

# OPINION

A16

Friday, August 18, 2006

## *Prop. 89's about control*

Re Phil Angelides backs Proposition 89:

This reader is not surprised that Angelides chose to support Prop. 89, though it is ironic that he would choose to make the announcement at the main offices of Prop. 89's author and primary backers (I sense a tit for tat in Angelides' future).

I have read the full proposition and found contrary to all the hype it's not so much about clean money as controlling who can legally dole out the big bucks.

The biggest benefactors from this Prop. 89, in my opinion, will be unions and anyone who can form a

not-for-profit, since according to the Prop. 89 language they are exempt from any of the Prop. 89 limits. Also, most if not all corporations would be forbidden from forming such not-for-profits.

Do I want to see reform? Indeed. However, I do not believe Prop. 89 achieves this. What it does achieve is make us taxpayers fund candidates that we might not chose to fund of our own free will and raise the corporate taxes of my and every other small business owner.

Let's not forget that corporations, much to the consternation of unions and their supporters, are entitled to participate in the political process, and that it was the unions that out spent the corporations in the last elections by 3 to 1.

**Geneviève M. Clavreul**  
PASADENA

# Angelides backs Proposition 89

BY JULIET WILLIAMS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**OAKLAND** — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides, who has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from business interests, endorsed a November ballot initiative Thursday that would publicly finance campaigns and limit large donations.

His endorsement of Proposition 89 signaled a break from some of his party's most influential supporters, including the California Teachers Association, which has spent millions to elect Democrats and finance Democratic initiatives in the last few years.

It also sets the state treasurer apart from rival Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who opposes the measure. Angelides said the Republican governor broke his recall election promise to sweep special interest influence out of Sacramento.

"So many people now just don't believe that they matter, the only thing that matters is the huge check," Angelides told a roomful of nurses at the California Nurses Association head-

quarters. "It's about making democracy work better."

The nurses association is sponsoring the initiative, which would limit campaign contributions and authorize public financing for state candidates, partly with a 0.2 percent tax on corporations.

"I can't tell you with 100 percent certainty that this will work, but it will be a heck of a lot better than what we have now, where big money, HMOs, insurance companies, oil companies, are dictating too many policies in the state of California," Angelides said.

The California Chamber of Commerce, one of Schwarzenegger's biggest supporters, and the California Teachers Association, which backs Angelides, this week announced they were teaming up to oppose Proposition 89.

Schwarzenegger campaign spokesman Matt David said the governor fundamentally opposes the proposed tax increase. In an interview at the Commonwealth Club earlier this month, Schwarzenegger said he opposes public financing for elections.

"I have seen public financing in Europe, and it doesn't work," the governor said. "Even though our system is not perfect ... it is still better when you compare the two systems."

David called Angelides' endorsement of the initiative hypocritical because he received millions of dollars from a Sacramento developer during his Democratic primary fight against state Controller Steve Westly.

Angelo Tsakopoulos, a long-time Angelides patron, formed an independent committee

with his daughter that spent \$8.7 million to boost the treasurer's candidacy.

Angelides also attended a Beverly Hills fundraiser this week featuring former President Bill Clinton, which brought in an estimated \$5 million for Angelides and the state Democratic Party.

He defended the fundraiser and corporate donations Thursday, saying under the current fundraising rules, it would be political suicide to reject big-dollar donations as his opponent collects them.