



August 14, 2020

Dear Commissioners:

We urge you to approve Agenda Item 13, the settlement of *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association v. Los Angeles County*. Your approval of this item will be a major step toward improving the integrity of local elections in California.

The California Taxpayers Association monitors local tax elections closely, and has documented numerous examples of local governments using tax dollars to campaign in favor of various measures – a problem that has become noticeably worse in recent years.

This settlement involves an especially egregious example, as Los Angeles County used taxpayer dollars for an expensive and extensive campaign that included radio and television ads clearly designed to encourage a “yes” vote.

The FPPC’s enforcement of campaign laws is vital to our democratic process. Your work improves voter confidence, holds lawbreakers accountable and deters future misbehavior. Your approval of this item will advance these goals, and will help reverse the trend of local governments violating both the spirit and the letter of the Political Reform Act.

Sincerely,

Robert Gutierrez
President and Chief Executive Officer