



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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**CONTACT:** Marie Condron, 213-580-7532  
mcondron@lachamber.org

## **LA AREA CHAMBER RELEASES BALLOT MEASURE VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPCOMING ELECTION**

### ***LA business community voices support, opposition for key measures***

**Los Angeles, CA** –To inform and mobilize LA voters concerned with the future of the region, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce today released a voting guide for select measures on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The LA Area Chamber has helped lead campaigns in support of several of these initiatives, gathering signatures and educating the media, legislators, and the public on the benefits of propositions to invest in stem cell research, modernize our water treatment facilities, protect local government revenues, close loopholes that facilitate abusive lawsuits, and expand voter choice in our primary elections.

“Recognizing the promise of embryonic stem cell research as well as the economic benefits to research institutions and related businesses within L.A. County, we were proud to be the first business organization in California to endorse Prop. 71,” said George Kieffer, Chair of the LA Area Chamber Board of Directors. “The Chamber has helped to build the business community's widespread support for this exciting bond.”

### **LA AREA CHAMBER SUPPORTS:**

- **Prop 1A**, which protects local government finances by prohibiting the state from raiding local government budgets to balance the state budget. This bipartisan measure will ensure that local property and sales tax revenues remain with local governments and are spent locally.
- **Prop. 62**, which creates an “open” primary election system that would put candidates from all parties on the same ballot, so voters could select candidates outside their registered parties. The LA Area Chamber is a chief proponent of this campaign, and helped lead the original signature-gathering effort to put this initiative on the ballot.
- **Prop. 64**, which amends the state’s unfair competition law to shut down the predatory practices of private lawyers who file lawsuits without clients and without evidence of harm or financial loss.

(more)

- **Prop. 71**, which puts California on the leading edge of the emerging embryonic stem cell research industry. This \$3.3 million bond is expected to not only make advancements in battling diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, but also boost the regional economy through additional taxable income, job creation, property taxes and royalties from patents.
- **Measure O**, a much-needed \$500 million bond investment in infrastructure to bring the City of LA up to compliance with state environmental mandates and the federal Clean Water Act. This will eliminate runoff into local rivers and waterways by 2012, pay for needed infrastructure improvements, and modernize LA's sewage treatment systems to curtail the large volume of pollutants entering our beaches, harbors, and rivers.

"The Chamber agreed to sign the ballot arguments in support of Measure O because it will modernize our flood control and storm runoff systems so that LA will be in compliance with federal law," said Chamber Board member David Abel. "It will beautify our waterways and protect public health."

#### **LA AREA CHAMBER OPPOSES:**

- **Prop 60**, which would repeal Prop. 62 if it passes, keeping the current primary system in place
- **Prop 60A**, which dedicates any sale of state surplus property to pay off debt
- **Prop. 63**, which raises taxes on California millionaires to fund mental health programs
- **Prop. 67**, which raises phone bill taxes to fund emergency room personnel
- **Prop. 72**, a referendum on SB2, which mandates employer-provided health care in California. The Chamber encourages voters to vote "no" on this mandate.

"Prop. 72 is the wrong prescription for getting more Californians insured. It unfairly puts the onus on the backs of employers, public and private," said LA Area Chamber President & CEO Rusty Hammer. "We urge its defeat so that we can address health care the right way."

The LA Area Chamber's 2004 Ballot Measure Voting Guide is attached and is available at [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org).

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*The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,400 members, represents the interests of business in LA County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org).*