



How Do Propositions 14 and 15 Interact?

Both Propositions 14 and 15 in the June 2010 election are political reform proposals placed on the ballot by the legislature. However, they deal with entirely different subject matter and are not competing or conflicting ballot measures. Prop 14 would modify the primary process so that the top two vote getters, regardless of their party, would advance to the general election. Prop 15 would establish a pilot program of public financing for qualified Secretary of State candidates.

Because the legislature placed Prop 15 on the ballot before Prop 14 (despite the numerical ordering of the measures), there are some aspects of Prop 15 which do not take into account elements of Prop 14. If both Prop 14 and Prop 15 pass, there would be no impact upon Prop 14. However, Prop 15 would need to be modified slightly if voters pass Prop 14.

As currently written, Prop 15 provides public funds in the general election to candidates who:

- A) find 7,500 people to give them \$5 and a signature, and win a partisan primary,
or
- B) run as an independent candidate and collect 15,000 signatures and \$5 contributions but do not win a partisan primary
or
- C) run as a minor party candidate and collect 3,750 signatures and \$5 contributions for partial funding, or 15,000 signatures and \$5 contributions to receive full funding, and win that minor party's primary.

If approved by voters, Prop 14 would eliminate partisan primaries and would ensure that only two candidates appear on the general election ballot. To accommodate this, very minor changes could be made in Prop 15 to simply allocate public funds to candidates for Secretary of State who 1) qualified for public funds during the primary by gathering the requisite signatures and \$5 contributions and 2) placed in the top two during the primary.

Because these changes are so minor, Prop 15 proponents are not concerned about passage of Prop 14. California Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of California, and the California Clean Money Campaign are all neutral about Prop 14. Likewise, the Prop 14 campaign is neutral about Prop 15.

AARP is a supporter of both Prop 14 and Prop 15:

“As a supporter of Propositions 14 and 15, AARP believes that both measures are important steps toward reforming California’s broken political system. AARP sees no conflict between these initiatives.”

www.YesOnProp15.org