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Proposition 54

Proposition 54's main focus is to improve government transparency in the state of California. The proposition states that all amendments must be posted on the internet 72 prior to being voted upon. It also requires that audiovisual recordings of all public proceeding be uploaded online, as well as letting citizens, including the press, attend proceedings and record audiovisuals of their own for any use including broadcasting, posting, and publishing. Any bill, except for the budget bill, cannot be acted upon until 31 days after it is introduced. The cost of passing this proposition would be around 1 to 2 million initially and around 1 million annually in the following years.

The pro arguments for Proposition 54 consists of the improval of government transparency. Prop 54 prevents the approval of last minute amendments to bills, allows government officials more time to review complex bills, and establishes proceedings of legislature as open and public. The purpose of this proposition is also to benefit the citizens of California. The existing budget would be able to cover the initial and operating expenses, therefore not costing taxpayers anything more. It will give interested citizens, press, and academics, access to online records 24 hours after proceeding occur. Furthermore, this practice of posting recording online is already in effect in many cities around California, and has been proven efficient. This proposition takes the power away from special interest groups, who currently have the power to push bill to statute before citizens are properly

informed or government officials themselves have enough time to review the bills to be passed. The main organizations in support of the passing of Proposition 54 are the League of Women Voters, California Common Cause, the California Chamber of Commerce, the League of California Cities, CalTax, NAACP, the First Amendment Coalition, California Forward, the California Black Chamber of Commerce, NFIB, the Latin Business Association, the Rural County Representatives of California, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the California Business Properties Association, the California Business Roundtable, CALSAL, Californians Aware, and the Planning and Conservation League. Various other organizations, groups, and local governments are also in support of Proposition 54.

The main theme of con arguments against Proposition 54 are that it is serving the special interest groups the proposition was created to avoid. Proposition 54 is funded and spearheaded by Charles Munger Jr., the son of a billionaire. Being a proposition so heavily encouraged by him, it would likely serve his personal needs. It also hinders the progression of bills and amendments by creating specific guidelines and regulations, with waiting periods. Due to these time gaps, specific bills as well as emergency legislation would not be able to be passed quickly when necessary. Proposition 54 would add time for powerful politicians and special interest groups to lobby for their own benefit. Opposers also argue that the passing of Proposition 54 would increase cost for taxpayers, making the proposition negative for both government officials and citizens. Some organizations opposing Prop 54 are the California Democratic Party, the California Environmental Justice Alliance Act, the California Labor Federation, the California Federation of Teachers, and the California Nurses Association. These as well as political consultant Steven Maviglio, oppose the passing of Proposition 54.

Personally, I think that Proposition 54 brings about the transparency we need in our government today. We live in the digital age, where we as citizens as well as public servants rely on the internet for work, research, and daily functions. I, as both a student and a future voter, can see in many ways how Proposition 54 would benefit me. Many scholars rely on specific legislative and judicial information to form their research projects and papers. It is important to keep also your voters informed of government inner workings. As a better educated state wholly, voters can make wiser decisions to help improve our state. Generally, Proposition 54 ensures every person in California has the opportunity to be educated on the government issues being acted on.