

ARGUMENT AGAINST
PROPOSITION 5

**'Proposition 5: Elections: recall of state officers' Ballot Argument in Opposition – Sen.
Jones and Asm. Patterson**

Proposition 5 will take away your voice and erode your ability to remove and replace failed or corrupt politicians from office.

California politicians already have too much power. Proposition 5 gives them even more – and it does it by taking power away from you, the voters.

For over 100 years, California's recall process has given us the ability to remove elected officials who abuse their office, break promises or fail to do the job they were elected to do. And, when that happens, the current process allows you – not politicians – to choose who replaces them.

Proposition 5 changes that system forever and takes power away from the people.

Today, a recall election asks two simple questions: Should the elected official be removed from office? If so, who should replace them? That means Californians can remove a failed politician and immediately choose someone new to take their place.

Proposition 5 keeps the first part but eliminates your ability to vote for a replacement.

Instead, Sacramento political insiders would decide what happens next. In many cases, politicians themselves – not voters – would choose who fills the vacancy, essentially allowing them to appoint another one of their friends or political allies to replace the one you just ousted.

In other cases, rather than an immediate replacement, the seat would sit vacant until another costly election – funded by you, the taxpayer – was scheduled months later. And here's the kicker; That failed politician you just ran out the door for failure or corruption, they'd be allowed to run in that next election to regain control of the seat they just lost.

In either case, your vote matters less, and the political establishment gains more control.

Californians deserve the right to remove an elected official – and to choose who comes next. Proposition 5 takes away half of that right, and that's wrong.

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Supporters claim this measure improves democracy. It doesn't. Democracy means voters – not Sacramento politicians – get to choose their leaders, when to give them the boot and who to replace them with. Proposition 5 undermines that fundamental concept.

Ask yourself: if you vote to remove a governor or another statewide elected official, shouldn't you also decide who replaces them?

The answer is clear.

It's also worth wondering why this measure is on the ballot in the first place. Why fix a system that isn't broken and has been working just fine for over a century?

Well, the author of this proposal himself was recalled by California voters when he voted to raise gas taxes after promising not to. Instead of respecting the will of the people, he now wants to rewrite the rules and protect politicians like him from any meaningful accountability.

California's recall belongs to the people – not politicians.

Protect your voice. Protect your vote. Protect your right to hold elected officials accountable.

Vote NO on Proposition 5.

- Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones
- Assemblymember Joe Patterson