

Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Board Meeting Date: 9/10/12

Title of Item: Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 32: Prohibition on Political Contributions by Payroll Deductions and on Contributions to Candidates

Background and Analysis:

The Community College League of California has taken an oppose position on Proposition 32: Prohibition on Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction and on Contributions to Candidates and encourages local community college governing boards, student governments, Academic Senates, and other organizations to join their opposition by adopting the attached resolution.

Recommendation: Chancellor Linda Thor recommends adoption of Resolution #2012-42 in opposition to Proposition 32: Prohibition on Political Contributions by Payroll Deductions and on Contributions to Candidates

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| Submitted by: | Linda Thor, x6104 |
| Additional contact names: | |
| Is backup provided? | Yes |

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Resolution #2012-42

In Opposition to Proposition 32: Prohibition on Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction and on Contributions to Candidates

WHEREAS, Proposition 32 would prohibit political contributions from corporations and unions but not from partnerships, including private equity firms, and wealthy individuals;

WHEREAS, Proposition 32 creates a hardship for unions by prohibiting the use of payroll deduction for political activities unless employees “opt in” annually in writing without a comparable requirement for corporate shareholders;

WHEREAS, the proponents claim that this measure would officially ban contributions to candidate-controlled committees by corporations and labor unions, but in reality would affect middle class workers and labor unions far more than corporations and wealthy individuals;

WHEREAS, this measure would allow other political expenditures, including corporate expenditures from available resources not limited by the payroll deduction prohibition;

WHEREAS, Proposition 32 would encourage the proliferation of unaccountable “independent expenditures” that interfere with the orderly discourse between political candidates;

WHEREAS, this measure is the third effort to restrict union funds for support of candidates and issues since the first two efforts (Proposition 226 in 1998 and Proposition 75 in 2005) failed at the ballot box;

WHEREAS, Proposition 32 “is a wolf in sheep's clothing,” designed to fool voters into approving a corporate power grab that will lead to even more corporate influence over California’s political system because it contains a giant loophole to allow for unlimited corporate spending on campaigns while building significant barriers for working class voters to engage in political activity;

WHEREAS, this measure is opposed by the League of Women Voters and California Common Cause, both champions of reasonable campaign finance reform;

WHEREAS, Proposition 32 would interfere with the ability for supporters of community colleges to communicate with voters about the impact of general obligation bonds and parcel taxes;

THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District opposes Proposition 32, an initiative statute with the official title of "Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction; Contribution to Candidates," on the November 6, 2012 General Election Ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on September 10, 2012 at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSTENTIONS _____

ABSENT _____

Linda M. Thor, Ed.D.
Secretary to the Board of Trustees