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RCRC Takes Official Positions on November Ballot Measures

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SACRAMENTO, CA – August 19, 2016 – The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors adopted positions on California Propositions 51, 53, and 54 at their Board of Directors Meeting earlier this week.

“Rural California impacts are often overlooked during the crafting of statewide initiatives, making it difficult for local government and rural residents to comply with the consequences of a one-size-fits-all approach,” said John Viegas, RCRC Chair and Glenn County Supervisor. “It’s imperative that RCRC weigh in on statewide measures as the collective voice of California’s small and rural counties.”

Proposition 51, known as the “Kindergarten Through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016,” would provide \$9 billion in bond funding for K-12 and community college facility construction projects. Given the financial difficulties in financing school facilities construction in rural areas, the RCRC Board of Directors voted to support Proposition 51. Access to bond funding is a critical component in providing a quality education experience in rural school districts.

Proposition 53, known as the “No Blank Checks Initiative,” would require statewide voter approval for revenue bonds for projects that meet certain conditions, including projects where the total amount of revenue bonds sold exceeds \$2 billion, and projects that would be owned, operated, or managed by the state. Citing various concerns, including lacking a clear definition of a “project,” and questioning whether or not local governments would be subject to the conditions put forth in the measure, the RCRC Board of Directors voted to oppose Proposition 53.

Proposition 54, known as the “California Legislature Transparency Act,” would make a number of reforms to the state legislative process, including prohibiting members of the Legislature from voting on a legislative measure until it has been printed and published online in its final form for at least 72 hours before the vote. County Supervisors, along with other municipal governing bodies, are responsible for complying with the state’s open meeting laws, commonly referred to as the Brown Act. Among the many components of the Brown Act is the requirement that municipal governing boards not act upon items unless there has been a 72 hour posting of items so that the public can inspect the agenda and any accompanying documents. The RCRC Board of Directors voted to support Proposition 54, as this same requirement for transparency should be placed upon the Legislature.

Detailed information outlining RCRC’s positions on Propositions 51, 53, and 54 can be accessed [here](#).

ABOUT RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA (RCRC)

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is a thirty-five member county strong service organization that champions policies on behalf of California’s rural counties. RCRC is dedicated to representing the collective unique interests of its membership, providing legislative and regulatory representation at the State and Federal levels, and providing responsible services for its members to enhance and protect the quality of life in rural California counties. To learn more about RCRC, visit rcrcnet.org and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter.

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