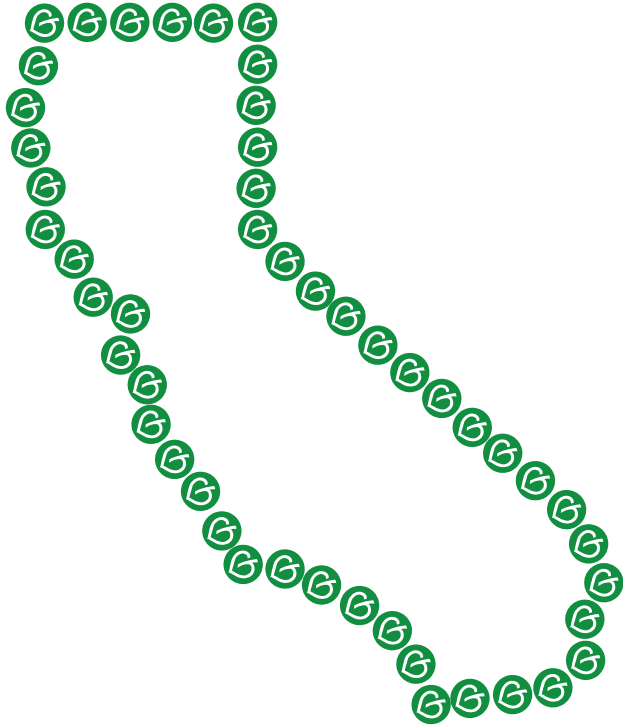


Join the Effort to Defeat Proposition 14

- **Talk, blog and email your friends, family, co-workers**
- **Ask organizations in which you participate to hold discussions on this issue**
- **Write letters to the editor**



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GREEN PARTY

NO Prop 14

**Limits Voter Choice
Protects Incumbents
Proven Ineffective**



Proposition 14 – called the "Top-Two Primary" – would limit voters' choice at a time when dissatisfaction with incumbent politicians and the two-party system is at an all-time high.

Proponents' claims of attaining a less partisan and more moderate legislature have been proven wrong.

Prop 14 would effectively abolish independent parties from the general elections held in November.

What is the Problem?

If Prop 14 is adopted, all candidates for partisan office would be required to run in a single, combined "open primary" rather than each party having its own primary election. Voters may vote for any party's candidate, but only the two highest voted candidates would proceed to the general election. No longer would each party be represented in the general election. In fact, the two candidates in the general election could be from the same party!

Proponents claim this will elect more moderate candidates, creating a less polarized legislature. But the Public Policy Institute of California studied previous implementations of similar systems and found little change in partisan discord. What those systems did accomplish was keeping more incumbents in office and virtually abolishing minor parties and write-in candidates from the general election. This will threaten the ballot status of minor parties!

An open primary with a winner-take-all voting system means each voter gets one vote to cast from a long list of partisan and independent candidates. Candidates will be desperate for your vote, leading to more spending and negative attacks!

This system limits voter choice, abolishes independents, increases costs and negative campaigns while having a negligible affect on partisan gridlock.



DEMOCRACY

What are the Facts?

Proposition 14 will not result in a less partisan and more moderate legislature, as its proponents claim. This kind of system has been tried in Louisiana and is currently being used in Washington State. In both cases, the same patterns of Democrats and Republicans are elected. The Washington legislature is still as partisan as it was before its style of "top-two" was approved. And in Louisiana, "Only one incumbent member of Congress was ever defeated for reelection," according to Ballot Access News.

Proposition 14 will make the general elections less democratic because voters will have fewer choices on election day. Not only will minor party candidates be eliminated — lessening the choices for independent (decline to state) voters — it is possible that the top two candidates will be from the same political party in many legislative races.

Proposition 14 will likely increase spending on Primary Election campaigns, and it will increase fund raising from large private donors and corporations. This will continue the ongoing escalation of candidate spending. Prop 14 would end Prop 15's public financing experiment because a "top two" system would prevent other candidates from receiving the large portion of the public financing provided after the Primaries.

Proposition 14 sponsors include insurance companies, large land developers, and mega-corporations like Hewlett-Packard. Opposed to Prop 14 are groups such as the ACLU, Californians for Electoral Reform, Free and Equal Elections Foundation, Green Party, Libertarian Party, and Peace and Freedom Party.

What is the Solution?

- Defeat Prop 14. Because we, and other independent parties, constitute just a minority of the total voters, we must reach out beyond our GPCA membership to defeat this measure. Email or print this brochure and give it to all your contacts and networks.
- Set up a voter registration table in a public location with a lot of foot traffic. Register voters and hand out this brochure.
- Promote IRV (Instant Runoff Voting). IRV is a voting method that accomplishes in one election what now requires two. Using a "ranked choice" ballot, voters rank all candidates in order of preference. If your first-choice candidate is eliminated, your vote transfers to your second choice and the votes are then recounted. This process repeats until a majority winner emerges.

Because your vote transfers in an IRV system, you don't have to vote for the "lesser of two evils" or worry about the "spoiler effect" of independent party candidates. You can vote your ideals for your first choice and vote more pragmatically for your second choice. This makes elections more competitive and encourages voter turnout, while electing the most popular candidate.

IRV would accomplish the moderating effects desired by Prop 14 proponents.

But it would do so by increasing voter choice, not limiting it.

