



Human Concerns Commission

Diocese of San
Jose

November 2006
CA Ballot Initiatives

The following list is a brief description of key points for some of the November 2006 California State Ballot Initiatives. The Human Concerns Commission (HCC) of the Diocese of San Jose has taken a position on three initiatives. The HCC has based its position on materials from the Faith Citizenship document and in most cases there is a rationale or reference from Church Catholic Social Justice Teaching or statements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the California Catholic Conference (CCC). Please refer to your voter guide for the full text of all the ballot initiatives.

Prop 1A – Transportation Funding Protection

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 1B – Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 1C – Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act

Authorizes the State of California to sell \$2.85 billion of general obligation bonds to fund 13 new and existing housing & development programs. The major allocations of the bond proceeds are:

- *Development Programs (\$1.35 Billion)* - Would fund 3 new programs. Most funds would be targeted for projects in existing urban areas and near public transportation.
- *Home Ownership Programs (\$625 Million)* - To encourage homeownership for low- and moderate-income homebuyers. The funds would be used to provide down payment assistance through low-interest loans or grants.
- *Multifamily Housing Programs (\$590 Million)* - To fund programs aimed at construction or renovation of rental housing projects, such as apartment buildings.
- *Other Housing Programs (\$285 million)* - To provide loans and grants of developers of homeless shelters and housing for farm workers and for pilot projects aimed at reducing the costs of affordable housing.

These funds are critical to shelter the homeless and to build affordable housing for low-income families in our Diocese and throughout California. Strongly supported by Catholic Charities and Charities Housing as a benefit to the homeless and needy families they serve.

CHURCH Teaching—life & dignity of human person, option for poor and vulnerable, right to housing and security

Human Concerns Commission—SUPPORTS

Prop 1D – Kindergarten—University Public Education Facilities Bond Act

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 1E – Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 83 – Sex Offenders. Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 84 – Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements.

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 85 – Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy

Amends the California Constitution to...

- Prohibit abortion for an unemancipated minor until 48 hours after her physician notifies her parent or legal guardian, except in medical emergency or with parental waiver;
- Permit a minor girl to obtain a court order waiving notice based on clear and convincing evidence of her maturity or best interests;
- Mandate various reporting requirements, including reports from physicians regarding abortions performed on minors;
- Authorize monetary damages against physicians for violation;
- Require the minor girl's consent to abortion, with certain exceptions
- Permit judicial relief if the minor girl's consent is coerced.

Proposition 85 and the California Catholic Bishops...

"We believe that society's common good is enhanced when family integrity is honored, parental responsibility is respected, and nascent human life is preserved. "

"We strongly encourage Catholics in our state to share their time and treasure in promoting Proposition 85 as good public policy, and in exercising their citizenship in voting for it in November." (California Catholic Conference website, www.cacatholic.org)

CHURCH Teaching—protecting human life, life & dignity of human person, promoting family life

Human Concerns Commission—SUPPORTS

Prop 86 – Tax on Cigarettes

- Imposes an additional \$2.60 per pack excise tax on cigarettes and indirectly increases tax on other tobacco products.
 - Provides funding to qualified hospitals for emergency services, nursing education and health insurance to eligible children.
 - Revenue also allocated to specified purposes including tobacco-use-prevention programs, enforcement of tobacco-related laws, and research, prevention, treatment of various conditions including cancers, heart disease, stroke, asthma and obesity.
 - Exempts recipient hospitals from antitrust laws in certain circumstances.
 - Revenue excluded from appropriation limits and minimum education funding (Proposition 98) calculations.
- Supported by Catholic Charities as a benefit to low-income, uninsured patients, youth and the children they serve. Also supported by the Alliance of Catholic Health Care, representing California's health systems and hospitals.

CHURCH Teaching—option for poor and vulnerable, affordable health care, responsibility to provide health care, life and dignity of human person

Human Concerns Commission—SUPPORTS

“WHAT IS THE HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION?”

The Human Concerns Commission is a small group of advisors to the Bishop on matters of public policy. They are appointed by the Bishop and include the Associate for Evangelization, Justice, & Peace and the Episcopal Director of Pastoral Ministry.

The purpose of the Human Concerns Commission (HCC) is to be a body in the Church which calls the Church and the world to the demands of justice and peace and to work to recommend a local response in accordance with the Gospel and Catholic Social Justice Teaching.

It is the responsibility of the HCC to critically study local justice issues and to invite expert testimony when necessary and to make recommendations to the Bishop on these critical issues.

**Remember to Vote
on November 7**

Prop 87 – Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil Producers

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 88 – Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 89 – Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Limits

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

Prop 90 – Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property

Human Concerns Commission—No Position

“In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, participation in the political process is a moral obligation.”

From *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political responsibility* by the Administrative Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Visit www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship



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Citizenship**

