

SAVE CALIFORNIA THROUGH CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

California's Government Is A Failure.

- Sacramento Can't Balance The Budget: The LAO forecast shows operating deficit of about \$100 Billion projected over the next five years.¹
- California Taxes the Rich AND Taxes the Poor: Highest Income Taxes; Highest Sales Taxes²
- Unemployment is above 11%
- Public Education Support Lags: Ranked 44th among the 50 states in K-12 spending³
- Unfunded pension liabilities for state workers alone are more than \$240 billion⁴
- Interest on Bond Debt Is The Highest In History

Special interests made this happen. Big corporations and big unions control your representatives with their big money, money ordinary voters can't hope to match. The nonpartisan website Maplight.org reports that California State Legislators received 79% of their political funding from outside their districts in 2010.

Corporations and unions alike blanket the legislature with campaign contributions, ensuring they find only open doors and open ears. Too often a law is passed not for the good of California, but because it will benefit one well-heeled campaign contributor or another. In fact, 40% of legislation introduced in Sacramento is actually written by *lobbyists* and not by elected officials or their staffs, and that legislation is more likely to be enacted.

STOP SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY NOW

Stop Special Interest Money Now (SSIM) will appear as an initiative on the November, 2012 general election ballot. It will fundamentally change Sacramento by quieting the noise made by big money corporations and big money unions so that voters can be heard once again by their elected representatives. It will:

- 1) ban both corporate and labor union contributions to state and local candidates.
- 2) prohibit government contractors from contributing to state and local officials who can award them contracts.
- 3) bar corporations, government employers, and labor unions from collecting funds from employees by payroll deduction and using that money for politics.
- 4) preserve every employee's right to contribute to campaigns by means other than payroll deduction (for example, by check or by monthly debit from an account or credit card), but it ensures that those contributions are voluntarily authorized by the employee in writing annually.

www.StopSpecialInterests.org



POLLING AND RESEARCH

Overwhelming Support for Cutting off Special Interest Money!

“Corporations and unions are spending millions of dollars to get their way in Sacramento; we need to cut off campaign contributions so politicians will pay attention to the voters instead of catering to special interests.”

Agree 81% (Strongly Agree 65%), Disagree 17%

Polling performed by Jan R. van Lohuizen.

CONSTITUTIONALITY

While there are likely to be challenges to the initiative if it passes, and no outcome can be guaranteed, the initiative was carefully crafted by the campaign committee and their counsel, Tom Hiltachk to withstand legal attack.

Among other issues, the initiative was drafted to comply with First Amendment limitations announced by the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, 130 S. Ct. 876 (2010). There the Supreme Court struck down federal election law restrictions on independent expenditures—direct advertising by a corporation or union to promote a point of view such as support for a candidate—but it did not change existing law, which allows restrictions on direct contributions to candidates.

THE CAMPAIGN

To date, the campaign has raised \$1.5 million to qualify the initiative for the ballot. We are now raising money in earnest to build our campaign infrastructure as we move into the next phase of the campaign. During this second phase, we plan to continue to build and activate our coalition of outstanding and extremely capable volunteers, develop and build a social media campaign, take advantage of earned media opportunities, and gather support in communities across California.

SSIM Campaign Contacts:

Campaign Manager – Reed Galen, reedgalen@gmail.com
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Finance Director – Ed Ring, ed@stopspecialinterests.org

¹ Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), *The 2011-12 Budget: California's Fiscal Outlook*, November 2010

² California ranks 3rd with a rate of 10.3% behind Oregon and Hawaii with an 11.0% rate – Forbes, *10 Highest State Income Tax Rates for 2011*. California has the highest state sales tax – Tax Foundation, *Fiscal Facts*, Scott Drenkard, September 22, 2011

³ California Budget Project, *School Finance Facts*, June 2010

⁴ Little Hoover Commission, *Public Pensions for Retirement Security*, February 2010