

REBUTTAL TO OPPOSITION ARGUMENT (249/250 words)

DON'T BE MISLED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS WHO WANT TO KEEP BUYING ELECTIONS

California is the ONLY state that bans public funding of campaigns. Communities in all 49 other states have the right to adopt public financing to allow qualified candidates to compete against wealthy donors. California doesn't.

Prop 4 simply removes that ban and gives local voters the same choice everyone else has, while instituting strict taxpayer safeguards.

PROP 4 GIVES POWER BACK TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND EMPOWERS VOTERS, NOT DONORS

Prop 4 doesn't spend a single taxpayer dollar or institute public financing anywhere. It simply removes the ban to give every city, county, and the state the right to adopt public funding if local voters want it.

The details are appropriately left to each community. But any system MUST require candidates to abide by spending limits and demonstrate broad-based support in their district to qualify.

PROP 4 MAKES ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE TO VOTERS, NOT DONORS

Corporate special interests oppose Prop 4 because public financing allows candidates to run and win without relying on them — threatening their grip on California elections.

Thousands of candidates from different backgrounds have been elected across the country using public financing, for a tiny cost. Because they don't rely on wealthy donors, they can speak their minds and work for the people, not special interests.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY CORPORATE SPECIAL INTERESTS HIDING BEHIND NICE-SOUNDING NAMES.

VOTE YES ON 4 to let local voters and communities reclaim their elections so they're won, not bought.

Carmen Balber, Executive Director
Consumer Watchdog

Camerina PS Davidson, President
California National Organization for Women

Darius Kemp, Executive Director
California Common Cause

DRAFT REBUTTAL 2 TO OPPOSITION ARGUMENT (249/250 words)

DON'T BE MISLED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS WHO WANT TO KEEP BUYING ELECTIONS

Decades ago, special interests pushed through a ban preventing California communities from adopting public funding of campaigns that allow qualified candidates to compete against wealthy donors.

How's that working out?

California faces serious problems, but politicians spend far too much time fundraising and not enough time on their actual jobs. We have to get them out of the fundraising game and back to serving the people.

PROP 4 MAKES ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE TO VOTERS, NOT DONORS

Thousands of candidates from different backgrounds have been elected across the country using public financing, for a tiny cost compared to the benefits. Because they don't rely on wealthy donors, they can speak their minds and work for the people, not special interests.

PROP 4 GIVES POWER BACK TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND EMPOWERS VOTERS, NOT DONORS

Prop 4 doesn't spend a single taxpayer dollar or institute public financing anywhere. It simply removes the ban to give every city, county, and the state the right to adopt public funding if local voters want it — the same right that communities have in all 49 other states.

The details are appropriately left to each community. But any system **MUST** require candidates to abide by spending limits and to demonstrate broad-based support in their district to qualify.

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Original DRAFT REBUTTAL TO OPPOSITION ARGUMENT (248/250 words)

DON'T BE MISLED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS WHO PUT THE BAN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

In 1988, politicians and special interests pushed through a ban preventing California communities from adopting public funding of campaigns that allow qualified candidates to compete against wealthy donors.

California is the only state with this ban. Now those same interests want to keep it to stop badly needed changes in how we finance election campaigns.

PROP 4 GIVES POWER BACK TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND EMPOWERS VOTERS, NOT DONORS

Prop 4 doesn't spend a single taxpayer dollar. It simply gives every city, county, and the state the right that special interests took away — the right to adopt public funding if local voters want it, as long as they abide by the taxpayer safeguards Prop 4 puts into place.

THEIR "NO LIMITS" CLAIM IS FLATLY FALSE.

In California cities that already have public funding, an average of 3 candidates per race qualify because their laws require candidates to demonstrate broad-based community support through small donations from constituents — exactly the kind of strict criteria that Prop 4 requires (the opponents left that part out). That's not a blank check. That's democracy working as it should.

Prop 4 also requires publicly funded candidates to abide by expenditure limits — so they can compete without being beholden to wealthy donors.

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DRAFT 50 WORD PRO ARGUMENT FOR VOTER GUIDE (52/50 words)

YES ON 4. California is the ONLY state that bans public funding of campaigns — communities in all 49 other states have this right. Special interests want to keep the ban to protect their power. Prop 4 removes it. Strict taxpayer safeguards. Vote YES: Elections should be won, not bought.

CAFairElections.org

YES ON 4. California is the ONLY state that bans public funding of campaigns — communities in all 49 other states have this right. Corporate special interests put the ban there to protect their power. Prop 4 removes it. Strict taxpayer safeguards. Vote YES — elections should be won, not bought. CAFairElections.org

YES ON 4. The League of Women Voters of California says: 'Special interests banned public funding of campaigns in 1988 to protect their power. Prop 4 gives every community the right to take it back.' California is the ONLY state with this ban. Vote YES — elections should be won, not bought. CAFairElections.org

Thousands of candidates have been elected across the country using public financing, for a tiny cost compared to the benefits. Because they don't rely on wealthy donors, they can speak their minds and work for the people, not special interests.