



SPECIAL EDITION: No on 226 Update

C A L I F O R N I A LABOR NEWS

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Tide Turning Against 226

Field Poll Shows Support For Initiative Dropping



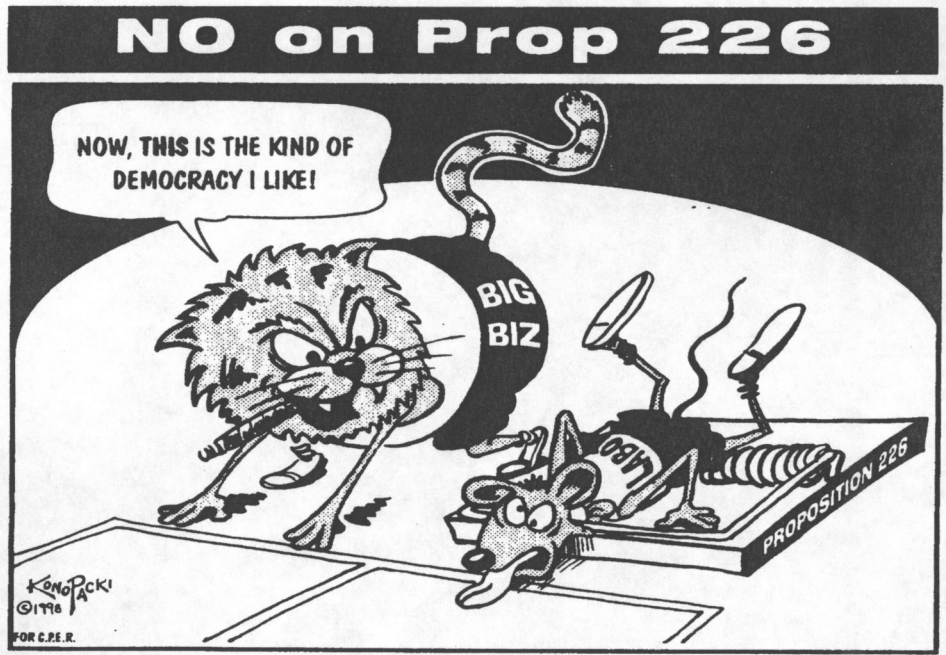
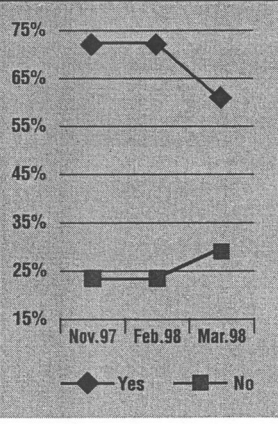
The latest Field Poll of California voters shows significant erosion of support for the anti-worker initiative, Proposition 226. In the poll, released on March 24, Proposition 226 still holds a commanding lead, with 60% voter support and 29% opposition. As recently as February, however, the measure led by a huge margin of 71% Yes to only 22% No.

These numbers reveal that a growing number of voters recognize the fraudulence of Proposition 226.

Most significant about the 18% reduction in the initiative's lead is that it took place prior to exposure to our "Vote No" campaign.

Experience in many California initiative campaigns shows that measures that are dropping in the polls to the 60% level months before the election are often defeated

Field Polls on Prop. 226



at the ballot box, **if opponents mount a visible and effective campaign.**

The measure led by a 49% margin in February. The gap between supporters and oppo-

nents has rapidly narrowed to 31%. "This poll confirms our internal research. The more voters learn about Prop. 226,

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4 Reasons to Vote No on 226:

- It silences working families
- It threatens our pay and retirement security
- It's an invasion of our privacy
- Look who's behind it:

Pete Wilson, Newt Gingrich, an out of state insurance executive and a right-wing Washington D.C lobbyist

Gang of Four Behind 226



Proposition 226 is part of a national move to tip the scales against working people. Key supporters of the measure include two well-known enemies of workers: Pete Wilson and Newt Gingrich – and two of their cronies: Grover Norquist and J. Patrick Rooney.

PETE WILSON

Gov. Pete Wilson is Chairman of Yes on 226. Here are a few battles we've had with Wilson:

- Public employee unions won Prop. 162 and prevented Wilson's pension fund raid.
- Labor won Prop. 210, minimum wage raise, after Wilson vetoed the wage increase.
- Teacher unions won public support to force Wilson to reduce class size.
- Building trades won lawsuit to stop Wilson's attack on prevailing wage.
- Wilson's appointees to Industrial Welfare Commission ended daily overtime pay regulation after unions stop Wilson's legislation to kill overtime.

GROVER NORQUIST

Through his Americans for Tax Reform, Grover Norquist, a Washington, D.C. lobbyist, gave \$441,000 to put Proposition 226 on the ballot. Norquist is in Newt Gingrich's inner circle. In 1996, Norquist's group spent \$4.6 million in soft money on behalf of Republican candidates. His goal: eliminating any federal support for health, education, transportation or housing. (*Wall St. Journal*, April 15, 1997) Norquist has stated that reducing the ability of labor to participate in politics will "help us break the unions." (*Reason Magazine*, Feb. 1997).

J. PATRICK ROONEY

J. Patrick Rooney, an Indiana insurance executive, gave \$49,000 to put Prop. 226 on the ballot. Rooney is chairman of Golden Rule Insurance Company. He wants to replace Medicare through medical savings accounts, an insurance product that Golden Rule sells. Rooney stands to make billions if Medicare is abolished. Rooney and Golden Rule interests gave \$523,775 to Republican candidates in soft-money contributions in

1993-1994, plus \$117,000 to Newt Gingrich's GOPAC. (Source-Common Cause).

NEWT GINGRICH

Newt Gingrich is still angry about his losses in the 1996 elections. Gingrich is on a vendetta against the AFL-CIO for its successes at the polls. Gingrich counts Norquist and Rooney among his closest confidants and biggest political donors. Gingrich calls Rooney's medical savings accounts "the most exciting option we are going to offer" to replace Medicare. Gingrich on Norquist: "he comes up with more interesting ideas than anyone I work with in terms of grass roots activism".

This gang shares a common enemy in the labor movement. Whether its trashing Medicare to make a fortune, advancing a political career into the White House, or turning back the clock on education, organized labor stands in their way. To achieve their goals, Wilson, Gingrich, Rooney and Norquist have concluded that they must first remove the labor movement from the field.

Their vehicle: Prop. 226 ■

Anti-Union Push On In 21 States

Proposition 226 has made California the test case for a national scheme to wipe out labor's political clout. A March 27 *New York Times* article reveals that right wing and corporate forces are mounting campaigns modeled on Proposition 226 in 20 other states. Signature gathering for 226-style ballot initiatives is currently underway in Colorado, Oregon and Nevada. In recent weeks, bills to restrict labor's political participation have been introduced in state legislatures in Alaska, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Similar legislation has been killed this year in Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico and South Dakota. Wyoming lawmakers enacted a law to cut unions out of politics on March 12. In recent years, the states of Idaho, Michigan and Washington enacted laws restricting the campaign expenditures of public sector unions. Washington's law resulted in an 80% reduction in the campaign activity of the state's teachers association. AFL-CIO Political Director Steven Rosenthal said "There's no question this is about Newt Gingrich's kitchen cabinet set loose to take working families out of the political game as a result of our opposing the Republican agenda." ■

Opposition Pours In



air minded citizens and organizations ranging from the **Sierra Club** to the **Congress of California Seniors** are rallying against 226, an initiative which restricts union political activity while leaving corporations and special interest groups free to write million dollar checks to favored politicians.

The **League of Women Voters** opposes Proposition 226 because it "creates a new set of rules that are clearly intended to shut working Californians out of the political process, rules that are not imposed on everybody else." Consumer advocate **Ralph Nader** stated "I have studied Proposition 226. A careful reading reveals it is a trick and a trap. Handcuffing working Californians increases the power of the few over the many. That always spells injustice." According to **William Gould**, Chairman of the **National Labor Relations Board**,

Proposition 226 is "unnecessary, unfair and almost certainly unconstitutional."

A partial list of opponents to proposition 226 includes virtually every labor union in the state and the following community and civic organizations:

- **California Labor Federation**
- **League of Women Voters**
- **Sierra Club**
- **League of Conservation Voters**
- **California Tax Reform Association**
- **Planning and Conservation League**
- **Assn. of CA School Administrators**
- **California Democratic Party**
- **Congress of California Seniors**
- **Consumer Federation of California**
- **CA Public Interest Research Group**
- **CA Organization of Police and Sheriffs** ■

Contact Your Members

Stopping 226 is labor's top priority this June. The **California Labor Federation** has developed a member to member contact plan to win this election. We need your support to assure that every union member gets the message three different ways: (1) face to face conversations; (2) phone calls; and (3) through the mail.

No on 226 field staff is assisting the central labor councils with the member to member program.

Call your local central labor council to join the program

How to reach the No on 226 Campaign

Co-Managers:

Letetia Daniels & Arlene Holt
1335 Sutter St. Suite 104
San Francisco CA 94109
(415) 567-6047

Field staff:

Bay Area:

Bob Johnson (415) 567-6047

Central Valley:

Ray Trujillo (916) 443-3302

Los Angeles:

Dave Sickler (213) 381-5611

North Central Valley:

Bill Camp (916) 444-3676

North Coast:

Vaughn Thompson
(707) 255-9265

Orange County:

Ernesto Medrano (213) 387-1974

Sacramento:

Andrea Staples (415) 292-1406

San Diego/Imperial:

Myung Soo Seuck (619) 283-5411

Additional Campaign staff is being added



Send Money NOW!

Funds urgently needed to reach voters

Proposition 226 is on track to defeat if we communicate with voters. Our public opinion research has found that many voters who initially support this initiative change their minds when they learn that 226 creates two sets of rules: one for working people and another for corporations and special interest groups.

Our job is to get that message to millions of California voters the only way possible – with television and radio ads. Reaching California voters is expensive. A single week of television ads costs \$1.75 million. We need \$12 million to deliver our message to voters.

We need your help. We are making great progress toward our fundraising goal. If your organization has not yet contributed, do so today. Please contribute at least \$2 per member.

For income tax purposes, contributions should be made from general treasury funds or issue PACs, *not from your candidate PAC*. Contributions should be payable to:

Workers' Rights Protection Fund, (FPPC ID# 970810)

c/o Law offices of Olson, Hagel, Leidigh, Waters & Fishburn, LLP

555 Capitol Mall, Suite 1425

Sacramento, CA 95814-4602

Tide Turning Against Prop. 226

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the less support the measure receives," stated Art Pulaski, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation. "We can win on June 2 if we accelerate our contact with members and the general public." The key to winning is a two-part campaign strategy. Unions throughout the state are organizing outreach to each and every member through face to face, telephone and mail contact. At the same time the No on 226 campaign is putting together community support and raising the funds needed to alert the state's 13 million voters that 226 is fraudulent campaign reform sponsored by right-wing extremists with a dangerous political agenda. (See articles inside). ■

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