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CAL-TAX: SPECIAL ELECTION IS WORTHY INVESTMENT IN DEMOCRACY

Larry McCarthy, president of the California Taxpayers' Association, issued this statement with regard to the governor's call for a special election this fall:

"The governor's call for a special election is a worthy investment in democracy. The special election is giving the people opportunity to engage directly in this decision-making process. I think taxpayers are eager to have this election and debate the issues.

"Critics complain about the cost of a special election. But it really is a small price to pay for democracy. Not surprisingly, these same critics have been silent during numerous special elections to increase taxes around the state this year that have cost millions of dollars. We didn't hear them complaining about the \$1.8 million cost of a special Santa Clara County election to raise library taxes by \$5.4 million.

"The cost of a statewide special election would be \$53 million to \$55 million, according to the latest estimates from the Secretary of State's Office. That may sound like a lot, but it is a small price to pay for the urgent matter of reclaiming California for voters and taxpayers.

"No one said democracy is the cheapest form of government; it is simply the best."

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