

## **California Voter Handbook**

### **Ballot Arguments in Favor of Proposition 47**

California's public schools used to be among the best in the nation. But years of neglect and inadequate funding have taken their toll.

**Students can't learn and teachers can't teach in overcrowded and rundown classrooms.**

Proposition 47 will help fix our schools...and help our students succeed.

**PARENTS SUPPORT Proposition 47 because it BUILDS NEW SCHOOLS.** Prop. 47:

- **BUILDS THE NEW SCHOOLS** we need for the *hundreds of thousands of new students* entering California classrooms in the coming years.
- **BUILDS NEW CLASSROOMS** to *keep class sizes small*. Our kids can't learn with 45 kids in their class!

**LOCAL TEACHERS SUPPORT Proposition 47 because it REPAIRS AND RENOVATES OLD AND OUTDATED SCHOOLS.** Prop. 47:

- **FIXES LEAKY ROOFS, REPAIRS BATHROOMS that don't work and PUTS HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING in our classrooms**
- **GUARANTEES that our kids go to school in SAFE BUILDINGS THAT MEET EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE STANDARDS.**

**PARENTS AND TEACHERS SUPPORT Proposition 47 because it MAKES SURE THE MONEY IS SPENT WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST.** Prop. 47:

- **GUARANTEES that new schools will be built where classes are already severely overcrowded.**
- **MAKES SURE that new and growing communities get their fair share of the funds to build the schools they need.**

The CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA SUPPORT Proposition 47 because it **INVESTS IN THE FUTURE OF OUR ECONOMY AND OUR WORKFORCE.** Prop. 47:

- Provides money to WIRE OUR CLASSROOMS for the technology and computers our kids need to compete in college or career.
- Gives our students ACCESS TO the right TECHNOLOGY *today* to be prepared for the workforce and society of *tomorrow*.

**The CALIFORNIA TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS Proposition 47 because it PROTECTS TAXPAYERS AND SENIORS by holding schools accountable for how they spend our hard-earned dollars. Prop 47:**

- PROVIDES for AUDITS, COST CONTROLS and other ACCOUNTABILITY requirements to guard against waste and mismanagement.
- ASSURES that taxpayer funds CANNOT BE SPENT ON BUREAUCRACY or wasteful overhead – funds can *only* be spent to build or renovate schools.

The CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE SUPPORTS Proposition 47 because it also provides funds for California's colleges and universities. **Prop. 47:**

- BUILDS NEW COLLEGE CLASSROOMS to accommodate the tens of thousands of new students who will enter our campuses in the next few years.
- Upgrades aging college laboratories, libraries and research facilities so that they can continue to pave the way for NEW TECHNOLOGIES and INDUSTRIES.

Proposition 47 will provide \$13 billion for school construction and renovation for our public schools, colleges and universities – WITHOUT RAISING YOUR TAXES.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS ARE TURNING THE CORNER. Test scores are up and more students are meeting high standards.

BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE WE CAN DO.

Join Republicans, Democrats and Independents – taxpayers and business leaders – the California Teachers Association and the California State PTA – seniors and women's groups and millions of Californians who all support our schools.

**Invest in California's children *and* California's future.**

VOTE YES on PROPOSITION 47.

(Signed)

**Allan Zaremborg**

President, California Chamber of Commerce

**Jan Harp Domene**

President, California State PTA (PTA)

Larry McCarthy  
**(CAL TAX)**

**President, California Taxpayers Association**

### **50-Word Summary in Favor of Proposition 47**

MORE CLASSROOMS and BETTER SCHOOLS, WITHOUT RAISING TAXES. We need 13,000+ new classrooms! 47 ensures CRITICALLY OVERCROWDED districts get their FAIR SHARE to build classrooms, REPAIR old ones and improve SAFETY. Strict ACCOUNTABILITY and AUDITS required. California PTA, California Teachers Association, California Taxpayers' Association, Chamber of Commerce: "YES on 47"

### **Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 47**

The opponents are right about one thing: CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS *are* CRITICALLY OVERCROWDED. We need more than 13,000 NEW CLASSROOMS to ACCOMMODATE NEW STUDENTS and KEEP CLASS SIZE SMALL.

Here are some facts the opponents *didn't* get right:

*Fact:* Every CRITICALLY OVERCROWDED district is eligible *only* for its FAIR SHARE of Prop. 47 funds to build new classrooms. Every Central Valley school in line *will* be funded and *no* district, in Los Angeles or anywhere else, will get *more* than its fair share.

*Fact:* CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR and SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS can BEGIN IMMEDIATELY if Prop. 47 passes. More than 2000 UNFUNDED PROJECTS are WAITING and READY TO BREAK GROUND – new classroom construction, moving kids out of portable trailers, earthquake safety improvements, wiring old classrooms to the Internet, upgrading electrical and fire alarm systems, repairing leaky roofs and installing heating and air conditioning.

*Fact:* California does *not* have a poor credit rating. On the contrary, the State Treasurer and respected bond rating services report CALIFORNIA'S BOND CREDIT RATING is HEALTHY and STRONG.

*Fact:* The California Taxpayers' Association supports Prop. 47 because school construction projects must comply with STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY requirements, including mandatory AUDITS, to SAFEGUARD AGAINST WASTE and MISMANAGEMENT.

*Fact:* Prop. 47 is part of a state/local partnership. WITHOUT PROP. 47's MATCHING FUNDS, MOST LOCAL SCHOOL BOND PROJECTS CANNOT BE COMPLETED.

Our children deserve a safe classroom and the individual attention they need to succeed.

Prop. 47 means...  
MORE CLASSROOMS and BETTER SCHOOLS  
...*WITHOUT RAISING TAXES!*  
VOTE YES on 47!

Signed by:

Wayne Johnson, President  
California Teachers Association

Bill Hauck, Co-Chair  
Taxpayers for Accountability and Better Schools

Barbara B. Inatsugu, President  
League of Women Voters of California