

Proposition 4

REPEALS PROHIBITION AGAINST PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE

1. WHO PUT IT ON THE BALLOT?

Who funded or organized the effort to qualify this proposition?

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature.

Several non-profit organizations lobbied the legislators to get them to vote in favor of Prop 4. These include the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and the California Clean Money Campaign

2. WHAT PROBLEM IS IT TRYING TO ADDRESS?

What problem does the proposition identify? What would it change?

Proposition 4 aims to address the influence of wealthy donors and special interests in political campaigns, which can make it harder for candidates without access to large amounts of money to compete. It seeks to make elections more accessible and representative by allowing governments to use public funds to support political campaigns, reducing candidates’ reliance on private donations.

3. WHO IS ORGANIZED ON EACH SIDE?

What organizations, institutions, or constituencies are involved?

Who is supporting it?	Who is opposing it?
- California Common Cause - California Clean Money Campaign - League of Women Voters - California Democratic Party	- California Taxpayers Association - Reform California

4. WHERE IS THE POWER?

Who has resources and organized power in this fight?

Supporters of Proposition 4 (Yes):

Organizations: ACLU of California, League of Women Voters of California, California Common Cause, California Clean Money Action Fund, Consumer Watchdog, End Citizens United, Indivisible California: State Strong, California Environmental Voters, Money Out Voters In.

Opponents of Proposition 4 (No)

Organizations: California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayers Association, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Reform California.

5. FOLLOW THE MONEY

Proposition committees raise money to support or oppose propositions. Outside groups can also raise and spend money independently to influence outcomes.

Who is funding the YES campaign?	Who is funding the NO campaign?
No registered committees.	No registered committees.

6. WHO IS AFFECTED?

Who stands to benefit?

Candidates who lack access to wealthy donors, small-dollar donors, and voters who want a more accessible and representative political system.

Who could experience costs, losses, or other negative effects?

Taxpayers and governments could bear the costs of public campaign financing, while wealthy donors and special interests could have less relative influence over elections.

Who might be most directly affected but have the least organized power?

Low-income communities, first-time candidates, and historically underrepresented groups who face financial barriers to participating in elections.

7. WHAT DOES YOUR VOTE DO?

YES	NO
A Yes vote would mean:	A No vote would...
State and local governments could create public campaign financing programs for public office candidates, subject to limits on which public funds could be used, how the public funds could be used, and who could receive them.	State and most local governments would remain unable to create public campaign finance programs for public office candidates.

THE BOTTOM LINE

What is the central power question this proposition raises?

The central power question Proposition 4 raises is: Who should have the power to influence elections— wealthy private donors and special interests, or a broader range of candidates and voters supported through public financing?