



CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

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Business Roundtable Announces Positions on March 2 Ballot Measures

State's Top Business Leaders Urge Passage of Propositions 57 & 58

(Sacramento, CA) -- The California Business Roundtable today announced its support for Proposition 57 and Proposition 58 (the Balanced Budget Package) and its strong opposition to Proposition 56.

"Proposition 57 and 58 are essential to bringing stability and reliability back to California's economy and to the state's business climate," said Bill Hauck, president of the Roundtable. Hauck added, "Recent budget deficits and fiscal crises have highlighted the need for the state to establish a workable form of fiscal discipline that will help safeguard against major deficits in the future and restore much needed investor confidence. The Balanced Budget Package will address our current budget deficit and help instill the fiscal discipline that is absent today, yet still permit flexibility to meet the needs of the people of California."

Proposition 57, the Economic Recovery Bond Act, provides for a one-time \$15 billion Economic Recovery Bond to refinance past budget deficits. Proposition 58, the California Balanced Budget Act, requires the governor and legislature to balance the budget every year in the future and prohibits bond financing of any future deficits. It also creates a "rainy day savings account" to be used for paying the bonds off early and helping the state through any future economic downturns. The two measures must both pass for either to take effect.

"Voter approval of both Proposition 57 and 58 is critical to California's economic recovery. We applaud the leadership of Governor Schwarzenegger and the cooperative work of the Legislature in getting these measures to the ballot and we urge voters to vote yes on Proposition 57 and Proposition 58 in March," said Hauck.

The Roundtable also announced its strong opposition to Proposition 56 which would reduce the vote required in the legislature to raise taxes from two-thirds to 55 percent.

The Roundtable is supporting Proposition 55, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004.

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The California Business Roundtable is a non-partisan association comprised of chief executive officers of the state's leading corporations with a combined workforce of more than 620,000 California employees. Since 1976, the Roundtable has provided essential leadership on high-priority public policy issues and is a compelling advocate for a strong economy and a healthy business climate in California. For more information visit www.cbirt.org.