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BRIEFINGS ON EVERY
COMPETITIVE DISTRICT
CONGRESS, STATE
SENATE, ASSEMBLY

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birit of the Recall

Will voters make the Schwarzenegger revolution permanent?

William E. Saracino

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REVIEW

November / December 2004 • Volume 15 • Number 6

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REVIEW

A Publication of the California Public Policy Foundation

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CORRESPONDENCE

Schwarzenegger's radical idea

The "radical idea" your cover proclaims ("The Bodybuilder's Guide to Government Reform," George Passantino, *CPR*, Sept./Oct. 2004) is ably summed up by Mr. Passantino in his brief discussion of baseline *vs.* performance based budgeting.

The issue is whether state government should serve the people or itself. Baseline budgeting is self-serving for government. As Mr. Passantino writes, under the baseline approach, "previous years' spending levels are ... assumed to be good investments." With performance based budgeting, meanwhile, "programs are measured each year for what they achieve" the better to eliminate or reduce those "that fail to achieve their goals." The question is: what goals? Those of the people? or those of the army of public employees?

Who could possibly favor a regime of assumptions that every dollar spent by government is a "good investment?" Clearly no one whose concern is for the public interest.

Baseline budgeting is transparently bureaucracy taking on a life of its own. Restoring the interests of the people who pay for and must live under this government, and who, by the way, are supposed to be sovereign in this nation, could seem "radical" only to the disconnected politicos too long in Sacramento

to remember what real life is like (if they ever knew.)

David Lindros Redwood City

Those in power over us

Is there no end to the nefarious ways political busybodies can find to harass and bedevil ordinary folks just trying to get on with their lives? M. David Stirling's "An oppressive solution to a nonexistent problem" (CPR, Sept./Oct.) is enough to make one's jaw drop. So the federal government suddenly decides that all America's hard working medical providers must stop the important work they are doing, at least long enough to set up "full interpreter and translator services" for anybody who walks in wanting medical service and who is lacking in English fluency. The medical providers must pay the costs of this service and risk being targeted by federal investigators looking for "national origin" discrimination if anyone complains about the quality of the translating. All this for having made the mistake of wanting to provide us all with medical care.

David Horowitz describes leftists simply as "troublemakers." And that seems to be about all they are.

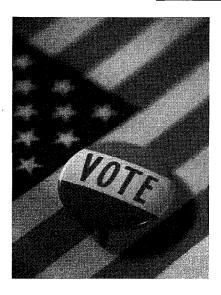
Linda Stanek Sacramento

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, 10/13/04

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C. Total paid circulation	1286	1169
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E. Free distribution, not mail	110	107
F. Total free distribution	507	521
G. Total distribution	1793	1690
H. Copies not distributed	283	310
í. Total	2076	2000
J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	71.72%	69.17%

ELECTION SPECIAL



Californians will vote November 2 on 16 initiatives that will have a major impact for years to come on the state budget, business climate, and even the electoral system. Herewith, CPR offers independent analyses of four of the more controversial measures, followed by brief information on the others. The views expressed are the authors' own.

November Ballot measures

SHAWN STEEL

THE LOUISIANA PRIMARY

Proposition 62

he November ballot's Proposition 62 would radically change California's electoral system. If passed, it could destroy all minor parties, cripple the major parties, and eviscerate political activists. Dick Riordan and a host of moderate Republicans and wealthy Democrats financed Prop. 62 advertising the initiative as an "open primary" measure that, in fact, would impose a "Louisiana-style" non-partisan voting process in California.

Critics call it an outrage that 62 uses Louisiana's primary election law as a model for California. They point out that its author was former Creole State Governor Edwin Edwards, a Democrat, who created the system in 1975 as a means of throttling the then-emerging Louisiana Republican Party. Edwards became nationally notorious after he first beat charges of corruption in 1987, but was convicted in 2001 of racketeering, extortion, and fraud, and sentenced to 10 years in prison. In addition, opponents point out, Louisiana has a long-held reputation for corrupt "Banana Republic" politics. The primary election system Prop. 62 would bring to California, they say, permitted David Duke and Edwin Edwards to be finalists for governor in 1991 when Louisiana voters were forced to choose between a Klansman and a crook.

Shawn Steel is California Republican Party immediate past chairman and a director of the California Club for Growth.

Ten billionaires financed the proposition's qualifying signature drive. They included major DNC donor Haim Saban (Mighty Morphine Power Rangers) and key Democrat Los Angeles operative Eli Board (Broad & Kaufman, major developers).

The proposition's supporters compare 62 to the Prop. 198 "blanket primary" initiative Californians adopted in March 1996, arguing that 198 increased voter participation. A major difference with 198, however, is that under Prop. 62 official party nominees would no longer exist for any office: no Democrat candidate, no Republican candidate, no official candidate for any party at all. The primary ballot would list candidates' names, ordered randomly. Listing party affiliation would be left up to the parties. All voters, including those not affiliated with a political party, would receive the same ballot and would be allowed to vote for any candidate regardless of the candidate's party affiliation. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes — regardless of their political party — would appear on the November election ballot.

Under Prop. 62, the two candidates qualifying for the November election would largely depend on the field of candidates running in the primary. If a statewide primary field consisted of three or more Republicans and two Democrats, for instance, the November general election would likely offer a choice between the two Democrats, because their party's votes would be split only two ways rather than three. A primary field of three or more Democrats and two Republicans, similarly, would likely mean a two Republican November run-

off. Former Congressman Tom Campbell, author of Prop. 198, observed that, had the Louisiana-style primary been in effect for his 1992 senate race, the two candidates qualifying for the November run-off both would have been Democrats.

Besides the possibility of sharply diminished competition between the major parties, under the Louisiana plan small parties would almost certainly disappear from November ballots altogether. With even Republican and Democrat candidates sometimes unable to finish among the top two primary vote-getters, November ballot appearances by Green, Libertarian, or other third Party candidates might easily never occur again.

ONE-PARTY ENCLAVES

In Republican counties, this system will result in perpetual internal warfare where two Republicans vie for election in November legislative run-offs. The same is true in urban areas for Democrats. In many coastal urban counties, Republicans may be totally eliminated from the November ballot. Run-offs in many of these legislative races will involve only two Democrats. The state will likely become a series of one-Party enclaves with ideological factions battling within district lines to win elections. Anyone not a member of an area's dominant party will be discouraged from participating in the democratic process by fielding candidates, registering voters, encouraging voting, or even voting themselves.

Prop. 62 is the most important political proposition of the last 10 years. It could marginalize parties, reduce new ideas in the political process, and allow wealthy personality cults to dominate California politics.

RAY HAYNES

CLONE AND KILL

Proposition 71

tem cell research generates more misinformation than any other single issue in the current public debate. The debate is usually cast in terms of being pro- or anti-science and progress. But you can be concerned about the direction of some of the research and still promote scientific progress.

The major source of confusion is that there are two distinctly different types of stem cell research. The first — human somatic stem cell research (SSC) — holds great promise for medical science and human health. The second — human embryonic stem cell research (ESC) — is a monumental failure with little promise of help or advancement in promoting the health of people. Companies engaged in SSC research have been

Ray Haynes represents California's 66th Assembly District.

able to raise millions in the private sector because the promise of profit is real. Companies engaged in ESC are struggling, and are now trying to use the success of SSC to get voters to approve billions in borrowing (to keep them in business) through Proposition 71.

Somatic stem cells, sometimes called "adult" stem cells, are available from a variety of sources: umbilical cord blood, nasal tissue, bone marrow, fat cells, and the like. These stem cells are taken without harm to the donor, and they have resulted in some amazing advancements. Everybody supports SSC research because it shows great promise. Its success is best measured by the support it receives in actual research dollars. Private capital is investing heavily in it in the firm belief the medical advances SSC research can generate are real and will therefore generate profits.

n contrast, embryonic stem cells have one source: cloning. The researchers create a human being through an embryo, kill the embryo, then extract the stem cells. Aside from the moral depravity of creating a human being for the sole purpose of killing it to facilitate Hitlerian/concentration camp-style research, ESC has failed to generate a single medical advancement. In fact, private capital, perhaps the best test of profitable research, won't go near ESC, knowing it is a losing proposition.

Enter Prop. 71. Put on the ballot to generate venture capital for ESC, it directs state government to borrow \$3 billion, lend it to ESC researchers, who are to repay the loan from their future profits. Of course, if such profits were at all likely to materialize, no government money would be necessary. This measure directs California taxpayers to finance failed research with borrowed money.

Its supporters argue for this initiative by emphasizing the advancements SSC research has made in medical science. But Prop. 71 won't allow the state to invest in SSC research, only ESC; won't allow the state to participate in the profits (only to lend the money); and provides no serious legislative or judicial oversight.

JOHN KURZWEIL

THREE STRIKES

Proposition 66

he November ballot's Proposition 66 would rewrite key parts of the state's 3 strikes law, which requires lengthy prison sentences following a third felony conviction for defendants convicted of two previous violent or serious felonies. The measure would redefine several crimes now considered "vi-