Vote NO on Proposition 18.

"Many tax increases and bond debt measures are decided on primary and special election ballots That's why only adults should vote." - Jon Coupl, President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

17-YEAR-OLDS ARE NOT LEGALLY ADULTS

Both the federal and California governments have set the age of legal responsibility at 18. In California, an individual even one day younger than 18 may not enter into a legal contract, or even use a tanning salon. Seventeen-year-olds cannot even participate in a school field trip without a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian.

California law puts extra rules and restrictions on driver licenses of 16- and 17-year-olds because of concerns about maturity and judgment. The license restrictions disappear exactly on the 18th birthday, not before.

California law reflects the scientific evidence that age-related brain development is connected to the ability to reason, analyze and comprehend cause-and-effect. The agreed-upon age of reason, both statewide and nationally, is 18.

17-YEAR-OLDS ARE CAPTIVE AUDIENCES IN SCHOOL

Voters deserve to hear all sides of an issue to make an informed choice. Most 17-year-olds are still in high school, dependent on teachers for grades and important recommendation letters vital to their future. They are a captive audience five days a week, with a strong incentive to do whatever teachers and counselors recommend.

California's primary ballot often includes school tax and bond measures for voter approval. Unlike adult voters, 17-year-olds who are still in high school are likely to hear only one side of these issues. For example, in 2019 the Los Angeles Unified School District engaged in an "informational" campaign to pass a proposed tax increase, Measure EE, in a special election. Schools posted huge
banners on campus, handed out flyers and literature for students to take home, and even distributed
sample social media posts in an effort to influence students and their families.

If 17-year-olds are allowed to vote in primary and special elections, perhaps even filling out a
mail-in ballot right in the classroom, these students could provide the margin to approve new debt and
taxes that will greatly burden their parents and all taxpayers.

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IS OPEN TO ALL; VOTING IS DIFFERENT**

Everyone has the right to express an opinion, advocate on issues, organize like-minded people
and volunteer on campaigns. The right to vote, however, is reserved for citizens who are state residents,
who are not felons in prison, and who are at least 18 years of age on Election Day.

Voting is a serious responsibility. In California elections, voters decide who will hold the power
to make and enforce laws, whether to approve new debt that taxpayers will have to pay, whether to raise
taxes, and many other complex issues.

Important decisions must be made by voters who are legally adults, not by high school minors.

*VOTE NO on Proposition 18.*

Ruth Weiss

**Vice President/Co-founder, Election Integrity Project California**

Jon Coupal

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Larry Sand

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