to fool voters with misleading information. The measure’s authors were recently forced by a judge to accurately explain Prop 1A. California Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny repeatedly described the original ballot language written by legislators and the Governor as “misleading” and ordered changes to the measure’s title and summary that will now appear in the state’s Official Voter Information Guide.

“Voters who carefully study Prop. 1A will see it’s chock full of loopholes and will lead to unintended consequences. It could force cuts that harm seniors, health care and education even in good years and divert funds to the ‘rainy day’ slush fund even in the worst times,” said Reznik.

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.

#