

VOTE! Tuesday, May 19th

BACK  
TO THE  
POLLS

California has a ***budget crisis***  
and the government wants  
you to ***fix it.***

A Comprehensive, No-Bull Voter Guide for LA



# Another Election?!

Yup. We're at it again with an LA Municipal / CA Special Election on Tuesday, May 19th. But no worries, Young Progressive Majority (YPM) has got your back with this no-bull, comprehensive voter guide with all the info you need to make your voice heard here at home.

Remember how you got out the vote on November 4? And then how we elected our city officials on March 3rd? We know the stakes don't seem as high this time around, but - check it - we've got a host of problems: a bankrupt state, TARP money from the Feds coming our way, and a handful of local offices that still need to be filled. Let's show our local leadership that we are still fired up, active, and voting.

A few details about this guide: YPM is non-partisan, we don't endorse candidates or political parties, but we will let you know how we feel about the ballot measures. The info in this guide was compiled from public sources (listed after each entry), and, when they responded, interviews with candidates. We look at where candidates stand on Progressive issues like Civil Rights, Economic Responsibility, Environmental Sanity, Education, etc. Candidates who do not heart our values or did not present much (or any) info on these issues will tend to have shorter profiles, but do know that we spend the same amount of effort to get the low down on each and every candidate.

We hope you dig the guide, pass it to your lists, keep voting, and we'll check you on the other side. And, as always, if you have any questions, feedback, desire to help, or cash you want to throw at us to help us get these guides out there, drop us a note at [info@goYPM.org](mailto:info@goYPM.org). Enjoy!

## The Young Progressive Majority Executive Board

P.S. The research for this guide was compiled by volunteer members of YPM. Due to research fatigue, lame candidate websites, and Murphy's Law, you may spot a mistake or two. Please love us anyway.



# { USING THIS GUIDE }

A lot of people get overwhelmed by this whole voting process. The folks in charge like it that way, but we say “enough already”. Take a few minutes to follow these three simple steps towards voting as an informed citizen.

## Step 1

### PREP

#### VISIT LAVOTE.NET/VOTER TO:

- Register to Vote
- Vote by Mail
- Locate your Polling Place
- Find your districts
- View a sample ballot

## Step 2

### READ

#### READ THE GUIDE

Now that you know your districts, read up on the ballot measures and the candidates looking to represent your district. Check out the Table of Contents on the next page and simply click on your district to jump to those candidates.

## Step 3

### VOTE

#### WE'LL SAY IT AGAIN...VOTE!!!

On Tuesday May 19th, get your butt to the polls and tell the powers-that-be what you think.

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## Know Your Parties

California's Secretary of State recognizes 6 political parties for this election cycle. In this guide, you'll see them abbreviated after a candidate's name as:

**(AI) American Independent\***

[www.aipnc.com](http://www.aipnc.com)

**(D) Democratic**

[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

**(G) Green**

[www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org)

**(L) Libertarian**

[www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org)

**(PF) Peace & Freedom**

[www.peaceandfreedom.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom.org)

**(R) Republican**

[www.gop.org](http://www.gop.org)

\*Different than being “Independent”

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### Los Angeles (Run-Off Races)

City Attorney



City Council Districts:      5

Community College Districts:      2      6

## YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU...

Print out this page and take it with you to the polls on Tuesday, May 19th. After you check out the guide, mark up this sheet so you'll know how to vote. Happy Voting!

### California

State Senator: \_\_\_\_\_

Prop 1A: YES NO

Prop 1B: YES NO

Prop 1C: YES NO

Prop 1D: YES NO

Prop 1E: YES NO

Prop 1F: YES NO

### Los Angeles

City Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

City Council: \_\_\_\_\_

LACC Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_

## Curren D. Price, Jr. (D)

### **PLATFORM**

Curren is all about Jobs and Economic Development, Health Care Reform, and Environmental and Water Quality Protection.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Curren D. Price Jr. grew up here in LA and Inglewood and had the early milestone of being the first African American elected student body president at Morningside High School. He went on to get his BA in political science at Stanford and his JD from the University of Santa Clara School of Law. He was a member of the Inglewood City Council and has served as the Economic Development Deputy of LA City Council. He has been a member of the state assembly for two terms.

### **HOW DOES HE FARE WITH YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** Curren was a leader in the opposition of Prop 8.

**Economic Responsibility/Justice:** Curren wants to get rid of the two-thirds majority that is currently needed to raise taxes – a requirement he believes has allowed minority republicans to stymie attempts at tax reform. Curren has suggested tax raises for those who make over \$1 million a year. To be taken with a grain of salt: his rivals accuse him of having accepted too many donations from the Casino and Horse Racing industries. On another note Curren has been a big supporter of unions and authored bill AB124 guaranteeing 30 minutes rest for every 5 hours worked (it was vetoed by the Governor.)

**Right to Affordable, Quality Healthcare:** But taxes can't be the only solution. Curren also supports the development of a universal healthcare system without the raising of taxes. In the past, Curren led efforts to guarantee low nurse to patient ratios and strict oversight to ensure hospitals conform with the law. He opposed the closing of King-Drew Medical Center.

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** Curren is big on Higher Ed-on improving its funding, on increasing instructor pay, and on keeping tuition hikes at bay at state and college universities. Further, he believes job training is key to reducing risk. He authored legislation (AB2125) to expand funding through law enforcement for job training for at-risk youth programs.

### **SOURCES**

<http://www.currenpricejr.com>  
<http://www.latimes.com>  
[democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a51/](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a51/)  
<http://www.smartvoter.org>  
[www.reelectcurrenprice.com/](http://www.reelectcurrenprice.com/)

## Cindy Varela Henderson (PF)

### **PLATFORM**

- \* Positive plan of action to address California's budget crisis.
- \* Roll back college costs and restore quality of education.
- \* Single Payer Healthcare system.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

A Communications Technician and a resident of Culver City with over 30 years residence in greater LA, Cindy Varela Henderson is a member of the Peace and Freedom Party.

### **HOW DOES SHE FARE WITH YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** Cindy wants to put a moratorium on evictions for tenants of rental properties that have gone into foreclosure.

**Economic Responsibility/Justice:** Cindy believes that bond measures need to be abolished, since they shift money into investors' hands at the cost of the state down the road. She believes the tax system needs to be restructured to raise more money. To that end, she proposes an Oil Severance tax like those currently used to tax oil production in many other states. She also wants to restore taxes on the richest 5% of Californians, as well as households with joint incomes above \$300,000 at 10% and households of greater than \$600,000 at 11%, in the hopes of raising an additional \$5 billion on an ongoing basis.

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** Cindy believes Proposition 13's changes in property laws creates loopholes, allowing many businesses to be taxed at 1979 rates, starving the schools of revenues. She'd like to close loopholes created by proposition 13 and restore funding.

#### **Right to Affordable, Quality Healthcare:**

Wants to remove the profit motive in Healthcare by creating a single payer system. She believes this would empower caregivers to give best care and would produce savings needed to cover everyone.

### **SOURCES**

[www.smartvoter.org/2009/03/24/ca/la/vote/henderson\\_c/](http://www.smartvoter.org/2009/03/24/ca/la/vote/henderson_c/)

[www.votecindy4senate.com/](http://www.votecindy4senate.com/)

<http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/cindy-varela-henderson-peace-and-freedom-party-candidate-running-in-california-special-election/>

## Nachum Shifren (R)

### **PLATFORM**

- \* Bringing business back to California through lower taxes
- \* Securing our border, deporting illegal alien gangs
- \* Bringing back excellence to California in Education and Industry

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Born in Southern California, Rabbi Nachum Shifren attended Reseda High School in 1969, and got his BA in German Language and Literature at UCSB in 1985. He spent ten years as an LA County lifeguard. In 1991 he started teaching Spanish. He wrote a book called "Kill Your Teacher" documenting the turbulent times he spent teaching at Dorsey High School.

### **HOW DOES HE FARE WITH YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** Rabbi Shifren wants to decrease the cost of holding people in jail by charging friends and family of inmates for any services. He also wants to aggressively prevent any illegal immigrants from receiving any social services. He wrote an article, entitled "We are All Mormons," in support of the Mormon Church after the passing of Prop 8.

**Economic Responsibility/Justice:** Rabbi Shifren believes that by reforming prisons, schools, and immigration law, he can reduce taxes in California, thus stimulating the economy.

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** He believes that we should make all levels of educators "accountable" – including the students: he believes the state should require a student to graduate with a 2.0 grade point average in order to be eligible for a Driver's License, or a loan or mortgage, or receive welfare. He believes that less money should be spent by the state on educational materials, and that parents should foot the bill of those materials.

### **FUN FACTS**

Calls himself the "surfing rabbi" and teaches teenagers and adults how to surf!

### **SOURCES**

- [www.rabbiforsenate.com](http://www.rabbiforsenate.com)
- <http://beetlebabe.wordpress.com/2008/12/13/we-are-all-mormons/>
- [www.surfingrabbi.com](http://www.surfingrabbi.com)

## Isn't This Why We Have a Legislature?!

A Short History of Propositions

One of the primary criticisms levied against the initiative system in the United States, and in California in particular, is that the amount of money involved in launching a successful proposition favors big business over the common citizen. In the introduction to his *The Indirect Effect of Direct Legislation* (2005), Frederick J. Boehmke writes, “the growing importance of money in initiative campaigns restricts use of the initiative process to an elite set of interest groups. The ironic part of this criticism is that the Populist and Progressive reformers who fought for its adoption almost a hundred years ago intended it as a recourse against wealthy economic interest that had seized control of state legislatures.”

California adopted the initiative system in 1911 (advanced by governor of California Hiram Johnson, who was at first a Republican and then Progressive Party member). California was among twenty other states that did so in the period between 1898 and 1918. This was in the wake of massive populist anti-trust and anti-monopoly sentiment in the U.S., which was fueled by voices such as William Jennings Bryant and then eventually members of the Progressive Party. These figures were committed to re-empowering the people in an effort to counter the rampant corruption in a Washington owned by industrial titans.

Since then the very system that was embraced initially as a way to ameliorate the influence of corporations on government has—as Thomas Goebel puts it in his *A Government by the People: Direct Democracy in America, 1890-1940* (2002)—“created a set of tools highly adaptable to corporate interests and political strategies.” Boehmke argues that, though this may be the case, the very presence of an initiative system actually creates a more politically active citizenry, and he has the stats to prove it.

In *Democratic Delusions: The Initiative Process in America* (2002), Richard J. Ellis doesn't feel quite as giddy, writing that the initiative system is a flawed but ultimately beneficial plan. He states quite clearly that “the initiative process is a particularly poor lawmaking instrument” and ends his introduction with “I will have succeeded if I can persuade my fellow citizens to be at least as skeptical of the initiative process as they currently are of legislatures.” At the core of both scholars' works is the notion that across the board, people distrust their leaders to make the right decisions. So... why do we elect them?

In his far more historically rooted analysis, Goebel argues that the age we live in is similar in many ways to the turn of the 20th century: distrust in government, international destabilization, fluctuation in the value of the currency. If this is indeed the case, and we can see now a hundred years of money corrupting well-meaning systems, then perhaps, rather than work against the representative model of government, we should choose to elect stronger leaders and hold them to a higher standard. It would seem that last November, we started to do just that.

## Proposition 1A

Budget Stabilization Act

### **SUMMARY**

If ever there was a sextet of California propositions that embodied the argument against having the average citizen decide highly complex issues, then Props 1A-1F is it. All six props have to do with plugging the gaping holes in the budget by reaching into revenue pots that have, for the most part, been strong and stable for years; basically paying for our messes with our successes. The first of these, 1A, reflects what compromise apparently means between Democrats and Republicans in California: the Dems get their tax increases, but the Reps get their spending cap. Or so it seems. Temporary tax increases all over the revenue spectrum will be held in place for up to four years, for an estimated revenue catch of about \$16 billion. But at the heart of the BSA is the BSF, the Budget Stabilization Fund—coyly referred to as a “rainy day” fund—a highly optimistic attempt on the part of lawmakers to sock money away for some kind of looming catastrophe (not that we aren’t already loomed by a catastrophe) in the hopes of appearing fiscally responsible to an increasingly dubious electorate.

### **PRO ARGUMENT**

It will fix the budget... say primarily lawmakers, the authors of this byzantine blueprint to state solvency. 1A is an action made in Congress with—as mentioned above—five other propositions. Collectively they are designed to help close a \$42 billion budget gap that is \$8 billion short because of—perhaps understandably—inaccurate state revenue projections. (Kind of like a team of six super-heroes who, when their power rings collide, form a leviathan for good against the vile Bankruptzia.) Proponents of 1A characterize this proposition as short-term solutions with built-in long-term guarantees.

### **CON ARGUMENT**

The math involved in how the money goes into the fund is hardly straight forward, and between these marvelous “extra” revenues and the quaint “rainy day” fund is a host of legacy propositions, such as 98 and 57, that must be satisfied first. And, as if to underline the proposition with a giant, CalTrans bright-orange inefficacy pen, it sets standard spending on a “historic trend,” which basically means that it assumes a stable economic picture as far as inflation and other market fluctuations are concerned, which could impede the efforts of a future California legislature from making necessary, emergency decisions when things go, shall we say, not as expected.

### **YPM SAYS**

Well, is there such a thing as a good choice when desperation runs the game? This proposition is all about splitting your loyalties. It’s like being parched in the desert, on the brink of death and someone saying you can have his water, but there’s poison in it. NO is probably best because 1A is so pocked with loopholes and exceptions, it probably won’t be effective anyway.

## Proposition 1B

### **SUMMARY**

Prop 1B addresses the recent cuts in spending, on education. The cuts happened during the current fiscal crisis. The money that was previously guaranteed to the schools under Proposition 98 of 1998 guaranteed certain levels of funding. Prop 1B seeks to mandate that this funding is restored in supplemental payment of 9.3 billion in 2011 and 2012. For 1B to go into effect the tax increases of Proposition of 1A also has to win.

### **PRO ARGUMENT**

During the fiscal crisis billions of dollars were cut from educational funds. Voters in 1998 (with Prop 98) mandated that certain levels of funding from the budget go to the general education fund. These funds have been regularly borrowed to cover other expenses. In order to increase California's competitiveness in the future we need to restore funding to these institutions. According to March 2009 projections this money will be present when the time for the payments comes. However, these numbers are in dispute and the current returns are well below what it projected.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Authored by Karen Bass – D, California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association school employees union, Budget Reform Now - PAC

### **CON ARGUMENT**

The mandating of certain funds through propositions reduces flexibility in the budget. According to the Los Angeles Times "It could ratchet up the autopilot spending that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says he's trying to stop." The Peace and Freedom party believes that the money has been moved out in the past and there is no guarantee that the money would be moved into the general fund again. Also there is a concern that there is already enough latitude to add money to the education system in current laws and there is no need to mandate this spending with further legislation.

### **OPPONENTS**

California Nurses Association American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

## Proposition 1C

Lottery Modernization Act

### **SUMMARY**

Here in 1C, Sacramento is asking voters' permission to increase lottery jackpots so as to sell more tickets (as if the reason we weren't getting into the game was because the possible pay out just wasn't big enough... "\$32 Million? I don't know-come back when it's \$35 million.) They think there is profit being left on the table, profit that could help close the budget gap. Now, if it works, fine, skim the top, pay off the budget shortfall, the rest is going to go to education like it always has. Alas, wait, Prop 1C also asks voters to allow California to use lottery proceeds for things other than education. However, the biggest issue at stake here is that California doesn't just want the current cash the lottery rakes in. It wants to borrow \$5 billion against future lottery earnings, which, as the economy has shown us recently, could be quite difficult to predict... and then there's the interest on the loans. California's credit rating is one of the lowest in the country.

### **PRO ARGUMENT**

Desperate times call for desperate measures and the lottery is a substantial trove of cash. Prop 1C could cover 12% of the budget gap (if the budget gap doesn't grow because of faulty revenue projections). Here's a way to make up some funds without raising taxes. Whatever Prop 1C takes away from schools in lottery proceeds it requires the government to replace, guaranteeing that education will be sustained at current funding levels. Also, lottery proceeds represent less than 2% of education's overall budget. Proposition 98, passed in the late 90s, provides more money to education.

### **CON ARGUMENT**

Where is the government going to come up with the funds to make up for what it will take from schools? How does it know that the lottery can stand to be larger? How are they going to pay the interest on the loan?

### **YPM SAYS**

YES? Well, do you think it will work? The lottery system is in place and is working, getting money to schools. It is a relatively simple arrangement that California would like to make more complex. And though we are far from detractors of complex financing (we know it's a necessity in modern government) the risk might far outweigh the benefit here. Basically, they are dissolving the walls that kept lawmakers out of sacrosanct pots of money. And we can all understand that they really need it and taking restrictions off of the lottery to make it more profitably could benefit everyone. And in a shaky economy, more people might want to gamble for a chance at salvation.

## Proposition 1D

### **SUMMARY**

There is a fairly successful institution called the First Five trust. It was voted into being in 1998 by Proposition 10 and funded by a 50 cent a pack tax on cigarettes. The program enhances the budgets of other programs that involve children's development in the first five years of life (primarily concerning education and health). This program has unspent funds in its budget and Proposition 1D wants to use those fund to help plug the whole in California's budget. Now, perhaps it is not as insidious as it sounds. What Sacramento wants to do here is use this money to pay for children's advocacy programs for which the General Fund is responsible (so ostensibly keeping within the mandate of Prop. 10) and then redirect extra funds to what can only now be characterized as the "budget crisis." But like Prop. 1C, 1D frees up money that is legally bound by specific restrictions so that it can be spread over a wider area.

### **PRO ARGUMENT**

The very programs that the First Five program enhances could be cut if the state can't cover the budget. These funds will go directly to where they were intended, young children's health and education. Currently, there is \$2.5 billion in unspent funds in the First Five trust. Prop 1D would temporarily redirect these funds to target the core of the problem, thereby allowing them to continue to exist so that First Five can aid these programs in the future. Prop 1D doesn't impose any more taxes on us, it simply diverts unused First Five money to where it's needed. And Prop 1D includes a provision that states that each county will have an auditor to oversee how the funds of Prop 1D will be spent, ensuring that the funds will be spent correctly.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Budget Reform Now (BRN) - a coalition led by Arnold Schwarzenegger

### **CON ARGUMENT**

Prop 1D will redirect more than 60% of First Five revenues, mainly unused, to the State General Fund to be apportioned by the State Legislature. But the reason that the money is unused is because it is meant to be distributed as grants. It's not just extra cash lying around. And the reason that First Five has surplus funds for grants in the first place is that it is a well-run machine (and we're going to take money from the hands of people who can obviously manage it well and put it into the hands of people who have clearly demonstrated that they cannot?). And it took decades to develop and then pass a sophisticated organization that could analyze the effectiveness of early childhood development programs. Now Prop. 1D won't outright dismantle First Five, but it undermines not only the heart of Prop. 10, but also the work of a government entity that actually has—and has helped along—long-term goals. Kindergarten enrollment is up. The amount of women seeking and given access to prenatal care is up. The number of children now afforded the luxuries of preventative medicine is up. First Five is working and shouldn't be penalized because the rest of California can't figure out what to do.

### **OPPONENTS**

League of Women Voters, Health Access California, Prevent Child Abuse California, California Nurses Association, National Association of Social Workers, California Family Resources Association, Junior League of San Jose, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

### **YPM SAYS**

NO. You might waffle on Prop 1A. You might drink the cool aid (as I probably have) of Prop 1C. But Prop 1D is just not a good idea. Let the rest of California rise to the standards of First Five rather than pull First Five down to the level of Sacramento bureaucrats.

## **Proposition 1E**

Mental Health Funding. Temporary Reallocation. Helps Balance State Budget.

### **SUMMARY**

Counties spend about \$5 billion annually in local, state and federal funds on mental health services for people who lack private coverage for mental health care. The Mental Health Services Act, or Proposition 63 of 2004, imposed a tax of 1% on incomes above \$1 million and has been dedicating the revenue to new or expanded mental health programs. Annual revenues have ranged from about \$900 million to \$1.5 billion. Voting no on Prop 1E continues the current voter-approved funding of mental health services while voting yes on this proposition redirects a portion of this cash to an existing state program thru the General Fund.

Interesting fact: A lawsuit was filed but dropped after the plaintiffs and the Secretary of State's office agreed on changing the ballot title from Ensures Funding For Children's Mental Health Services. Helps Balance State Budget. to Mental Health Funding. Temporary Reallocation. Helps Balance State Budget. The ballot label was also edited.

### **PRO ARGUMENT**

Prop 1E takes the saved money raised by Prop 63 and redirects it thru the General Fund for a program it is federally mandated to partially financially support. Prop 1E will redirect a total of \$460 million (over two years) to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program (EPSDT). The federal government provides about one-half of the more than \$1 billion in total annual expenditures for EPSDT but federal law requires the state to supply the rest of the funds. Prop 1E is asking voters to allow Proposition 63 funds to be used to offset state costs.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Budget Reform Now

### **CON ARGUMENT**

One argument against Prop 1E is that the government is coming after initiatives that have created their own revenue streams. It feels messed up that Prop 1E seeks to take money away from initiatives that got their own funding and are successful because they are fiscally responsible. The State government is in debt because it could not do that for themselves and one of the ideas they have is to take money away from those who have been smart... There is also reasonable concern that approval of this proposition would open the gates for lawmakers to go after money in this way even more in the future.

### **OPPONENTS**

Opponents: League of Women Voters, California Psychiatric Association, California Psychological Association, California Nurses Association, American Federation of State Country and Municipal Employees

### **YPM SAYS**

YPM says this does not sound like fair play.

## Proposition 1F

Prevents pay increases for elected officials during budget deficit years.

### **SUMMARY**

Pretty simple, really: Prop 1F will prohibit salary increases for the members of the California State Legislature, if a negative balance (amounting to more than 1% of the amount of the General Fund) is reported in what's called the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties – the state's reserve fund used to meet unforeseen needs of the General Fund.

### **PRO ARGUMENT**

It's not just about the money here. In fact, the fiscal impact will be minor: the several millions of dollars kept from the pockets of the members of the Legislature represent a drop in the bucket of the \$42 billion budget gap. More than anything, this measure is about bringing accountability to the system. Why should these elected officials – tasked with balancing the budget – get raises when the budget isn't balanced? They shouldn't, and with Prop 1F, they won't.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Budget Reform Now; Abel Maldonado (Republican State Senator) and Lewis K. Uhler (president) of the National Tax Limitation Committee; Joel Fox (President) of the Small Business Action Committee; and James N. Earp (President) of the California Alliance for Jobs

### **CON ARGUMENT**

The budget problem is about political ideological stalemates, not about the salaries of the members of the Legislature; their \$116,208 salary is (according to some) a "solidly middle-class compensation" as compared with average salaries in most regions of California. Putting a cap on their salary won't solve the problem because politicians are motivated by their inherent political beliefs not their middle-class paychecks. "The problem is the polarized political officials themselves and the ideological gridlock they have created.... withholding their raises will not loosen their commitment to their ideologies." A stalemate is a stalemate no matter the salary.

### **OPPONENTS**

Pete Stahl of Pete Rates the Propositions

### **YPM SAYS:**

YES. Ain't gonna solve the money problem, but it's a good start to an effort to bring accountability to the system.

## **PROPOSITION RESEARCH SOURCES**

### **PROP 1A SOURCES**

[http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California\\_Proposition\\_1A\\_\(May\\_2009\)](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California_Proposition_1A_(May_2009))  
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### **PROP 1B SOURCES**

[www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com) [www.budgetreformnow.com](http://www.budgetreformnow.com) [www.ballotpedia.com](http://www.ballotpedia.com) [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-uDqZ6WOrU>

### **PROP 1C SOURCES**

<http://www.smartvoter.org/2009/05/19/ca/state/prop/1C/>  
[http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_11995396](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11995396)

### **PROP 1D SOURCES**

<http://www.cabudgetreformnow.com/>  
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{<http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/pdf-guide/props/prop1d-analysis.pdf>  
<http://www.noonproposition1d.com/>  
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### **PROP 1E SOURCES**

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## Carmen Trutanich

### **PLATFORM**

"A Tru Crime Fighter" is one of Trutanich's slogans. In his own words, "it's time for a prosecutor, not a politician" to serve as the city's chief prosecutor. Mr. Trutanich, or "Nuch" if he's your buddy, takes pride in playing well with others – he cites his working relationships with DA Steve Cooley and Sheriff Lee Baca as evidence of his knack for bringing people together that might otherwise knock heads. He wants the DA, the City Attorney and US Attorneys Offices to work together more effectively, and what's more, he aims to coordinate a cohesive jurisdiction policy between LA and adjoining cities like Hermosa Beach and Inglewood. But don't let his soft side belie his tough-on-crime stance: he wants to crack down on predatory credit card companies, create a task force to restructure the DA's office to provide more oversight, tackle gang violence, defend patient rights and champion environmental laws. Oh, and he really hates graffiti.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

A Southern California native, Trutanich started working in San Pedro at Starkist Tuna. He has a BA and MBA from USC, and completed his law degree with night classes at South Bay University College of Law. His first assignment for the city was working for DA Ira Reiner in the gang and environmental crimes units.

Trutanich has headed up his own law practice for 20 years and as a Los Angeles Attorney, worked in Misdemeanors, Juvenile, and Hardcore Gang and Environmental Crime units-passing all sorts of firsts in environmental law before it was cool to be green. And though some recent issues have arisen regarding his representation of clients who've toyed with enviro laws, in general his hard work hasn't gone unnoticed: California Lawyer Magazine (yes, they have their own magazine) chose him as one of the top ten lawyers in the field of environmental law, and California Super Lawyers (an offshoot of the Justice League?) named him one of the top attorneys in SoCal for 4 consecutive years.

### **HOW DOES HE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** Carmen headed up the "Hard Core Gang Division" as Deputy DA. When he was transferred to the Environmental Crimes/OSHA Division, he refused to be transferred from the Gangs Division unless he could take a Capital Gang Case with him. To this day, he remains the only Deputy DA to receive a death verdict while assigned to the environmental crimes unit. On another note, Nuch really likes his guns – his firm represented more than a dozen gun rights groups and firearms manufacturers. However, he supports "reasonable gun laws" and thinks they should be enforced. He also wants to get tough on illegal criminals-he agrees that while under Special Order 40 cops shouldn't investigate people solely for immigration violations, he wants to enforce the requirement that they notify immigration authorities if an undocumented suspect is arrested for multiple misdemeanors, a felony or has previous arrests.

**Economic Responsibility/Justice:** In an effort to deter "career politicians" from running for City Attorney, Tru wrote, signed and released a Pledge To Serve for the candidates of City Attorney. Tru's Pledge includes a promise that the City Attorney will not running for any other elected position while in office. If this pledge is broken, Tru suggests that a fine of \$100,000 from personal funds be paid to LA's Best After School Program in addition to a full page ad in every LA daily newspaper with the words, "I am a liar," under said City Attorney's headshot.

## Carmen Trutanich (cont.)

**Environmental Responsibility:** As far as the environment goes, he holds a bunch of records: Nuch headed up the first Environmental Crimes unit back in the 80's (think Miami Vice meets Greenpeace), and was the first lawyer in the state to issue an Environmental warrant, level an environmental felony, and win the first conviction. However, not everyone is gaa-gaa over his record: Opponent Jack Weiss questions Nuch's commitment to water quality, asserting that he represented companies that polluted L.A. Harbor. In response, Nuch has offered to debate each and every case with Weiss. One thing not in doubt-Nuch hates illegal billboards!

**Right to Affordable, Quality Healthcare:** He supports patient rights and has zero tolerance for health care providers dumping patients on Skid Row.

### **FUN FACTS**

The fact that Trutanich got Weiss into a run off was a huge upset.

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

Raised almost \$800K, majority was for the primary, a lot from bail bonds shops. Spent money on TV ad time. "That role of city attorney is about protecting and defending the city as much as prosecuting people that violate the law. . . . He has that full dimension of experience," said Barry Groveman, who headed the D.A.'s environmental crimes unit in the mid-1980s while Trutanich worked there.

District Attorney Steve Cooley, Sherrif Lee Baca, LA Times, Los Angeles Daily News, South Los Angeles Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Los Angeles School Police Department, City Attorney of Redondo Beach, Mike Webb, Mayor of Long Beach, Bob Foster, California Supreme Court Justice, Armand Arabian, Former Los Angeles City Attorney, Don Vincent

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## Jack Weiss

### **PLATFORM**

"Everybody should have the right to walk the streets safely."

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

After graduating with honors from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Weiss worked as a foreign policy advisor and arms control researcher in D.C. He then received his law degree from UCLA, where he was the editor-in-chief of the UCLA Law Review. He stayed in LA (ahh, the sunshine...) to work as an attorney with the firm of Irell & Manella, LLP and then as an Assistant US Attorney, working in the Public Corruption and Government Fraud Section. Weiss is active in many professional and civic organizations- really, it's hard to find a letterhead he's not on: He's a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, The Los Angeles Conservancy, The Westside Urban Forum, and Los Angeles County Young Democrats, to name a few. Yet his impressively long resume hasn't necessarily translated into widespread popularity- In May 2007 he narrowly survived a recall petition from his current position as City Council Member, District 5.

### **HOW DOES HE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** He serves on the Southwest Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League and is a founding member of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation. He's a proponent of new gun regulations and loves those red light cameras at intersections. His emphasis on public safety prompted the Democratic Leadership Council to choose him as "New Democrat of the Week," which, while prestigious, is not nearly as much fun as "Beer of the Month". Yet not everyone has been so ready to laud him: he received a lot of criticism for not speaking out about the decision to remove law enforcement officers from West LA to cover other high-crime areas-his council district.

**Economic Responsibility/Justice:** He is a member of the City Council's Planning & Land Use Management Committee, which oversees issues affecting the region's growth and development, and has come under fire for what is perceived as his pro-developer positions on that committee. He has worked to provide affordable housing for police officers.

**Environmental Responsibility:** President of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed Council, Chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and a member of Heal the Bay. The LA League of Conservation Voters bestowed him with an award for Public Service in 2003 for his efforts to clean up local waterways and the Santa Monica Bay.

### **FUN FACTS**

While Weiss does have his own campaign website, the old (but still up!) "Recall Jack Weiss" site is much more fun.

In the April 2009 debate between Trutanich and Weiss, things heated up. Weiss argued character and Trutanich argued fact. Unhappy with the result of the debate's coverage, Weiss posted a headline from the LA Times onto his website, but *changed* the headline to reflect him as the "winner." The LA Times demanded that Weiss remove the doctored headline and he did. Was he being fraudulent, or just doing what a good lawyer does? You decide.

## Jack Weiss (cont.)

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

LA County Democratic Party, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor- COPE, Service Employees International Union- SEIU, Stonewall Democrats, Planned Parenthood, Advocacy Project for Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Young Democrats, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Police Department Chief William Bratton, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, United States Congressman Henry Waxman, United States Congresswoman Diane Watson, Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Ed Begley, Jr., Angela Reddock

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## David T. Vahedi

### **PLATFORM**

David Vahedi is, like, totally all about you. As in, he believes in putting residents first and wants to improve the quality of life for all Angelinos. How's he gonna do that? Well, in his own words, mainly through "the prompt delivery of quality city services such as pothole repair, sidewalk repair, and tree trimming." He's big on reducing traffic congestion (i.e. less time in car = more time with your family), improving infrastructure (i.e. protecting neighborhoods from overdevelopment = fewer annoying red traffic cones messing up your commute), and increasing residents' involvement in government (i.e. no one knows what you want more than you do, so get involved!).

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Vahedi isn't just the President of the Hair Club For...wait, wrong brochure. Let's start over: Vahedi isn't just running for 5th District City Council, he's lived here his whole life, too. After obtaining his Bachelor's from the Cal State System, Vahedi worked for several years as an auditor for the State Board of Equalization. He later earned his law degree from Loyola Law School, and currently has a private practice that specializes in civil litigation. Vahedi is also co-founder of the Westside Neighborhood Council and a member and former Legislative Chair of the Westwood Westside Democratic Club. Additionally, he is currently a board member of Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowners Association. When he was a kid, he used to have a paper route on the Westside.

### **HOW DOES HE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** Vahedi opposed Prop 8. He's firmly anti-discrimination and pro-equality. How does he plan to act on those beliefs? By increasing public safety: Vahedi promises to work to increase the number of police officers in LA. His bottom line: if it takes police more than five minutes to respond to an emergency, that's a problem.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** "David Vahedi" is to "overdevelopment in your neighborhood" as "The Dark Knight" is to "criminal overlords in Gotham City." As in, he has a zero tolerance policy and promises to fight this nasty scourge that causes so many parking, traffic, and infrastructure problems. He also "hesitantly" supported Prop B (the solar energy initiative that was narrowly defeated in the March 3 election) because it specifically provided for the creation of jobs and job training in LA.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Vahedi has plans regarding environmental responsibility: (1) to require all major developments to receive LEED Certification through the use of sustainable and renewable resources; (2) to protect LA's current "tree stock" and plant more trees; (3) to encourage residents and builders to voluntarily install tankless and instantaneous water heaters; and (4) to reduce air pollution by building a flexible and efficient Park and Ride system. Furthermore, he disagrees with MTA, the Expo Authority and the County's plan to go ahead with the Expo Line at grade and promised instead to push for grade separation on this line. And if you think Bright Lights are a Big Distraction when you're driving, then you'll like this one: Vahedi has also vowed to raise the fines on the illegal digital billboards from \$500 to \$10,000 per month, in an effort to pressure advertisers to remove their existing digital billboards and to dissuade advertisers from erecting these distracting eyesores.

## David T. Vahedi (cont.)

**Right to Affordable, Quality Healthcare:** For Vahedi, the issue is two-prong: we must solve the crisis of the uninsured and also provide quality affordable health care for those covered. He also believes that health care must be comprehensive and include dental and eye care, as well as mental health services. David will increase accessibility to rape kits and speed up the processing of rape kits to get offenders off the street.

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** Vahedi has endorsed a proposal to immediately convert all the schools in the 5th district to charter schools, claiming that this will allow parents and teachers to have more control and could lead to more state funding for education in the district.

**Reproductive Freedom:** “Absolutely Pro-choice”

### **FUN FACTS**

Standing 6 foot 4, David is a beast at the beach volleyball net. And he drinks a case of Diet Coke every day.

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

Most of his campaign funding comes from small donations from private residents and business owners. His major endorsements include dozens of Homeowner Association and Neighborhood Council leaders, the Los Angeles Daily News, BikingInLA.com. and the Los Angeles Airport Police Officers Association.

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## Paul Koretz

### **PLATFORM**

Koretz has been driven to seek public office because he was “raised with a deep sense of responsibility to help heal the world and to leave it better than he found it.” He promises to continue to fight hard to “improve our environment, public safety and health, and to end discrimination and intolerance.” His platform prioritizes environmental protection, reducing traffic, and increasing resident involvement in local governance.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Koretz, whose father emigrated to the US in 1939 to escape Nazi Germany, has been a resident of the 5th district for 20 years. He has had a long career in local politics, serving as a West Hollywood City Councilmember for 12 years and as a California State Assemblyperson (42nd district) for 6 years.

### **HOW DOES HE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** While serving in the state assembly, Koretz authored “a landmark law, sponsored by Equality California, to ban discrimination against Transgender individuals in obtaining Health Insurance and Healthcare.” He has also called bans on gay marriage “the last frontier of bigotry and discrimination.” Koretz also authored a bill to implement a moratorium on the Death Penalty in the California State Assembly, and one to reform the way the state handles those who are found innocent while serving time for the crimes for which they were convicted, which included providing them with social services after they are released and automatically expunging their record.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** In a recent LA Times article, Koretz asserted, “Los Angeles needs to be a partner with the Obama administration in bringing jobs to L.A. and California.” Furthermore, with regard to affordable housing, he has said that he is “open to mandatory inclusionary housing, which we had in West Hollywood...As I recall, West Hollywood required a one-for-one replacement of affordable housing. We may want to look at something in that direction as well.”

**Environmental Responsibility:** Koretz promises to make the completion of LA’s transit system through the Westside a “top priority.” He also plans to “work with environmental leaders to create a greenprint for Los Angeles—a plan to make L.A. one of the most environmentally-friendly cities in the country, including more green space, drought resistant plants and other water conservation measures, solar energy for new developments and city buildings, and more air and water pollution controls.”

**Right to Affordable, Quality Healthcare:** Koretz has been a longtime supporter of Medical Marijuana, supporting Prop 215 while on the WeHo City Council and authoring SB 420 while in the State Assembly. Koretz describes the latter bill as one that “cleared up certain implementation issues surrounding Prop 215 and formulated a voluntary system to protect patients from arrest,” while promising the confidentiality of all records. Koretz also co-chaired the Los Angeles County Medical Marijuana Task Force, which “developed the guidelines to implement Prop 215 and SB 420” in the county.

## Paul Koretz (cont.)

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** While in the Assembly, Koretz co-authored a bill that “creates a process for the establishment of textbook rental services at public colleges and universities” (this bill—AB2678—was later vetoed by the Governor).

**Reproductive Freedom:** The Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California rated Koretz as 100% pro-choice on their legislative scorecards for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

### **INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

In 2006, Koretz authored Assembly Bill 2941 which the Governor signed into law. This bill required the state’s huge pension systems, CalPERS and CalSTRS, to divest of investments in companies doing business in the Sudan. His hope is that this bill and others like it will “generate enough economic pressure to force the Sudan government to end its campaign of mass murder and rape of its own people.” That same year, Koretz introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 39, which called for the impeachment of George W. Bush

### **FUN FACTS**

Koretz founded Bruin Democrats while attending UCLA in the late 70s. George Clooney and Don Cheadle were both present at the ceremony in which Schwarzenegger signed Koretz’s divestment bill into law.

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

The actor Ed Begley Jr., Sherriff Lee Baca, The Sierra Club, the LA County Federation of Labor, and the LA County Young Democrats have all endorsed Koretz.

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## Angela Reddock

### **PLATFORM**

Angela Reddock believes in the protection of living wage jobs at community colleges, creating new jobs in communities, and ensuring that every high school student has access to a college education.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Mrs. Reddock is an incumbent for this seat, facing her first election, having served since 2007 when she was appointed to fill a vacancy left the exiting chair, Michael Waxman, who resigned. Ms. Reddock has a Juris Doctorate from UCLA and is currently a Commissioner on both the Los Angeles City Transportation Commission and the Los Angeles County Local Government Services Commission. She also serves as Co-Chair for the City of Los Angeles 11th District Empowerment Congress Transportation Committee and as a Hearing Officer for the County of Los Angeles Civil Service Commission. She has also provided her legal services commentator for KCAL/KCBS News. She is also a lawyer who founded her own firm that specializes in employment and labor law. Whew! Busy Lady

### **HOW DOES SHE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Civil Rights for All:** Reddock is chair for the Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute, an organization which trains women to become more engaged in public policy and public affairs.

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** Reddock has a four-part plan to improve education. 1) Make community college accessible to low-income and disadvantaged students. 2) Expand career technical and vocational opportunities. 3) Use the recently passed Bond Measure J that sets aside funding for community colleges to rebuild campuses in a way that is sustainable and creates jobs. 4) Increase funding for community colleges to account for the increase of students who can't afford to go to UC or a State campus.

### **FUN FACTS**

To better connect with voters and establish higher name recognition, Reddock has assembled a 'Campaign Cyber-Team' to enable her campaign to speak to directly to voters' interests and concerns through Internet social networking, and, according to her facebook page, she likes bowling and golf!

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

Los AngelesTimes; Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, California Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Former Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, and LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; the Sierra Club, Los Angeles NOW, Democratic Clubs, and civic and business leaders

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## Tina Park

### **PLATFORM**

“Responsible Spending, Quality Education.”

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Park was herself a community college student at Queensborough Community College, a branch of the City University of New York. Tina went on to graduate from Hofstra University in New York. Park wants voters to know that her experience and knowledge as a teacher, counselor and financial auditor on the NYSE will allow her to help the district in this role.

### **HOW DOES SHE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** Park believes in making higher education available to all who seek it at an affordable cost. She plans to review all current and past expenditures and will seek to eliminate wasteful spending. Park also wants to give community college faculty a greater voice in the policymaking process.

### **FUN (AND NO SO FUN) FACTS**

Tina’s father was a minister and raised her on a steady diet of community service. On 9/11, she was working in Tower One during the terrorist attack.

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

State Senator Paul Shin and local educator Karen Harris

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## Nancy Pearlman

### **PLATFORM**

Nancy's hopes to continue sustainable building projects, create a green job training curriculum, maintain financial stability, and increase opportunities for all students.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

This is a run off race from the March 3rd election. Nancy was elected to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees in 2001. In her spare time, she wears not a few hats: a broadcaster, environmentalist, college instructor, anthropologist, editor, producer, on-air personality, and a self-described outdoors woman. Since 1977 she has been the host of Environmental Directions, an international weekly radio series, the longest running of its kind in the country.

### **HOW DOES SHE FARE ON YPM ISSUES?**

**Environmental Responsibility:** During her term as a member of the board of trustees, Nancy has been a pioneer on this front, advocating for sustainability standards which has resulted in the LACCD becoming the first community college district in the nation to adopt a LEED's standard for its bond-funded building projects and for green jobs training. She has also worked for the removal of toxic substances and notification of toxic usage and full campus recycling efforts. Props!

**Right to Free, Quality Education:** Nancy has lobbied for equitable funding for community colleges, keeping student fees and book prices low, and no state budget cuts for community colleges. Some have called Nancy out for putting environmental issues ahead of education.

### **FUN FACTS**

She is a member of the Gypsy Folk Ensemble and has successfully completed the Ironman Triathlon! Truly impressive.

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

Various teachers and labor unions; Deputy Sheriffs of LA County; National Women's Political Caucus, LA County; National Organization for Women, SFV/NE LA; Sierra Club; LA Area Chamber of Commerce; former State Assemblyman Paul Koretz, CA State Controller John Chiang, LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo; a handful of members of the California State Assembly and LA City Council.

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## Robert Nakahiro

### **PLATFORM**

Robert wants to be a representative for our community colleges who will fight to ensure that our college campuses are both affordable and accessible to every student that wants to attend classes. He breaks it down like this:

**Affordability & Accessibility:** Robert believes that investing in students is the key to investing in our communities. Every student should have the resources available to complete a quality community college education or vocational training program.

**Academic Excellence:** Robert says he will be an advocate for students and will fight to ensure that faculty, instructors, staff, and community college campuses have the resources and infrastructure necessary to provide rewarding educational experiences.

**Opportunity:** Robert says he will work hard to ensure our community colleges prepare students for economically rewarding career choices and enable individuals to successfully compete in the workforce of the 21st century. He believes that our community colleges should be a resource for the kind of skilled and strong work force required by our local and regional business communities and emerging new "green" industries.

### **BACKGROUND**

Robert has a law office in Pasadena and has unsuccessfully run for City Council in the past.

### **FUN FACTS**

Robert was against the recall of Gov. Gray Davis because he thought it would harm the state.

### **DONORS & ENDORSEMENTS**

LA County Democratic Party, a host of democratic clubs, and elected officials including State Senator Gloria Romero and West Hollywood Mayor Jeffrey Prang.

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