



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
 2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
 PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 20, 2010

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin
 Councilmember Darryl Moore
 Mayor Tom Bates

Subject: Oppose Statewide Proposition 14 Which Prevents Political Party Members From Selecting Their Own Candidates For General Elections

RECOMMENDATION:

Oppose Proposition 14 in the June primary election.

BACKGROUND:

Prop 14 was placed on the ballot in a deal to get a vote for the state budget, would restrict candidate options in the ballots, and allow for political trickery and special agendas to hide under the 'blanket' of the open primaries.

California customarily holds two elections on even numbered years: the primary election (in June) and the general election (in November) to elect candidates for state and federal offices. Aspirants in the primary election are generally party-oriented, in which only one entrant from each party is allowed on the ballot of the general election. It is on the general election ballot that these candidates, as well as independents and write-in's, appear- thus giving voters multiple options as to which candidate to choose.

If Proposition 14 is passed, the usual California system of elections would be drastically transformed. With it, all aspirants for office (partisan and nonpartisan) will be given the opportunity to 'disguise' as independents, providing an opportunity for hidden agendas during elections. After the primary election, only two candidates (no write-in aspirants) will be able to appear on the general ballot- those with the most votes from the primary election. Since party affiliations will not be needed to be disclosed during the June elections, there is the possibility for the two candidates on the ballot to actually belong to the same party. Proposition 14 limits voter's freedom and allows for candidate dishonesty during primary elections.

Smaller parties like the Greens, Peace and Freedom and Libertarian parties very well might not appear on the November ballot, and therefore would be less likely to get the required numbers of votes to stay on the ballot. as officially recognized parties.

Groups that are opposed to Proposition 14 are: California Democratic Party, California Republican Party, California Green Party, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington, 981-7170