



CFT TALKING POINTS: Vote NO on 1A

Summary

In return for a few temporary and regressive tax increases, Proposition 1A, a constitutional amendment, imposes a destructive permanent state spending cap and gives the Governor unprecedented budgetary powers to make midyear cuts without legislative approval or public input. Prop 1A would force deep cuts to the non-Prop 98 portion of the state budget, especially public health and other services to children in poverty, seniors and the disabled. CFT members know that children who come to school sick or hungry cannot learn.

Prop 1A doesn't do what it says it will

When you get your voter pamphlet, read the text for yourself. It fixes nothing in the state budget process, and only digs the fiscal hole deeper.

Why the secrecy?

Prop 1A was hastily drafted behind closed doors, without public hearings or an independent analysis of how it will actually work. The reason? The numbers don't add up. Prop 1A fails to take into account the long-term impact on the state budget of our aging population. 1A would create a budget cap, which will prevent all state programs, including education, from keeping pace with the rising cost of goods and services, especially retiree health care. Prop. 1A will cause even more draconian reductions in services, including educational programs.

Will hurt students, among others

Prop 1A will have a devastating impact on education and, in particular, slash state programs that serve children in poverty, seniors, and the disabled. Educators know that children who come to school sick or hungry cannot learn.

Not really a rainy day fund

Prop 1A proposes to create a 12 billion dollar "rainy day fund." How are we going to come up with the billions of dollars we need today while it continues to rain and we are already under water? A true rainy day fund would set aside money from an adequate yearly budget for hard times: not rob an already drastically reduced budget and create a permanent cap that will starve important social programs. Prop 1A would divert funding from key services in both good and bad times.

Will cut higher education

The cap on the state budget will require ongoing cuts to the California State University and University of California, or force student fee increases, or both, even in good times. CSU student fees have risen more than 110% since 2002. Prop 1A will continue the trend of pricing working families out of a university education.

Power Grab: Governor could make mid-year cuts without oversight

The governor would gain authority to reduce state services and suspend cost of living increases for state programs (including parts of the education budget). 1A would allow cuts of up to seven percent from budget appropriations without oversight from the legislature. 1A is a direct assault on our long valued balance of power between the Governor and the Legislature. Voters rejected the similar Prop 76 in 2005.

Will not help the state budget

Despite inflated claims of proponents, defeat of 1A would have no impact on the state budget for the next two fiscal years. This leaves ample time for the Legislature and Governor to craft true long-term structural fiscal changes.

Will not fix state budget process; in fact, will make it worse

We need a real budget solution. California's fiscal problem stems from legislative gridlock created by its undemocratic two-thirds vote requirement in the Legislature to pass a budget. With simple majority rule in the Legislature, our elected officials would not be held hostage to a small minority of anti-government ideologues every year. That's the reform we need: not regressive taxes, borrowing, and huge reductions in important social services.

Vote NO on Proposition 1A! Send the Governor and Legislature back to the drawing board to get it right.