

Help Defeat Schwarzenegger's Special Interest Agenda, on the Nov. 8 Ballot...

The Alliance for a Better California has been steadfastly opposed to the Governor's wasteful Special Election for the special interests, and is now working to defeat the Governor's ballot initiatives (Props. 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78) that will hurt our families and communities. The Alliance also supports two measures on the ballot (Props. 79 & 80) that will help everyday Californians, providing real prescription drug relief to consumers, and preventing future energy blackout.

NO on Proposition 75: "Paycheck Deception Act." This deceptive initiative is about politics, not fairness. The initiative is sponsored by corporate special interests who want to limit the political voice of teachers, nurses, police and firefighters. The lead sponsor is an anti-union crusader who has campaigned for President Bush's Social Security privatization scheme. If passed, public employees who wish to participate would have to sign a form each year allowing union dues to be used for political activities, a restriction on political speech that would apply only to public employees, and not to private sector employees or corporate contributions.

NO on Proposition 76: The "Cuts School Funding Act." This measure gives the Governor the power to ignore Prop. 98 – the voter approved minimum funding levels for schools, and cut health care, police, fire, and other vital services, while eliminating our State Constitution's system of checks and balances. This measure would cut school funding by over \$4 billion every year - \$600 per student - leading to more overcrowded classrooms, teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials. Our schools lost two billion dollars when Governor Schwarzenegger broke his promise to repay the money he took from education, and if this initiative passes, the Governor will never have to repay that money to our schools.

Alliance for a Better California
1401 21st St., 4th Floor ★ Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone (916) 492-1962 ★ Fax (916) 492-1977 ★ ID# 1273998



Alliance for a Better California, educators, firefighters, school employees, health care givers and labor organizations. Major funding by CA Teachers Association Issues PAC and CA State Council of Service Employees Issues Committee.

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NO on Proposition 74: *The “Punish New Teachers Act.”* This measure would do nothing to improve public education or deal with the real problems facing our schools. It unfairly attempts to blame teachers for the problems in our public schools, ignoring the realities of underfunding, overcrowding, and the lack of materials and resources needed for effective teaching and learning. If this measure passes, new teachers would serve a 5-year probationary period rather than the current two years, and would lose the right to even have a fair hearing on their dismissal for a full 5 years. Current law already allows for firing teachers who are not performing in the classroom, no matter how long they’ve been on the job.

NO on Proposition 77: *Reapportionment.* Amends process for redistricting California’s Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts, putting the process in the hands of a three-member panel of retired judges, selected by legislative leaders. It requires immediate redistricting, which is unnecessary, costly, and will produce unfair results by using outdated census data. Even Republican Secretary of State Bruce McPherson believes this measure is fatally flawed and cannot be implemented under the timeline contained in the measure.

NO on Proposition 78: *The Drug Companies “Bad Prescription” Initiative.* The big drug companies are going to spend millions trying to fool voters and keep them from passing the real prescription drug relief contained in the Alliance-backed Prop. 79. This phony measure says only that drug companies can enter a “voluntary” program to reduce prices...but why will they? They have no real incentive to lower the sky-high cost of prescription drugs. A “No” vote on this measure is necessary to provide consumers with real relief from soaring drug prices, because whichever measure gets the highest number of votes becomes law.

Yes for Consumer Rights and Corporate Responsibility...

YES on Proposition 79: *The “Cheaper Prescription Drugs for Californians Act.”* This measure creates a drug discount program that requires participation by drug manufacturers, or companies will lose the right to sell drugs through the state’s Medi-Cal program. It will mean steep discounts for seniors, families, small businesses, and the State. The initiative allows the State to negotiate directly with the pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices for millions of Californians. The State will save millions of dollars, and California consumers will get cheaper prescription drugs.

YES on Proposition 80: *The “Affordable Electricity and Preventing Blackouts Act.”* This is a common-sense consumer initiative that will help prevent energy blackouts and massive fraud by unregulated private energy producers like Enron. It will override the failed energy deregulation policies, put utilities back in the business of serving the public, and encourage development of more renewable energy sources. The ultimate result will be more affordable energy for ALL Californians.

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