LOCAL CONTROL UNDER ATTACK

Proposition 53 puts local control, a central tenant of California democracy, squarely in its crosshairs, which is why firefighters, law enforcement officers, business groups and local government have all made its defeat a priority for the 2016 election.

NO ON PROP 53
Stop Attack on Local Control

Story on Page 3
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

LOU PAULSON

THE FIREFIGHTER VOICE

A good deal has already been said about the importance of this upcoming election cycle, and as candidates enter the final stretches of races that will decide offices from city councils to the highest in our nation, it’s important to remember the massive role that elections have on our union.

As firefighters, and public employees, we are all acutely aware that virtually every decision that affects our jobs and our livelihoods is made by an elected official. Every few years, we’re given the opportunity to weigh in on who exactly will be tasked with making those decisions, as well as who will be sitting across from us at the bargaining table.

For this reason, elections – and all of the campaign work that leads up to them – are some of the most important times for our union, and we treat the occasion as such. Months ago, California Professional Firefighters began its usual process for identifying candidates that would be receiving the firefighter endorsement.

In making our recommendations, CPF judges candidates by just one, simple metric: Where do they stand on the issues that matter to us?

This means having candidates spell out their positions on things like public safety funding, retirement security, employee rights, training, disability and survivor benefits, as well as any other issue that impacts our lives on the job.

If it doesn’t fall into one of those areas, it doesn’t factor into our endorsement process. California Professional Firefighters makes its recommendations on firefighter issues, and firefighter issues alone. When CPF makes the decision to become involved in a contest, every credible candidate – Democrat and Republican – is invited to an interview.

In legislative races, CPF calls upon the local unions in that district to help vet and interview candidates. More often than not, local unions are the ones that have worked with these candidates in the past, at the municipal or county level, and their participation ensures that the issues closest to your heart are made known to everyone looking to go to Sacramento.

In this newspaper, you’ll find CPF’s list of recommended candidates for the November election, a list that includes both Democrats and Republicans. We back up those recommendations with the promise we give all of our candidates: If you stand with us, we will stand with you.

Keep in mind that our recommendations are just that – recommendations. They aren’t meant to be seen as direction on how to vote. We’re simply offering information on firefighter issues to help you make an informed choice at the ballot box.

These are the candidates that have stood by us, and it benefits our profession to stand by them.

Stay safe.

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

Published Quarterly

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LOCAL CONTROL UNDER ATTACK

F or a minute, try to envision the political bedlam that would ensue from telling residents in San Francisco that voters in Los Angeles would be deciding the fate of their next major infrastructure project. Or that commuters in San Diego would have to forgo a fix for crumbling roadways until voters in Stockton had a chance to weigh in on the project. It’s difficult to imagine, isn’t it?

Such scenarios are almost impossible to picture because they violate a central tenet of California democracy, something vital to the governance of a state as large and diverse as this one – the principle of local control.

That’s exactly what’s at stake thanks to Proposition 53, which would drastically erode local control and leave Californians up and down the state helpless in the event of fire or other natural disaster. Specifically, Proposition 53 would require a statewide vote every time an infrastructure project was to be funded with public bonds. By requiring such a vote, even on projects that impact only an individual county of specific region, Proposition 53 would end California’s long and successful history of letting communities make their own decisions about how to invest in their public infrastructure.

California Professional Firefighters has come out strongly in opposition of Proposition 53, and has made its defeat one of the union’s top political priorities for 2016. In opposing Proposition 53, CPF has been joined by the State Building & Construction Trades Council, the California Chamber of Commerce, the League of California Cities California State Sheriffs’ and many more.

The breadth and depth of this coalition alone should illustrate just how damaging this measure would be for the Golden State. If Proposition 53 were to pass, the nightmare scenario described above – allowing voters in Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego to kill projects in Sacramento or the Bay Area, and vice-versa – would become a reality.

To make matters worse, Proposition 53 includes no exemption for emergencies or disasters, which means that local communities would have to wait until Election Day to fix crumbling bridges, roads and water systems following major earthquakes or wildfires. In some cases, that wait could be up to two years, leaving millions of Californians without vital public services.

“Proposition 53 irresponsibly fails to contain an exemption for natural disasters or major emergencies,” said Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters. “It could impair our state’s ability to rebuild critical infrastructure following earthquakes, wildfires, floods or other natural or man-made disasters.”

Proposition 53 is entirely funded by a wealthy Stockton farmer named Dean Cortopassi. He’s trying to stop one single infrastructure project near his property, the plans to upgrade California’s water distribution system. Public records show Cortopassi and his family have spent about $4.5 million to have attorneys write a ballot initiative, conduct research, and pay signature gatherers and political consultants to qualify and promote the measure.

“Californians must not lose the ability to support essential infrastructure projects because one wealthy farmer got upset,” Paulson said. “We can’t let one multimillionaire’s spending spree succeed in eroding local control in our communities. Proposition 53 must be defeated.”

CPF ROLLS OUT DIGITAL VOTER GUIDE FOR LOCAL, STATEWIDE ENDORSEMENTS

Digital voter guide allows CPF members to access firefighter-endorsed candidate in federal, statewide and local contests

The firefighter endorsement is one of the most sought after in all of California politics, and getting those endorsements into the hands of rank-and-file members can often propel candidates to victory on Election Day.

Beginning this election cycle, CPF will be taking the process of identifying firefighter-friendly candidates into the 21st century, rolling out a digital voter guide highlighting federal, statewide and local candidates endorsed by the firefighters up and down the state.

To access the endorsements available in new “digital slate,” CPF members simply need to input their home address to view congressional, legislative and local candidates that have been endorsed by the firefighters working in the communities they seek to represent.

The local candidate data available within the voter guide was collected via a survey of local union leadership across California. The slate also produces CPF’s endorsed candidates for the California Senate and Assembly, as well as the congressional candidates endorsed by the International Association of Fire Fighters.

“Our union members often know the candidates that have been endorsed by their own local, but often are left in the dark about candidates endorsed by their neighboring locals, or those representing the community in which they live,” said CPF President Lou Paulson. “CPF’s new digital voter guide makes that information available to our members with the click of a button on the smart phone or home computer.”

The digital voter guide is the result of a member-introduced resolution at CPF’s most recent Convention.

Local presidents who have yet to submit their endorsements may do so to Chris Patterson, CPF’s political director, at cpatterson@cpf.org.

Members may access CPF’s new digital voter guide through the CPF website, www.cpf.org.

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Involvement in the political process can go a long way toward ensuring a local's success, both at the bargaining table and on the fire ground.

Elected officials that understand the demands of the job, as well as the tools needed to do it correctly, are some of the best allies local unions can have in the fight to represent their members. When it comes to identifying candidates that fit the bill, where better to look than the fire service itself?

Below is a list of active or retired firefighters seeking public office this November:

JEFF GRIFFITH
Jeff Griffith, captain in CAL FIRE’s Riverside Unit and member of Local 2881 is running for re-election on the Palomar Health Board of Directors. Griffith is a 20-year veteran of the fire service and second-generation firefighter. Palomar Health is a public health district which operates three public hospitals through the Southern California region.

MIKE DIAZ
Mike Diaz, a retired Escondido firefighter and member of Escondido Firefighters, Local 3842, is currently running for the District 4 seat on the Chula Vista City Council. A veteran of the fire service with more than 30 years of experience, Diaz seeks to represent the western district of Chula Vista and is running on a strong platform centered on public safety and well-planned, sensible growth.

JEREMY RAY
Jeremy Ray, a captain with the Santa Clara Fire Department and member of Santa Clara Firefighters, Local 1171, is running for re-election on the Live Oak School Board. Ray, a 17-year veteran of the fire service, first won his seat on the board back in 2012. The Live Oak School District serves roughly 1,800 students with a diverse community in the heart of Santa Cruz County.

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CALIFORNIA VOTERS FACE SLEW OF PROPOSITIONS

Bond funding, legal marijuana and tobacco taxes will all be decided this November, yet the biggest ballot issue of all could be that of voter fatigue

If you’ve checked your mail lately, you’ve probably noticed that this election’s ballot book is a bit thicker than normal.

The reason? Seventeen ballot measures that voters will be asked to weigh in on thanks to historically low qualification standards stemming from voter turnout during the last gubernatorial election.

These measures, which come in addition to any local measures that will be decided in November, have the potential to dramatically alter aspects of state government, and your statewide union has issued voter recommendations on seven of them.

Here’s a rundown on all seventeen measures, including those supported and opposed by California Professional Firefighters:

PROPOSITION 51
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✔ YES
This measure would approve a $9 billion state bond intended to help the massive backlog of necessary school construction projects needed to fix California’s crumbling classrooms.

PROPOSITION 52
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✔ YES
This measure helps free up California’s General Fund budget by maximizing the federal funds available to California needed to provide Medi-Cal services to children and seniors. Specifically, the measure requires voter approval to change the dedicated use of certain fees from hospitals used to draw matching federal money and fund Medi-Cal services.

PROPOSITION 53
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✗ NO
If passed, this measure would eliminate one of the cornerstones of California’s democracy – local control. Specifically, the measure would require a statewide vote to issue major project bonds, including those needed to build firehouses and schools and rebuild communities following natural disasters. Defeating Proposition 53 is one of CPF’s election priorities for 2016.

PROPOSITION 54
No Recommendation
If passed, this measure would alter the conditions under which bills can be passed by the California Legislature. Specifically, it would prohibit the Legislature from passing any bill until it has been in print and published on the Internet for 72 hours.

PROPOSITION 55
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✔ YES
This measure would extend 2012’s Proposition 30, maintaining the current income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians in order to prevent devastating cuts to public education and other vital services.

PROPOSITION 56
No Recommendation
This measure would increase the tax on cigarettes to $2 a pack. Revenue generated by the measure would be directed to the general fund, tobacco prevention programs, health care services for low-income populations, breast cancer screening and research and childhood development programs.

PROPOSITION 57
No Recommendation
This measure would increase parole and good behavior opportunities for felons convicted of nonviolent crimes and allowing judges, not prosecutors, to decide to try certain juveniles as adults.

PROPOSITION 58
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✔ YES
This measure would repeal Proposition 227, the “English and Public Schools” Initiative, thus allowing California’s schools to utilize the most up-to-date methods for teaching languages to the state’s children.

PROPOSITION 59
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✔ YES
If passed, this advisory measure would encourage the state’s elected officials to overturn the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision, potentially through a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

PROPOSITION 60
No Recommendation
If passed, this measure would require the use of condoms in pornographic films as well as require pornography film production companies to pay for various health requirements and checkups for employees.

PROPOSITION 61
No Recommendation
This measure seeks to regulate prescription drug prices in California by requiring state agencies to pay the same prices that the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs pays for prescription drugs.

PROPOSITION 62
No Recommendation
This measure would repeal the death penalty in California, making life without the possibility of parole the maximum punishment for murder and other capital offenses.

PROPOSITION 63
No Recommendation
This measure would impose various firearm and ammunition restrictions in California, specifically prohibiting the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines and requiring certain individuals to pass a background check in order to purchase ammunition.

PROPOSITION 64
No Recommendation
This measure would legalize recreational marijuana and hemp under state law, while also establishing certain sales and cultivation taxes.

PROPOSITION 65
No Recommendation
This measure would redirect funds collected from the sale of single-use carry out grocery bags to a special fund administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

PROPOSITION 66
California Professional Firefighters Recommendation:
✔ YES
This measure would alter the procedures governing state court appeals and petitions that challenge death penalty convictions and sentences. Specifically, it attempts to speed up the appeals process present within the state death penalty procedures by putting the trial courts in charge of initial convictions challenging death penalty convictions.

PROPOSITION 67
No Recommendation
This measure, a referendum on Senate Bill 270, seeks to repeal the ban on single-use plastic bags put in place by the California Legislature earlier this year.

PROPOSITION 54
No Recommendation
If passed, this measure would alter the conditions under which bills can be passed by the California Legislature. Specifically, it would prohibit the Legislature from passing any bill until it has been in print and published on the Internet for 72 hours.
John Mazzocco was a 17-year L.A. County firefighter and proud member of Los Angeles County Firefighters Local 1014. Courageous and determined to the end, Brother Mazzocco died before his time at age 48 after an excruciating battle with job-related cancer.

The loss was devastating to his family, but thanks to a law signed in the 1970s, his two teenage sons would benefit from a law granting public college tuition waivers to the children of fallen public safety officers. One son opting to attend community college was immediately granted the education assistance. But when his brother tried to enroll in Chico State, CSU’s legal staff defied precedent and turned thumbs down. Their narrow legal view: Only firefighters who die on the scene of an incident qualify as "line of duty deaths."

“Up until that moment, there had never been a question that my husband gave his life in the line of duty,” said his widow, Lori.

When word got back to Brother Mazzocco’s brothers and sisters, the union got to work. Local 1014 contacted California Professional Firefighters which, after extensive research, confirmed that the CSU interpretation was not shared by either UC or community college. CPF even secured a legal opinion supporting the waiver. In response, CSU threatened to take away benefits individual colleges had already granted to students, in effect throwing them out.

With CSU continuing to be unmoved, CPF turned to the Legislature.

Working with firefighter-friendly Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell, CPF sponsored AB 2164. The measure clarifies for all concerned what has long been recognized: Line-of-duty deaths include those caused by job-related illness. Lori Mazzocco personally testified on its behalf, as did Local 1014 President Dave Gillotte and Davis Firefighters Local 3494 member Emily Lo. CPF worked closely with its legislative allies and the governor’s office to smooth over trouble spots.

In the end, AB 2164 was approved unanimously and signed by Governor Jerry Brown. “Children of fallen firefighters shouldn’t be punished based on how their parent died,” said CPF President Lou Paulson. “This bill ensures California law is interpreted the way it was always meant to be.”

When all was said and done, fallen firefighter families won the security they deserve for the sacrifices they made. And the good folks on CSU’s legal staff learned a lesson about solidarity: The union is all of us.

Los Angeles County Firefighter John Mazzocco
Driven largely by the incident in Los Angeles City, this bill would require that a murdered firefighter’s former department be notified by the state Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) or the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation when the inmate responsible for the firefighter’s murder has a scheduled parole hearing when the department requests such notification. The bill would provide an avenue for the fire department, together with the victim’s family and the surrounding community, to voice their opinion about a prisoner remaining behind bars or being released back into their community. Similar action has been instrumental in keeping convicted arsonist Mario Catanio, who ignited a blaze that killed Los Angeles Firefighter Tom Taylor, behind bars.

Clarifies that existing tuition waivers afforded survivors of fallen firefighters at California community colleges, CSU and UC campuses are in fact extended to qualified survivors of firefighters who succumb to an occupational illness. This bill arose after CPF received reports of children of fallen firefighters having their waivers denied by certain campuses and accepted by others. Now there is no question: presumptive-related deaths are eligible for a survivor’s tuition waiver.

This bill enables the restoration of CalPERS’ retirement service credit for wrongfully-terminated CalPERS members, including local firefighters. In doing so, this bill codifies CalPERS past practice. It also requires the employer of the wrongfully-terminated employee to notify the CalPERS Board of the final decision ordering reinstatement of the employee. CPF co-sponsored this bill with the California School Employees Association.

This bill shifts existing enforcement authority – from the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) – over the prohibition on specified nonprofit organizations’ use of public resources for campaign purposes. CPF co-sponsored this bill with the California Labor Federation.

This bill allows a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) formed after the Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) took effect on January 1, 2013 to continue offering defined benefit plans or formulas to its employees if they were offered to employees of the JPA’s member agencies prior to forming the JPA. The bill applies to JPAs where at least one member agency provided defined benefits to employees prior to the implementation of PEPRA.

This bill strengthens penalties against those claims administrators who refuse to satisfy their legal obligation to report workers’ injuries. The bill also requires an employer or insurer to allow a physician additional time to respond to request medical information during a utilization review (UR) process, while also requiring the UR process to be accredited. CPF co-sponsored this bill with the California Labor Federation.

Here’s a rundown of the firefighter-friendly bills that will become law on January 1, 2017:

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**AB 898**
(Lorena Gonzalez, D–San Diego)

**AB 1980**
(Jacqui Irwin, D–Thousand Oaks)

**SB 1203**
(Robert Hertzberg, D–Van Nuys)

**SB 1160**
(Tony Mendoza, D–Artesia)

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**AB 2164**
(Patrick O’Donnell, D–Long Beach)

Allows for the California Firefighters Memorial in Capitol Park to be modified in a way that ensures additional names of fallen firefighters can be added to the Memorial wall for decades to come. Without this bill, it was expected that the current Memorial wall would run out of room to add the names of fallen firefighters within the next ten years, so additional wall space is needed. AB 1980 allows the California Fire Foundation to move forward and ensure that California’s fallen will be properly honored for years to come.

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This past September, once the legislative frenzy of the month before had come and gone, Gov. Jerry Brown was left facing more than 700 pieces of legislation. Some of these bills would go on to become law, while others would see their long journey through the legislative process ended by one of Brown’s swift vetoes.
CPF ENDORSEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE

Kamala Harris

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Congressional endorsements made by the IAFF)

CD2 – Jared Huffman
CD3 – John Garamendi
CD5 – Mike Thompson
CD6 – Doris Matsui
CD8 – Paul Cook
CD9 – Jerry McNerney
CD10 – Jeff Denham
CD11 – Mark DeSaulnier
CD12 – Nancy Pelosi
CD13 – Barbara Lee
CD14 – Jackie Speier
CD15 – Eric Swalwell
CD16 – Jim Costa
CD17 – Mike Honda
CD19 – Zoe Lofgren
CD20 – Jimmy Panetta
CD21 – Adam Schiff
CD22 – Tony Cardenas
CD30 – Brad Sherman
CD31 – Pete Aguilar
CD32 – Grace Napolitano
CD33 – Ted Lieu
CD34 – Xavier Becerra
CD35 – Norma Torres
CD36 – Raul Ruiz
CD37 – Karen Bass
CD38 – Linda Sanchez
CD39 – Lucille Roybal-Allard
CD40 – Mark Takano
CD41 – Ken Calvert
CD42 – Maxine Waters
CD43 – Isadore Hall
CD44 – Mimi Walters
CD46 – Lou Correa
CD47 – Alan Lowenthal
CD49 – Doug Applegate
CD50 – Duncan Hunter, Jr.
CD51 – Juan Vargas
CD52 – Scott Peters
CD53 – Susan Davis

STATE SENATE

SD 01: Ted Gaines
SD 03: Bill Dodd
SD 05: Cathleen Galgiani
SD 07: No Endorsement
SD 09: Nancy Skinner
SD 10: No Endorsement

STATE ASSEMBLY

AD 01: Brian Dahle
AD 02: Jim Wood
AD 03: No Endorsement
AD 04: Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
AD 05: Frank Bigelow
AD 06: No Recommendation
AD 07: Kevin McCarty
AD 08: Ken Cooley
AD 09: Jim Cooper
AD 10: No Endorsement
AD 11: Jim Frazier
AD 12: Heath Flora
AD 13: Susan Eggman
AD 14: Mae Torlakson
AD 15: Tony Thurmond
AD 16: Cheryl Cook-Kallio
AD 17: David Chiu
AD 18: Rob Bonta
AD 19: Phil Ting
AD 20: Bill Quirk
AD 21: Adam Gray
AD 22: Kevin Mullin
AD 23: Jim Patterson
AD 24: Marc Berman
AD 25: Kansen Chu
AD 26: No Endorsement
AD 27: Ash Kalra
AD 28: Evan Low
AD 29: Mark Stone
AD 30: Anna Caballero
AD 31: Joaquin Arambula
AD 32: Rudy Salas, Jr.
AD 33: Jay Obernolte
AD 34: No Recommendation
AD 35: Jordan Cunningham
AD 36: Tom Lackey
AD 37: Monique Limon
AD 38: Dante Acosta
AD 39: Raul Bocanegra
AD 40: Marc Steinorth
AD 41: Chris Holden
AD 42: Chad Mayes
AD 43: Andy Vargas
AD 44: Jacqui Irwin
AD 45: Matt Dababneh
AD 46: Adam Gray
AD 47: No Endorsement
AD 48: Blanca Rubio
AD 49: Edwin Chau
AD 50: Richard Bloom
AD 51: Jimmy Gomez
AD 52: Freddie Rodriguez
AD 53: Miguel Santiago
AD 54: Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
AD 55: Phillip Chen
AD 56: Eduardo Garcia
AD 57: Ian Calderon
AD 58: Cristina Garcia
AD 59: Regge Jones-Sawyer
AD 60: Eric Linder
AD 61: Jose Medina
AD 62: Autumn Burke
AD 63: Anthony Rendon
AD 64: Mike Gipson
AD 65: Sharon Quirk-Silva
AD 66: Al Muratsuchi
AD 67: No Endorsement
AD 68: No Recommendation
AD 69: Tom Daly
AD 70: Patrick O’Donnell
AD 71: Randy Voepel
AD 72: No Endorsement
AD 73: No Endorsement
AD 74: No Endorsement
AD 75: Marie Waldron
AD 76: Rocky Chavez
AD 77: Brian Maienschein
AD 78: Todd Gloria
AD 79: Shirley Weber
AD 80: Lorena Gonzalez

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 51: **YES**
Proposition 52: **YES**
Proposition 53: **NO**
Proposition 55: **YES**
Proposition 58: **YES**
Proposition 59: **YES**
Proposition 66: **YES**