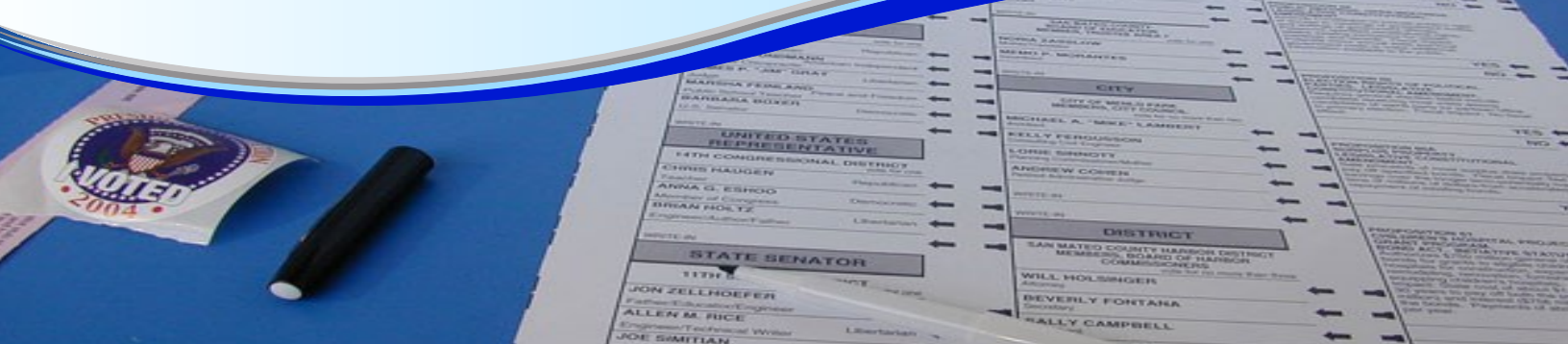


BALLOT INITIATIVE TRANSPARENCY ACT



Californians agree: The state's initiative process needs improving. They want clarity, transparency, and fairness.

Voters Support Improvement:

83%

agree that initiative wording is too complicated and confusing

84%

favor increasing public disclosure of funding sources for signature gathering and initiative campaigns

77%

support a review and revision process to avoid legal issues and drafting errors

75%

favor giving initiative backers more time for volunteers to gather signatures

On all of these points — a majority of California Democrats, Independents, and Republicans agree

Source: Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey 2013

For additional information contact:
California Common Cause: (213) 623-1216
Leila Pedersen, lpedersen@commoncause.org

SB 1253: Three Steps to Improvement:

1

Give voters more useful information about initiatives

Use the Secretary of State's website to give voters one-stop access to information about the individuals and groups behind each initiative, identify the top 10 donors and make the sources of funding clear and easy to find

2

Make sure ballot materials are voter-friendly

Ensure that the ballot title and summary and ballot label are written in clear and concise terms understandable to the average voter, and in an objective and nonpartisan manner, avoiding the use of technical terms whenever possible

3

Create more opportunity for public and legislative feedback

- * Correcting error and flaws - Give an opportunity to comment on initiatives before they are circulated for signatures, lengthen time for volunteers to gather signatures and extend time for courts to review challenges to ballot materials
- * Creating room for alternatives and compromises - Require the legislature to hold early hearings to review initiatives before they appear on the ballot
- * Simplifying the ballot - Allow backers of an initiative to withdraw it after signatures are gathered but before ballots are printed