

NO on Prop 14

Limits Voter Choice
Protects Incumbents
Proven Ineffective

Proponents say an open/top-two primary will elect more moderate candidates, thus ending partisan gridlock.

But this and similar systems have been used in Louisiana, Washington and California (blanket primary, 1998-2000) where they saw little change in the partisan results of elections or the immoderate nature of elected officials.

What they did accomplish was keeping incumbents in office; abolishing minor parties, independents and write-ins from general elections; and creating a plethora of lawsuits.

Proponents cite a Prop 14 study by the Public Policy Institute of California. A curious reference given that the report concludes, "Moderates might benefit, but only slightly more often than under the current system."

Read the back side for more facts and CfER's ideas for real electoral reforms.

Californians for Electoral Reform www.cfer.org

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Theory: The Prop 14's "open" primary allows moderate voters to cross over and vote for other parties' moderate candidates.

Reality: Experience with independent ("Decline to State") voters and our past blanket primary does not support this. People tend to vote along partisan lines for a number of political and social reasons.

Theory: The slight gain in elected moderates will then accumulate over time, bringing us more moderate legislatures in the future.

Reality: This occurs from keeping incumbents in office, in contradiction with existing term limits. Prop 15 financing reforms would also be impacted.

Theory: An open/top-two primary increases voter choice.

Reality: Voter turnout is significantly larger in general elections and tends to be more moderate. The primary will still have a smaller group of more extreme voters. Only the two highest voted candidates — chosen by the smaller, more extreme primary voters — proceed to the general election where the larger, more moderate voter group has to decide between only the two primary winners.



CfER promotes the use of Instant Runoff Voting. This ranked-choice ballot system truly improves voter choice and democratic process, thereby accomplishing the moderating affects sought by Prop 14 proponents.

See also www.StopTopTwo.org

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