

## **California Voter Handbook**

### **Ballot Argument against Proposition 47**

California currently has tens of billions of dollars in outstanding bonds that we are paying interest on. Because we've passed so many bonds in recent years, California has been assigned the third lowest credit rating in the country. As such, we should be extremely careful whenever we consider taking on more debt.

There is no doubt that the school facilities shortage in our state is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. But Proposition 47 is the wrong solution. This bond is poorly written and patently unfair.

Prop 47 does not encourage immediate school construction. In fact, under this new scheme, the schools with the neediest kids aren't even obligated to **begin** building a single school for **6 ½ years**. School districts can reserve bond money by simply stating an "intent" to build a school in a general location. They don't need to have plans drawn up, complete an environmental impact study, or even identify an approvable site. Schools built with the bond funds made available in 2004 would not have to break ground until 2011! In short, Prop 47 will allow these districts to tie up money while other ready-to-build sites go unfunded and projects are delayed.

Additionally, Prop 47 favors the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) over every other district in the state. According to numbers from the Office of Public School Construction, LAUSD is eligible for over 24% of the new construction funds, even though it accounts for only 12% of the state's student population.

Tax dollars from across the state shouldn't be used to service a bond that so heavily favors a single school district. Say "No" to LAUSD's greed. Vote "No" on Prop 47.

Signed:

Wm. J. "Pete" Knight  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District  
California State Senate

Jon Coupal  
President  
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Lewis K. Uhler  
President  
National Tax Limitation Committee

**50-Word Summary against Proposition 47**

Under Prop. 47, the most needed schools aren't required to begin construction for 6 ½ years. This bond favors LAUSD over every other district in the state.

Proposition 47 is the wrong solution to our school facilities crisis, poorly written, patently unfair and *will raise your taxes*.