



Ballot all about state's budget

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Voters will decide the fate of six propositions on the May 19 special election ballot.

Here are arguments for and against some of the propositions, all of which deal with the deficit-ridden state budget.

It's no good for children

By Rebecca O'Rourke

Proposition 1D will take hundreds of millions of dollars from programs that ensure children's health and school readiness.

These results-driven programs have been developed in every California County with First 5 commissions - with local design, local control and local support.

First 5 San Bernardino commissioners make funding decisions based upon existing economic conditions, our local needs, and anticipated Proposition 10 yearly revenue streams.

If Proposition 1D passes, funding for many of our important programs and initiatives in future years will be significantly reduced or eliminated because the revenue stream will be reduced by more than 60 percent throughout the state.

This kind of reduction in funding would mean that 15,000 of California's children would lose health insurance, with that number increasing every year; 120,000 fewer children in California would receive immunization and booster shots; and would cause more than 200,000 children in California to lose access to preschool and education services.

By putting Proposition 1D on the May 19 ballot, the Legislature is asking voters to slash the revenue stream dedicated to our kids through the investments made by First 5 commissions in every county.

Once the state's general fund gobbles up these funds, our children will not have the access to health care, dental care, kindergarten preparation, developmental screenings or literacy services delivered by First 5.

We can't afford to bankrupt our future by eliminating essential programs for children. We will all pay in the long run, and we simply can't afford it.

Bottom line: when you don't invest, you don't grow, you don't produce, you don't achieve.

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