

Election Day: May 19, 2009

A special election publication of the Green Party of Alameda County, an affiliate of the Green Party of California

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PROPOSITIONS 1A THROUGH 1F: VOTE 'NO' (ON ALL) Vote NO on the Rotten Budget Deal

The Green Party urges you to vote NO on all items on the ballot in the May 19 special election. We are opposed, of course, to the cuts in transportation, education, social services, and the rest, that are part of this budget deal. We oppose this deal even though the politicians tell us that great hardship will result if they don't get their rotten deal passed. And it may even be true. But we are even more opposed to the process which concluded by offering us the "choice" of being shot in the leg or shot in the arm but did NOT offer us the choice of using our collective wealth to meet human needs. (Please see the "What Is To be Done" section below, with some suggestions.)

Proposition 1A is a constitutional amendment which was part of the budget agreement but parts of it go far beyond the current agreement. Ironically, per the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the provisions of 1A have no effect on the current budget. Rather, bringing this measure before the voters was the price agreed to by the Democrats to get the Republican votes needed for the budget deal.

1A provides that "unanticipated revenues" (revenues in excess of the ten-year average) would be saved in a Budget Stabilization Fund ("rainy day fund") for future years in which they could be spent for the Proposition 98 K-14 educational spending mandate (see 1B, below) or (if 1B fails, for example) to pay off various loans and bonds. Opponents say this measure is unclear, not transparent, doesn't do what it claims to do, and creates new problems.

1A asks us to accept a permanent spending cap (a zero growth budget) as the price the legislature insists on to raise some taxes temporarily. If such a spending cap had been in effect this year, billions of dollars in additional cuts would have been mandated.

State spending on education, health care, the safety net for low-income people, and other essential services has been inadequate up to now. So freezing the state budget (except for population growth and inflation) means that the inadequate spending levels could never be raised. In addition, population growth does not reflect the different needs that different people have. One example we all have come to understand is that children whose families recently im-

migrated to the US and who do not speak English at home require more spending on school services, at least for a few years. Another example would be that as California's population ages, more per capita spending for health care and social services will be required.

What about the effect of the 1A spending cap on any new programs California may want to create? We'll use the example of "health care for all forever." It is possible to pass a Single-Payer ("Medicare for all") health care plan in California, such as SB 840, which passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger twice, and is now being introduced again as SB 810. The new revenues such a plan would mandate would not be subject to the spending cap. However, studies which have shown that Californians could afford to cover everyone with the money that would be saved by cutting the health insurance companies out of the loop depend on also rolling existing programs into the new program. The deep cuts that have been made in state health care spending make this much more difficult.

Although the budget battle was mainly portrayed by the mainstream media as Democrats (tax, cut, and borrow) vs Republicans (cut, cut, and cut), there were some parts of the deal that even some Democrats could not bring themselves to support. District 16 Assembly member Sandre Swanson, for example, voted against 1A (and several other budget cuts), and was stripped of a committee chairmanship by the Democratic Speaker of the Assembly, Karen Bass.

Measure 1B looks good at first, as it seems to restore, starting in the 2011-12 school year, \$9.3 billion dollars that were diverted from K-14 education spending guaranteed under Proposition 98. There is no question that deep cuts in education funding are being made all around us. Thousands of teachers and other school employees are threatened with layoffs. However, 1B is contingent on passage of 1A. That is, 1B is the sweetener for the worst part of this rotten deal. While the California Teachers Association recommends support of 1B, many teachers, including the Oakland Education Association (by a unanimous vote of their Rep Council) recommend opposing propositions 1A and 1B.

1C allows the state to borrow \$5 billion against future

lottery revenues, and use the funds for programs other than the schools. We oppose this individual proposal because we are opposed to the entire process and this entire deal.

1D and **1E** alter past propositions to plug some holes in the current budget and that's why they are part of the current deal. We oppose these measures as part of opposing this entire deal. 1D redirects money from the Prop 10 (California Children and Families Act) Trust Fund; 1E redirects money from Prop 63 (the Mental Health Services Act).

1F is deceptive. The legislature is trying to look like it is sharing the sacrifices that the rest of us are being asked to make in these tough times. But 1F merely bars increases "during budget deficit years" so the legislators would continue to receive their normal salaries and per diems. People losing their jobs or their benefits get nothing. Some equality of sacrifice.

The really terrible budget cuts that were made to pass the budget, as well as the various bad policies in these propositions, should not be accepted by us as voters. We can send a strong message by defeating Propositions 1A through 1F. We are not alone. The leadership of the California Nurses Association (CNA) voted (in mid-March) to oppose all six measures. The League of Women Voters of California opposes 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E. Please help us defeat all 6 propositions. Vote NO NO NO NO NO!

So what is to be done at the state level?

(1) Abolish the two-thirds vote needed to pass the budget. (Even State Senator Loni Hancock has introduced a constitutional amendment, SCA 5, to do that.) The current situation gives the Republicans much more power over the budget than their numbers warrant. That is obvious. What is less obvious is that the current situation gives cover to the Democrats. Billions of dollars in cuts of services to their constituents but don't blame them--it's the Republicans' fault.

While there are a few states which require a "supermajority" (that is, more than a simple majority) to pass

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The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produces a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 8,000 to Green households, and distribute another 5,000 through cafes, BART stations, libraries and other locations. Please read yours and pass it along to other interested voters. Feel free to copy the back "Voter Card" to distribute it as well

Your Green Party

The things you value do not "just happen" by themselves—make a commitment to support the Green Party. Call us to volunteer your time during this election season and beyond. Clip out the enclosed coupon to send in your donation today.

During these difficult times, individuals who share Green values need to stand firm in our principles and join together to work to make our vision of the future a reality.

The Green Party of Alameda County is coordinating tabling, precinct walking, phone banking, and other volunteer activities.

The Green Party County Council meets in the evening on the 2nd Sunday each month at 6:45pm. This is the regular "business" meeting of the Alameda County Green Party. We have several committees working on outreach, campaigns, local organizing. Please stay in touch by phone or email if you want to get more involved.

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

Phone: (510) 644-2293 Listen to our outgoing message for upcoming events.

Website: www.acgreens.org

Email lists: To join a discussion of issues and events with other active Greens, send an email to *GreenPartyofAlameda-County-subscribe@yahoogroups.com* (all one word, no spaces, but a dash between *County-subscribe*). To get occasional announcements about current Green Party of Alameda County activities send an email to *announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com*

Locals:

Alameda County Green Sundays: 2nd Sundays, at 5 pm (followed by a 6:45 pm County Council business meeting); Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. at 65th St., Oakland. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AnnouncementsGPAC. (510) 644-2293

Berkeley Greens: To join our email list, and for more information, contact: berkeleygreenparty@gmail.com; 510-644-2293; www.berkeleygreens.org

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: 4th Thursdays, at 7 pm, Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park, Oakland. (I-I/2 blocks east of the Grand Lake Theater); http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens; Michael or Jan, (510) 436-3722

East and South County Greens: We are looking for east and south Alameda County Greens interested in helping re-activate an East County and a South County local. If interested, please contact Suzanne Baker (510) 654-8635, suzannebaker@earthlink.net

Credits:

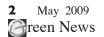
Jan Arnold, Paul Burton, Greg Jan, Perrine Kelly, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, Michael Rubin, Susan Schacher, Kate Tanaka, and the rest of the Newsletter team!

Voter Guide Contributions

We would like to thank the campaigns, businesses, and individuals whose donations allowed us to produce this voter guide. For the candidates and campaigns, please be assured that we conducted our endorsement process first. No candidates or measures were invited to contribute to the funding of this publication if they had not already been endorsed. At no time was there a discussion of the likelihood of a candidate's financial support during the endorsement process. The Green Party County Council voted not to accept contributions from for-profit corporations. If you have questions about our funding process, call us at (510) 644-2293.









ALAMEDA COUNTY GREEN NEWS

"Overgrow the government"

May 2009

KYOTO USA: GREENS DO SOMETHING LOCAL ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

KyotoUSA was established in November 2004 to encourage citizen advocacy and participation in efforts to address climate change. We initiated this effort by encouraging the City of Berkeley to "ratify" the Kyoto Protocol, which it did in January 2005. In its Resolution, the City warned of the dangers of inaction by the federal government on climate change, promised to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions significantly, and encouraged other cities to follow its lead in acknowledging the need to take action on climate change. That grassroots endeavor led to a national effort led by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and the US Conference of Mayors that now includes over 950 cities. KyotoUSA was also instrumental in organizing a similar effort with students at the University of California, Berkeley, which was the catalyst for much of the climate change activities that have now been adopted at UC Berkeley.

KyotoUSA is an all-volunteer organization that believes that comprehensive solutions to climate change require the participation of every institution, business, and resident in a city. We also understand that to gather support for local action, the solutions have to be relevant, visible, and achievable. With those criteria in mind, we focused our efforts on addressing energy use in our public schools. We found, to our amazement, that reducing energy use and installing photovoltaic (PV) panels provided benefits beyond our expectations.

In looking at energy consumption in our local schools, the escalating cost of energy, and the cost of improving energy efficiencies and installing PV, we concluded that the initial cost difference between financing a PV system and the cost of electricity was small and should not be an impediment to a school "going solar." That analysis was the genesis for our HELiOS Project (Helios Energy Lights Our Schools)—a community driven effort to reduce energy consumption and produce renewable energy in California's public schools.

The idea is simple but requires the advocacy and financial support of the entire



Tom Kelly and PV cells at Washington Elementary School, Berkeley

community. Essentially, we raise a modest amount of money in donations to make up the difference in the early years between the financed cost of the PV system and the avoided energy costs. Financing a PV system over 20-25 years at a fixed annual cost turns out to be much cheaper than continuing to pay a utility for the ever-increasing cost of fossil fuel generated electricity.

By introducing renewable energy as the source of electricity to operate our school facilities, school districts also can cut greenhouse gas emissions, add jobs to the local economy, and reduce the pollutants produced by burning fossil fuels for electricity production.

The first completed project in the Berkeley Unified School District—at Washington Elementary—enabled the City of Berkeley and the District to learn how to work together to address energy efficiency in a more comprehensive manner and to seriously consider increasing the number of medium-to-large scale PV systems installed on District schools and on other buildings throughout the City. This project can be replicated by school districts in any state where incentives and/or rebates are offered

for the construction of renewable energy systems.

The HELiOS Project brought together a variety of stakeholders who are concerned about the education and well-being of our children, the District's finances, the use of school facilities, and the environment to begin a discussion about how to achieve maximum energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the District's schools. Green Party member and Berkeley Unified School District Board member John Selawsky was an early champion of the proposal. John patiently shepherded the project through administrative and political challenges that occasionally threatened to stall the project. The City's Energy Office, the University of California's facilities department, and KyotoUSA worked with the District to conduct an extensive energy audit of Washington Elementary School to assist in determining where faster, low-cost energy savings could be achieved.

The City and University are also interested in more comprehensive applications of these concepts so that this effort can be extended to all major institutions and businesses within Berkeley. Both the City and

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THE GREEN PARTY'S TEN KEY VALUES

Ecological Wisdom
Grassroots Democracy
Social Justice
Nonviolence
Decentralization
Community-Based Economics
Feminism
Respect for Diversity
Global Responsibility
Sustainability

The Oakland Greens are Growing in 2009

Get involved today. Our 2009 Projects include: Oakland Outreach and Chapter Building, Green Videos, Green Voter Registration, and Candidate Recruitment & Election Preparation. To outreach, we are improving our website, sending out regular e-bulletins, and gaining more presence on social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. We also now have a blog and a YouTube page, all accessible from our main website. Our meeting attendance is also growing and we are looking to partner with more organizations.

One of our specific projects is called Green Videos. We plan to release short educational videos exposing the city's inaction in addressing the problems facing Oakland and proposing solutions to fix them. Our first video, "3rd Eye Vision," is about why people should vote for Independent and Green candidates. Future videos will focus on Voter turnout in Oakland, Poverty, and Health Care.

Lastly, we are looking to recruit candidates for upcoming elections, organize successful campaigns, and register Green voters. To do all of this we need green supporters, organizers, and voters. Get involved by visiting our website (http:// www.cagreens.org/oakland) or by joining our list serve on Yahoo Groups at (http:// groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens). Come to our organizing meetings, every 4th Thursday of the month, at 7pm, at the Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park, Oakland 94610. Contact us by phone at 510-436-3722, or by email, oakland@ cagreens.com. Get involved with the Oakland Greens today!

-by Joe Truss for the Oakland Greens



Support Your Green Party

The Green Party cannot exist without your help. Unlike some political parties, we do not receive funding from giant, multinational polluting corporations. Instead we rely on donations from generous people just like you.

In order for the Green Party to be an effective alternative, we each need to contribute money and/ or volunteer time. Please send in the coupon to the left with your donation today! And give us a call if you can volunteer your time.

Please clip the form to the left and mail it today to help your Green Party grow.

Green Party of Alameda County 2022 Blake Street, Suite A, Berkeley (510) 644-2293 • http://acgreens.org	v, CA 94704-2604
Name:	
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email address:	
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Signature: Include your email address if you want If you'd like to volunteer your time, check here There's much to do, and everyone's skills can be State law requires that we report contribu	t updates on Green activities between elections. e □ and we'll contact you. be put to use.
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ALAMEDA COUNTY GREEN NEWS

"We Are Oscar Grant"

The residents of Oakland are "rubbed raw" with the injustice and tragedy of the Oscar Grant killing. Oakland is a unique community in terms of its diversity and extensive progressive history. There is much for Oakland residents to take pride in on top of the City's beauty and vibrancy. But almost every person living in this City has been faced with relatives and friends asking, "Why do you continue to live in such a dangerous place?" Often that question bursts from the mouths of people who know nothing about Oakland but what they hear from racially and class biased, if-it-bleedsit-leads, corporate media. These questioners are deaf-and-dumb to the history of struggle in Oakland and to the fact that – other than in parts of West Oakland or East Oakland - Oakland's crime statistics are better than those of most communities in the U.S.

Oscar Grant was not from West or East Oakland; he lived in Hayward. Oscar was a 22-year-old African-American father of a baby girl. Returning from a New Years Eve party in San Francisco, he was shot in the back as he lay face down on a BART platform on January 1. His killing was caught on multiple cell phone cameras and, like a computer virus, was spread around the country if not around the world. Any viewer of those videos could not help but conclude that this was a colossal injustice committed by BART police officer Johannes Mehserle. Yet, the 'powers that be,' the County District Attorney, the BART Board of Directors, and many of the affluent and knee-jerkmiddle-class-white-cultural-chauvinists are finding it very difficult to hold this officer accountable for what he did. Accountability is swift for poor and brown residents even when they are not at fault. That is the sharp, painful, cutting edge of injustice that has this community in turmoil, again.

There is no established, trusted-by-all process whereby this community could fairly work through the inequities in this situation. Representative democracy does not work when those who have the money control the public agenda and have inordinate influence over elected representatives' decisions. Our Green Party understands this very well. And, the criminal justice system has bent over backwards serving the prison-industrial-complex. The situation is worse than when Rodney King was videoed being pummeled by L.A. police who were later acquitted by a jury of Simi Valley residents - from the preferred neighborhood for Southern California cops. The more recent extensive outpouring of official community sympathy and mourning for four Oakland Police Department officers killed in the line of duty gave those, uncomfortable with the Oscar Grant killing by their hero police, the opportunity to full-throatily express their view of what is purely right and who is always wrong.

Outraged by the Oscar Grant incident, various collections of community people arose spontaneously to voice their pain and anguish. Most of these collections of people were multicultural. Many young warriors, the frequent target for injustices, were not able to control their rage. They have no expectation that the "system" will ever make the fundamental changes necessary to even approach justice for Oscar's killing or anything else that stifles their opportunity and puts them on a slippery slide to criminality. Being able to "voice" their pain is short term cathartic relief. Older community members, led by prominent religious figures, expressed their understanding of these outbursts even though they decried the property destruction and the shift of the media attention off the Oscar Grant incident to the burning cars in the streets. After some "schooling" of these young rebels, it was noticed that they interacted more positively with adults on the streets and with some of the downtown businesses that they had

Other young experienced community organizers are working hard to keep the community's focus where it needs to be—on justice. These young organizers have the really tough job. They are on the front lines of the justice movement. They know the history of West Oakland and East Oakland. They are working to build the movement to the place where some significant, fundamental social justice can be achieved. They still believe that it is possible; they have not given up hope. Young people need to be listened to and meetings and events need to be consciously shaped to allow them to be heard. We must learn to do those things which keep young people involved. Cross-organizational coalitions, alliances, and expressions of solidarity need to be continually renewed. Cultural, class, generational, racial, and language divides can be bridged. These young organizers are teaching and learning and growing with experience. This is the precious legacy generation of Oakland. The Green Party of Alameda County is proud of these young folks and what they have to give to all of

We are Oscar Grant, Bobby Seale, Elaine Brown, Bill Wahpepah, William Wong, and we are many more and we will not die.

KYOTO USA

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University have made a significant commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from their daily operations and realize that supporting reduced energy use and conversion to renewable energy sources in our public schools will help them to achieve their stated greenhouse gas reduction goals.

KyotoUSA is also working with our state elected officials to allocate existing energy settlement funds to put the cost of PV and energy efficiency improvements within reach of our schools. The amount of the settlement funds (\$69M) would make it possible to put PV systems on hundreds of California's public schools. The state's Attorney General—the agency that controls the fund—supports the proposal.

For more information, visit us online at www.heliosproject.net or www.kyotousa.org, or contact us at KyotoUSA, 800 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710; (510) 704-8628 (w) (510) 684-6484 (c); e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

- by Tom Kelly on behalf of KyotoUSA (Tom is a co-founder of KyotoUSA and Green Party member.)

State Budget

continued from page 1

their budget, and a few states that require a supermajority to raise any state taxes, California is the only state to require both. That must be changed.

(2) Amend Proposition 13. Adopt the split-roll property tax system, in which income-producing property is taxed at a higher rate than peoples' primary residences. Amending Prop 13 should also include automatic reassessments when businesses are sold.

(3) Return to the notion of progressive taxation. For too long, there has been a bipartisan agreement (Federal, State, and local) to move away from progressive taxation and substitute a trickle-down theory. It goes like this: If the rich get richer, perhaps a crumb can be gotten for the rest of us. Forget it. When Peter Camejo ran for Governor he made progressive taxation a centerpiece of his campaigns. We should follow his example. Progressive taxation does not just mean graduated tax rates on income. We need to tax wealth as well as income.

(4) Change the state laws that govern redevelopment districts. In Oakland, for example, taxes generated by the big office buildings downtown have to be spent within that redevelopment area. This is deliberate starvation of the cities' general funds.

Oakland Identification Card as Local Currency

More often than we might imagine moments of crisis are also moments of great opportunity. The City of Oakland and other cities in the County and the region may be at such a moment. Certainly the nation and the world are sliding into a deepening financial crisis, and the Bay Area will slide with the rest regardless of the Federal Stimulus Package and efforts to "goose" centralized banking into unfreezing their lending. The excessive U.S. consumerism and debt financing that has undergirded the world economy is not sustainable and will never return to the same degree. This is the best opportunity that has arisen in a long time to build at all levels—national, regional. and local—alternate economic structures and mechanisms that are sustainable and equitable. Community members in Oakland have presented such a proposal to the Oakland City Council, and Marin County, Richmond, San Pablo, and other communities are moving down the same path.

The Oakland City ID Card Coalition (OCICC) shaped the Oakland proposal. It grew out of efforts to integrate resident immigrants into local micro-economic systems, community service, and civil institutions in the communities where they live. New Haven, Connecticut, with the help of students from Yale University, was the first city in the U.S. to produce such a mechanism. The City and County of San Francisco followed suit this year. These mechanisms allow immigrants and other marginalized groups to open bank accounts, to receive resident verification for credit, to possess identification for neighborhood security situations, and to access other community services from which they were previously barred.

The OCICC learned from these prior efforts. The Green Party is proud to be a member of this Coalition, which has constructed a card that is of value to all the residents of Oakland, not just immigrants

or the marginalized. The proposed card addresses the root of one of Oakland's most intractable problems, a very low currency turnover rate, while buffering Oakland's economy against the coming economic crisis and assisting the development of a local sustainable micro-economy.

This LOW turnover rate or multiplier rate in Oakland means that dollars generated in Oakland flood very quickly into surrounding shopping malls and businesses, generating employment outside of Oakland rather than being spent and re-spent in Oakland. The back of the identification card will carry a magnetic strip-similar to a debit card—this strip will carry a local e-currency. It could also be described as a "merchant credit system." Unlike other local currencies - there have been about 90 communities in the U.S. that have had local currencies at one time or another—Oakland's currency will not exist as printed bills. It will be a virtual or electronic currency. We are proposing to call it Alternative Currency for Oakland Residents and Neighbors (ACORN). [We are hoping to have the support of the ACORN organization but this name has more to do with the oak tree than this organization.] The United States has a rich history of local currencies. For example, check the web site: http://www. schumachersociety.org/local currencies/ currency_groups.html.

Another aspect that sets the ACORN apart from other local currencies is the Coalition's proposal that City employees be partially compensated in ACORNs. Just a partial payment of 10 percent would be equivalent to \$28 million dollars. This would be a huge boost to Oakland's economy-producing more local jobs and allowing higher salaries in the local services economy. These e-dollars would circulate in the local economy many, many times. More of the income earned in Oakland would stay in Oakland. Local currencies tremendously

increase the "multiplier effect."

We hope other Green Party members might help.

—by Wilson Riles

(Wilson is a Green and former Oakland City Council member. For questions, comments, additional references, or to offer support please contact him at wriles@pacbell.net, 510-530-2448.)

Call your Council Member; tell them you want the ACORN local currency!

Council Members:

Jane Brunner 510-238-7001 jbrunner@Oaklandnet.com

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*Rebecca Kaplan 510-238-7008 kaplanforoakland@gmail.com

Larry Reid 510-238-7007 lreid@oaklandnet.com

*Ignacio de la Fuente 510-238-7005 idelafuente@oaklandnet.com

* Thank these supporters.

Green **Sundays**

Green Sunday forums are usually held on the second Sunday of every month. Join other Greens to discuss important and sometimes controversial topics, hear guest speakers, and participate in planning a Green

When: Second Sunday of the month, 5:00-6:30pm

Where: Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (between Alcatraz and 65th St.)

Wheelchair accessible.



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TENTION OAKLAND GREE

mportant information on Oakland Special Election on July 21

to hold a Special Election, just for about the ballot measures that will be voted on. For seems to be the election date. However, we have not **Oakland voters.** As we go to press, July 21 The Oakland City Council has decided this special election, we decided not to print another yet received complete information, especially details

paper Voter Guide just two months after this one.

http://cagreens.org/oakland **During late June, check our website:**

at (510)436-3722. of the Oakland Special Election! You can also call us for information and recommendations on the issues

website (or telephone us) during late June! Special Election in Oakland, make sure to view our Again, for important information on the July 2009

6 GREEN PARTY: Y@WRFUTUREY@WRPLANETY@WRPARTY

Green oter Card

Clip and bring with you to the polls (and photocopy for your friends?!).

State Propositions

The Rotten Budget Deal:

IA -- Budget process; 'Rainy Day' fund; Permanently starves the state budget --Z

IB -- Education funding deception, to help pass IA -- **No**

IC -- Lottery manipulation, to borrow \$5 billion against future lottery revenues-- No

ID -- Children's services funding manipulation -- **No**

I = -- Mental health services funding manipulation -- No

F -- Elected officials' salaries deception -- No

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Voter Card Back page



for the thinking voter