



No on Proposition 92

The Community Colleges Funding, Governance and Fee Reduction Initiative

We recognize that community colleges play a valuable role in California education, and that reforms are needed in their governance and funding. However, Proposition 92 is not the solution.

- ★ **California can't afford to lock a significant new spending mandate into our constitution, especially at a time when the state is facing a major budget deficit.** California's chronic budget deficit—projected to increase to over \$10 billion in 2008—will be aggravated by Proposition 92. The Governor is already calling for 10 percent cuts across the board, including cuts in public education.
- ★ **This is yet another example of ballot box budgeting and creation of more auto-pilot spending.** Voters should not be asked to set budget priorities at the ballot box in isolation from other budget priorities.
- ★ **Proposition 92 mandates spending without identifying a new way to pay for it.** The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that Proposition 92 would mean nearly a billion dollars in increased spending for the first three years.
- ★ **The increased spending required under Proposition 92 could jeopardize funding for other children's services and higher education, health care, law enforcement, and welfare services.**
- ★ **Proposition 92 even reduces the community colleges' current revenues by cutting fees that are already among the lowest in the nation. This does not help low income students, who already receive waivers of fees.** Fees account for less than 10 percent of the total educational cost for the typical community college student—with books, transportation, housing, child care, and supplies making up the other 90 percent of costs. If the goal is to make community college more affordable and accessible for all students, we should explore other solutions.
- ★ **We all support community colleges, but Proposition 92 will make things worse, not better.** The proponents' intentions are good, and they have identified important areas in governance and funding where reform is needed. But this measure is not the answer to the challenges community colleges face.
- ★ **Proposition 92 would be very difficult to amend.** It requires another vote of the people to change its constitutional sections or a 4/5 vote of the legislature to amend most of its statutory provisions. Thus, it would be hard to rectify any unintended consequences.