



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

VICAR GENERAL

Memorandum

To: Pastors, Parochial Vicars, and Administrators
From: Rev. Msgr. Francis V. Cilia
Re: Pending Ballot Initiatives
Date: September 26, 2006

Several Initiatives on the November ballot are of particular interest to the Catholic Church. This interest flows from our concerns for the life and dignity of the human person and our particular concern for the poor and the needy. I am grateful to Catholic Charities and the Human Concerns Commission for their leadership in these efforts. I encourage you to invite your parishioners prayerfully to consider their role as faithful citizens and to give thoughtful consideration to the following initiatives.

- **Proposition 1C: The Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act** will authorize the State of California to sell \$2.85 billion of general obligation bonds to fund new and existing housing and development programs. These funds are critical to shelter the homeless and to build affordable housing for low-income families in our Diocese and throughout California. Catholic Charities and Charities Housing Development Corporation strongly support this initiative as a benefit to homeless and needy families they serve.
- **Proposition 85: Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of a Minor's Pregnancy Initiative** will require notification of parents or guardians of a minor 48 hours before she obtains an abortion, unless a judge determines that such notification places the minor in danger. This initiative is supported by the California Conference of Catholic Bishops. Materials are available at <http://www.cacatholic.org>.
- **Proposition 86: Tax on Cigarettes.** This proposed \$2.60 tax increase per pack of cigarettes is intended to reduce the use of tobacco among the young, to fund health care services – including an expansion of children's health coverage and providing care for low-income uninsured patients – and to support existing early childhood development programs. Catholic Charities supports this initiative as a benefit to low-income uninsured patients, youth and the children they serve.

I know that I do not need to remind you that our diocesan pastoral plan, *Renewing the Church*, commits us to promoting and living the Church's social justice teaching. The upcoming election gives us an opportunity to dialogue and to support issues that are directly related to Catholic social justice teaching. I encourage you to take this opportunity to educate your parishioners on the Church's teachings about life issues, housing and health care.

The Diocesan Human Concerns Commission is preparing additional information on these issues. For more on Propositions 1C and 86, contact Tim Hellman (thellman@ccsj.org) at Catholic Charities' Community and Parish Partnerships and Social Policy programs.

Many thanks to you for attention to these issues and for bringing them to the attention of your parishioners.