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## **CAL-TAX SUPPORTS INITIATIVES TO REFORM BUDGET PROCESS, ALLOW JUDGES TO DRAW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND LET PUBLIC EMPLOYEES SAY HOW THEIR UNION POLITICAL DUES ARE SPENT**

The California Taxpayers' Association Board of Directors has endorsed November 8 special election ballot propositions that will reform the state's broken budget process, empower public employees to say how their political dues can be spent and take the drawing of political boundaries out of the hands of politicians.

Meeting September 23, the board considered the eight propositions on the ballot and decided to support these initiatives:

**Proposition 75 – Paycheck Protection.** This initiative requires public employee unions to get annual written permission from members to spend any of their dues for political purposes.

**Proposition 76 – Budget Process Reform.** This initiative is designed to prevent huge budget deficits by tying spending to available revenues. It enhances the state's ability to fund schools. It stops stealing from special funds, such as the transportation account, to balance the state's budget. It allows the governor to make mid-year emergency spending reductions to maintain budget balance.

**Proposition 77 – Reapportionment.** Ending the conflicts of interest inherent when legislators draw their own district boundaries, in essence picking their voters, this initiative puts the reapportionment of voters in the hands of an independent panel of retired federal judges.

Directors decided to oppose **Proposition 79**, which would create a new state program of price controls on drugs, resulting in shortages and increased costs to taxpayers, and "shakedown" lawsuits.

Cal-Tax made no recommendation on these initiatives: Proposition 73, parental notification before a minor can have an abortion; Proposition 74, teacher tenure; Proposition 78, the California State Pharmacy Assistance Program, and Proposition 80, regulating electricity.

Founded in 1926, Cal-Tax is a nonpartisan research and advocacy association that protects against unnecessary taxes and promotes efficient, quality government services.