

# NEWSBREAK

October 2005

Registered Nurses Professional Association

Volume 27, issue 4

## RNPA SPECIAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

California Special  
Election  
Tuesday,  
November 8, 2005

### Election Information Sources

California Secretary of State  
[WWW.VOTERGUIDE.SS.CA.GOV](http://WWW.VOTERGUIDE.SS.CA.GOV)

Santa Clara County Registrar of  
Voters  
[WWW.SCCGOV.ORG](http://WWW.SCCGOV.ORG)

League of Women Voters  
[WWW.SMARTVOTER.ORG](http://WWW.SMARTVOTER.ORG)

Alliance for Better California  
[WWW.BETTERCA.COM](http://WWW.BETTERCA.COM)

California Teachers' Association  
[WWW.CTA.ORG](http://WWW.CTA.ORG)

California Nurses Association  
[WWW.CALNURSES.ORG](http://WWW.CALNURSES.ORG)

### Terminate Arnold's Power Grab Agenda!

"I'll be back." Just as Arnold promised in his movie, he's back. This time, instead of "kicking our butts" by trying to lower nursing ratios at hospitals, he and his corporate benefactors are attempting the largest right-wing power grab in recent political history.

RNPA put this Special Election Voter Guide together to help you understand the recommended positions of the RNPA board and to provide you with some brief background information. This election is important.

At stake: education and health care funding, quality teachers in the classroom, health care funding, restrictions on political activities of public employee unions such as RNPA, and a

phony prescription drug benefit being boosted by pharmaceutical companies.

And the cost to taxpayers for this special election: at least \$60 million.

Most political analysts, Republicans and Democrats alike, state that Arnold's political future rests on the success of his special election. This is especially true given his rock-bottom approval ratings.

This is being viewed as a referendum on the Governor. Let's make sure he knows how nurses feel about his policies.

Join other nurses, police officers, fire fighters and teachers from across California in sending Arnold a message: Hasta La Vista, Baby.

**Vote against his costly special election scheme.**

If you need any further information, you visit one of the websites listed to the left, or call the RNPA offices at (408) 292-6061.

**Remember to Vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2005.**



Arnold's Leadership of California.  
Source: Alliance for Better California

### No on Prop. 75—it Silences Nurses, and Impacts You!

Proposition 75 is a move by Arnold, conservative Republicans and large corporations to limit the political activity and voices of public employees.

**Prop 75 will limit a union's ability to fight for issues important to unions:** staff ratios, better working conditions, candidates who support our missions, etc.

**It is unnecessary** as current law already allows every union member to opt out of sending any dues towards political purposes.

**Prop 75 is a bureaucratic nightmare and affects your privacy.** It would require RNPA to keep a file on every member who chooses to participate in political action, including keeping a file on other personal political contributions you might make.

**Prop 75 offers no reforms on big business** and their endless stream of campaign cash often spent to our detriment.

Strangely, Prop. 75 does not require large corporations to receive their shareholders ap-

proval before spending tens of millions of dollars on campaign contributions.

Prop. 75 is opposed by state nurses, fire fighters, police officers, and teachers.

Staffing ratios at hospitals. Gutting public pensions. Stealing money from local schools and local government. These are all failed attempts by this Governor and his cronies that were beat back due in large part because of the political activity of unions.

Prop 75 seeks to silence our voices so we cannot fight back when the basic services Californians depend on come under attack.

In 1998, a similar proposition, Prop. 226, was defeated at the polls because voters felt it was unfair to union workers. This measure is no different.

Keep our voice loud. Make sure we're heard. **VOTE NO ON PROP. 75.**

### RNPA RECOMMENDATIONS

Prop. 73 No  
Prop. 74 No  
Prop. 75 No  
Prop. 76 No  
Prop. 77 No  
Prop. 78 No  
Prop. 79 Yes  
Prop. 80 No

# RNPA Special Election Voter Guide

## No on Prop 73—Puts Teens at Risk



Proposition 73 would require parental notification before a doctor would be allowed to perform an abortion on a minor. Doctors who perform abortions would be required to give 48-hour notice to parents and the notification would have to be either personally delivered to the parent/guardian or sent by certified mail.

In practice, those of us who have provided care for at-risk young girls know that they'd be put in further jeopardy by going home, especially those from abusive households.

This measure will likely force young girls from these types of family environments to take unwise actions like not seeking medical advice, pursuing illegal abortions or traveling out of state to get the procedure done.

Proponents say Prop. 73 allows for young girls who may face abuse at home to waive notification requirements. In reality, however, it would require those young women to file a petition in court, pay court fees and then appear before a judge to get a waiver. Think about it. Would a young woman, with family troubles, be likely to go through the complicated judicial system?

**Prop 73 is opposed by CA Nurses Association and the California Medical Association. RNPA recommends you vote NO on Prop 73.**

**RNPA recommends NO ON 73.**

## No on Prop. 74—Arnold's Attack on Classroom Teachers

Prop. 74 seeks to change a teacher's probationary period from 2 years to 5 years.

Current law allows school districts to fire any teacher for any reason during their first 2 years of employment. This would change the law so that teachers can be fired for any reason within their first 5 years.

Additionally, Prop 74 would eliminate the appeal hearing currently granted to teachers during the dismissal process.

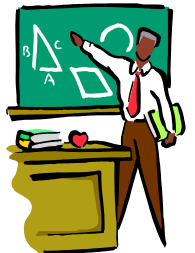
Consider Prop 74 from a nurses' perspective. **Does a 5**

**year probationary period and losing the rights of due process for disciplinary action seem fair to you?** If not, vote NO on Prop 74.

Rather than tackling the tough issues that challenge our schools, this governor is attacking the teachers committed to education.

This is another example of Arnold taking his swings at the people who stand up against him.

**Vote No on Prop 74.**



## No on Prop 76—Guts School Funding, Increases Arnold's Power

Prop. 76 is the classic example of a power grab aimed at misleading the voters. It permits the state to take money that is guaranteed to schools, without paying it back as is currently required by law. It gives the Governor greater power to unilaterally slash funding in almost all state programs, placing a greater burden for paying for services like healthcare on County governments. Prop. 76 also guarantees that if the legislature disagreed with the Governor's funding cuts, they could not restore funding.

This effectively eliminates the check and balance system of government surrounding the state budget and consolidates too much power over important issues such as funding for healthcare, hospitals, schools, and public safety.

Sacramento already has a culture of grabbing money from local governments—this measure will make it worse. Consider this, Prop 76 ensures that public transportation projects cannot be derailed in times of fiscal emergencies, but schools and health care are up for grabs.

We already know what happens when the State shorts the county, the County Executive and Supervisors come after us.

**Prop 76 is a risky scheme, we just can't afford.**

## No on Prop 77—Redistricting

Prop 77 is democracy by a few. It allows state politicians to pick three judges who will be in charge of drawing the political boundaries for every Congressional, Senate, and Assembly seat in the State.

The new lines would go into affect, AND LATER, voters will be asked to ratify the new districts. Make sense? Of course not. Why? This is Arnold's glossy way of creating the appearance of a "reform agenda."

The current law calls for a public process where we hold our elected officials accountable for the results. Not one elected official will be held accountable for these new plans. This is an ill-thought out, superficial way to change the rules.

## NO on Prop 78, Yes on Prop 79—Prescription Drugs

Prop. 78 allows a voluntary discount prescription drug program to be established. Key word: voluntary. It does nothing to ensure that any of the large pharmaceutical companies actually participate. And if no companies sign up to participate, guess what? The program ends on its own. Prop. 78 was put on the ballot by drug companies, attempting to confuse the voters that California Families in need would get relief on needed prescriptions.

Prop. 79 offers a discount drug program for families in need, but prevents the State from contracting with companies who do not participate and gives a "preferred" status to those that do—meaning that doctors do not need state permission to prescribe the drug to Medi-Cal patients. Further, it makes it a crime for drug companies to sale prescription drugs at "unconscionable prices."

Prop. 79 is a good start in helping the families we serve afford the medication they need.

**No on 78. Yes on 79.**



## No on Prop. 80

Prop. 80 attempts to tackle the tough issue of energy deregulation.

Given the complexity of the issue, the importance of affordable and reliable energy, and the lack of analysis and public discussion, we have to recommend a **No vote on Prop. 80.**



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