

# **Final Resolutions Committee Report**

## **Los Angeles County Democratic Party**

06/11/2019

### **SUPPORT INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS REFORM**

**WHEREAS** the ballot measure was originally enacted to give the average voter in California a way to band together with like-minded citizens and get action on issues that were not being addressed by the Legislature, but now the ballot measure is increasingly being used by large corporations, big money groups and large lobbying interests as a way to circumvent the Legislature and to mislead the voter into passing their agenda; and

**WHEREAS** the average Californian is now being asked to make judgements and vote on measures that are confusing and complicated, that make it difficult to understand, that do not state who is funding them, and are supported through ads and mailers with false or misleading information, thus making it difficult to make an informed decision on how to vote, resulting in only 9% of Californians being very satisfied with the process and a majority wanting changes to the process; and

**WHEREAS** Democrats support an open and transparent system of governance giving the voter the means to make informed decisions, and three reforms to the ballot measure process would ensure transparency, properly inform the voter, and make the system accountable by creating a citizens review committee, improving the funding disclosures and developing a system to mitigate problems;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party urges our elected officials to make three reforms to the ballot measure process: 1) create a citizen's review committee (based on the Oregon model) where citizens will hold hearings and write the ballot summaries in plain language, 2) expand the funder disclosures to include top funders on the signature gathering sheets, and on all voting information material (which includes the citizen's oversight board description), and require that top funders must be announced out loud in all radio and television ads, and 3) strengthen our system for hearings to find flaws, potential legal challenges and propose compromise; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Gavin Newsom, State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Speaker Anthony Rendon and President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins.

Submitted by Richard Mathews, AD45, on behalf of DPSFV

Authors: Adrienne Burk, Past President, Valley Grassroots for Democracy and Cindy Kalman, President, Valley Grassroots for Democracy