



Positions of Organizations on June 8, 2010 Primary Election Propositions
Compiled and Prepared by Lee Helena Lawrence, Chair, Ballot Measures Committee
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Action Network

Organization	Prop 13 Seismic Retrofitting	Prop 14 Top Two Primary	Prop 15 Fair Elections campaign finance	Prop 16 2/3rds vote on nonprofit utilities	Prop 17 Insurance premium deregulation
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Action Network		NO	YES	NO	NO
Friends Committee on Legislation	YES	Neutral	YES	NO	NO
California Church Impact	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
League of Women Voters			YES	NO	
ACLU of Northern California		NO	No Position		
California Federation of Labor	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
California League of Conservation Voters		NO	YES	NO	
Consumer Federation of California			YES	NO	NO
California Chamber of Commerce	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES

See back for UULM rationales for positions

UULM Ballot Measures Rationales for June 8, 2010 election

Proposition 13 Seismic Retrofit- No Position

This initiative would provide that property tax re-assessments could not be based on seismic retrofitting of existing buildings. It sets a statewide standard for the types of seismic retrofits which would be exempt. Passed unanimously by both houses of the legislature, there is no organized opposition. Not of direct relevance to UULM-AN policy issues or Unitarian Universalist principles.

Prop 14 Top Two Primary OPPOSE

All candidates would appear on a single primary ballot, not identified by party unless a candidate chose to list a party affiliation. Only the top two finishers would be listed on the November ballot, and no write in votes would be counted in the general election. This measure threatens to eliminate many small parties. All political parties oppose it. Proponents suggest this would lead to more moderate candidates, but this has not been the result in Louisiana and Washington state. It was placed on the ballot at the insistence of one legislator in return for his support for the 2009 state budget. It decreases voter choice and undermines freedom of association and our democratic process. This measure undermines our policy of Reclaiming Democracy.

Prop 15 Fair Elections SUPPORT

A pilot voluntary public financing of campaigns for California Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018. All voluntary candidates must collect \$5 donations and signatures from 7500 supporters to qualify for significant funding on condition they agree not to raise money from other resources. Provides funding increases if opposed by highly financed opposing candidates. Financed by raising lobbyist filing fee from \$12.50 to \$350 per year. Strict enforcement and accountability. Would free candidates from fundraising, dependence on special interest financing, enables candidates to focus on public interest, campaigning. Has been successful in Maine, Arizona, Connecticut, increased diversity of candidates. This measure is consistent with Reclaiming Democracy.

Proposition 16 2/3rd vote re non profits, municipal utilities OPPOSE

This PG&E funded constitutional amendment would require public municipal utilities to receive a two thirds super-majority vote to provide non profit competition to PG & E's monopoly. These public non profits, emphasizing provision of sustainable power like wind and solar already have sufficient provisions for voter approval without creating additional governmental gridlock. This measure is contrary to our policies for Climate Change and Reclaiming Democracy.

Proposition 17 car insurance deregulation OPPOSE

Funded by Mercury Insurance company which has a long history of attempting to overturn or evade the consumer protections provided for drivers by California law, this proposition would enable insurance companies to charge less to customers who renew on time, but also impose substantial fees and rate hikes on those who let their insurance lapse, often low-income people. This company has a national reputation for deceptive practices and unwarranted charges and fees. This is a self-serving misuse of the initiative process, violating our policy for Reclaiming Democracy, and our UU principles of justice, equity and compassion.