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AP English Language and Composition, period 3

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Understanding Proposition 53:

Election Annotated Bibliography

"California Proposition 53, Voter Approval Requirement for Revenue Bonds above $2 Billion

(2016)". *Ballotpedia.* 2016. Web. 13 Oct. 2016.

<https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_53,_Voter_Approval_Requirement_for_R

evenue_Bonds_above_$2_Billion_(2016)>.

This description of Proposition 53 comes from *Ballotpedia*, a nonpartisan informational

website for voters. It summarizes the bond measure, and explains that "California sells two types

of bonds. The first are general obligation bonds, which are repaid for using revenue in the

General Fund. Revenue in the fund comes mostly from state taxes…The second type of bonds

are revenue bonds, which are repaid using revenue from fees or other charges paid by the users

of the project ("California Proposition 53"). In addition to explaining the two types of funding

sources, *Ballotpedia* provides information on the sponsors of the proposition, where the funding

for advertising comes from, and suggests who might benefit or be harmed by these changes.

The information contained in this website is factual and unbiased, and includes links to

the full text of the proposition and contains footnotes and references, citing the sources the

writers used. Further, the website uses objective language like "supporters claim the proposition would" without taking sides as to whether the writers themselves would support the measure.

This piece helped me better understand what a "Yes' and "No" vote on 53 means. I was previously unaware of the different funding types, though I had a basic understanding of the bond process. I think this piece will be important background information as we shape our presentation to the voters--because this site presents information so clearly, it will be useful to us.

Zavala, Val. "Prop 53: Revenue Bonds." Video. *Ballot Brief.* KCET, 5 Oct. 2016. Web. 13 Oct.

2016. < https://www.kcet.org/ballot-brief/prop-53-revenue-bonds>.

This short video is part of KCET's "Props in One Minute" series, hosted by news correspondent Val Zavala. It gives a quick overview of the proposition, including a definition of what revenue bonds are and how this proposition would change state law. The video features Zavala speaking directly to the camera, while in the background, a sort of simulated white board, words and drawn cartoon-images, imitating the style of animated TED talks.

This piece serves as another unbiased overview, but it uses loaded language when discussing what opponents and supporters think, like "prop 53's key backer is a wealthy farmer near Stockton, who has put in more than $4 million" and that opponents think "that wealthy farmer just wants to block a major water project that would hurt his farm" (Zavala). This additional explanation of who is financing the proposition contains some loaded language, but Zavala is clear that this is what opponents think, not necessarily KCET or herself.

I really appreciated this quick film overview--the piece about the financial backer helped me see what is at stake and that the propositions might be there to benefit certain people over others. Zavala's style in the video was both professional and approachable, and though it goes by a little too fast for me to catch everything in the first viewing, I think this source could also help me with thinking about good presentation skills. I liked how the cartoon drawings and the bulleted notes in the background helped me understand what she was talking about. Overall, this was a helpful source for a foundation on this proposition, although I'll need to do some more research to understand it more fully.