

# Yes on 226!

*Paycheck protection for working Californians*

## Thank you!

Dear Friend,

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Proposition 226 was defeated. Paycheck protection, however, was not.

In the May 18 edition of The Nation magazine, a pollster connected to the anti-226 campaign revealed their strategy, saying they needed to "get away" from a discussion of just what constitutes the appropriate use of compulsory union dues. The resulting multi-million dollar ad campaign against Proposition 226 never mentioned union dues or workers' rights.

The popularity of the principles behind Proposition 226 forced our opponents to resort to trumped-up fantasies about some of our supporters, police being put at risk, and charities heading to the poorhouse if 226 passed. Armed with millions of dollars taken from members' paychecks, and without the burden of being morally compelled to be honest in their advertising, the union bosses succeeded just enough to take the 226 debate away from the workers who need help.

In all, our opponents spent over \$30 million to defeat Proposition 226, yet they only garnered 53% of the vote. On our side, we spent roughly \$3.5 million and won 47% of the vote. The union bosses' spending exceeded ours by over \$27 million, yet they only squeaked out a margin of few points. Exit polling showed 69% of Californians who voted on Election Day support giving workers the right to choose whether money comes out of their check for politics. These results demonstrate both the power and simplicity of the idea that no worker should be forced to contribute money to politicians.

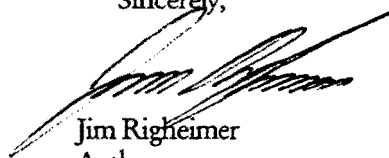
During our campaign, we met far too many union members who live every day under the tyranny of a system which subjugates the will of the individual to the authority of the union bosses. We came too close, despite overwhelming odds, to quit now. After reviewing the results and consulting with our supporters, the authors of Proposition 226 concluded the following: we're going to do it again. That's right: look for a paycheck protection initiative on the 2000 primary ballot, two years from now. We're going to keep our infrastructure in place and keep you informed every step of the way. Please join us in continuing the fight.

From all of us on the Proposition 226 campaign team, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your help and support of our efforts.

Sincerely,



Mark Bucher  
Author



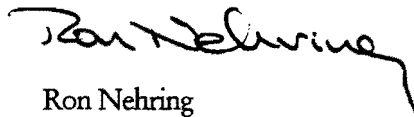
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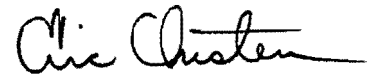
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## Unprotected Paychecks

California's "Paycheck Protection" initiative lost Tuesday 53% to 47%. That means the state's union members will continue to have money *automatically* taken out of individual paychecks by their union's leadership, which then spends the money for political candidates and causes supported by the people running the union.

For political cynics, the unions' campaign against Prop. 226 was hilarious. They ran TV ads claiming that corporations outspend unions by 11 to 1 in politics. Meanwhile they were spending \$30 million of union dues money—about \$12 a vote—to beat a measure that would have required permission from union members before their dues money is spent on such campaigns. This financial outlay was way beyond anything the proposition's supporters spent. They don't call it Big Labor for nothing.

Business interests in fact were AWOL during the Paycheck Protection debate. Last year, unions collected signatures for three ballot initiatives that would have curbed business tax preferences and political activity. The unions agreed not to file their signatures in exchange for business sitting out the 226 campaign. The result was a 6-to-1 union spending advantage that paid for everything from 10,000 TV ads to 59 field organizers to even ads on Mexican radio stations.

The message of this anti-226 campaign was simple: Change the subject. "We have to put it in as broad a context as possible," a Democratic pollster told the Nation magazine, "and get away from a debate over how much control union members should have over dues." And so we got claims that Prop. 226 would allow gang members to target cops at their home addresses. That it would threaten Medicare. And that it would cost non-profit groups "much of" the money they raise in California. State affiliates of the American Cancer Society and the Heart and Lung Associations helped spread this disinformation. It's hard to justify giving money to such causes if their cause is politics.

As to business (which mostly employs non-union workers anyway), after watching them sit on the sidelines

it will be harder to sympathize with their whining about shortages of workers and modern labor skills. It's worth keeping in mind that to the extent there is any sort of union movement today, it is led by *public-sector unions*, who not surprisingly are a permanent lobby for the expansion of government regulations on business.

The California Teachers Association alone spent \$6.4 million against Prop. 226—far more than the entire budget supporting the initiative. Governor Pete Wilson says he was ignored when he told business owners not to expect "any education reform that will bring them more skilled workers" unless the power of the teachers unions to snuff out good ideas is curbed. The successful campaign to end bilingual education (see above) proved an exception after classroom teachers themselves split evenly in a union-conducted vote in Los Angeles.

"Paycheck Protection" is likely to survive. Term limits suffered a devastating defeat in Washington state in 1991, then won a rematch there and prevailed in 22 states. Backers of Prop. 226 promise to be back in two years, and "Paycheck Protection" initiative campaigns this fall in Oregon, Colorado and Nevada will learn from the California experience.

We should be so lucky to have backers of the sort of campaign finance reforms being debated in the House this month take a lesson from California. Voters rejected three multi-millionaire candidates in the primary. Since 1970, all 19 wealthy, self-financed candidates who've run statewide have failed. Many of those candidacies were the result of the very kind of campaign funding limits Beltway savants want to tighten.

But when middle-class candidates are restricted to unindexed \$1,000 contributions, loopholes such as soft money or vanity candidates are inevitable. The answer is to raise limits on individual contributions, require their full and immediate disclosure and consider the one campaign reform voters always support: term limits. In any event, California's unions have just spent millions of their members' money to ensure them the privilege of being able to do it again.

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