

## HOW TO EVALUATE BALLOT MEASURES

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish and determine if you agree with those goals
  - Is the measure consistent with your ideas about government?
  - Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
- Determine who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure
  - Who are the major financial contributors to the campaigns?
  - Go to Secretary of State website: [sos.ca.gov](http://sos.ca.gov) ([cal-access.sos.ca.gov](http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov)) as well as [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca)
- Decide if the measure is well written
  - Will it create conflicts in law that may require court interpretation or resolution?
  - Is it “good government”, or will it cause more problems than it will solve?
- Consider the fiscal impact
  - Does the measure create its own revenue source?
  - Does it earmark, restrict or obligate government revenues?
  - Weigh the benefit of securing funding for the measure against the cost of reducing budget flexibility
  - Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?
- Consider the complexity of the measure
  - Does it deal with one issue that can be decided with a “yes” or “no” vote?
  - Or is it a complex issue that should be dealt with in the legislative arena?
- If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution
  - Would a statute accomplish the same purpose?
  - All Constitutional amendments require voter approval; whatever we put into the Constitution would have to come back to the ballot to be changed
- Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure

## **Nonpartisan Election Information**

- **[www.votersedge.ca.org](http://www.votersedge.ca.org) (merged with [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org))  
One-stop shopping for election information**
- **[www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org)  
Concise explanations of state measures**
- **[www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)  
government and fiscal analysis, not just for elections**
- **[www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)  
online registration, election info**
- **[www.cavotes.org](http://www.cavotes.org)  
LWV Education Fund information site**
- **[www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org)  
Cupertino-Sunnyvale LWV**
- **[www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org) – Registrar of Voters  
Check status on registration & mail-in ballots**