REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
PROPOSITION 18

The statement that "nearly half" of the states allow 17-year-olds to vote in the primary is dishonest. ONLY 18 ALLOW IT, and their primaries are different from California's. Because of Propositions 13 and 218, Californians have the right to vote on tax proposals, which are often on the primary ballot. 17-year-olds have virtually no experience with earning a living and paying taxes. Real life experience is vital for voting. The suggestion that it is "only logical" that 17-year-olds should vote in the Primary if they are going to vote in the General is bad reasoning.

Since California's primary has been moved to early March, Proposition 18 would give high-school minors JUST BARELY 17 the right to vote simply because they will turn 18 RIGHT MONTHS LATER.

17-year-olds are minors, for several reasons:

- Science affirms that the reasoning and logic portion of their brains is NOT BIOLOGICALLY FULLY DEVELOPED.

- They are a captive audience (5+ hours per day, 5 days per week) to teachers on whom they depend for present and future success, making them very VULNERABLE TO ONE-SIDED INFLUENCE.

- They have NO REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE. Most have not had to work to support themselves, nor make their own way to pay for taxes, rent, food, etc. They have no frame of reference to make the vital decisions voters make for themselves and all other members of society when they vote.

17-year-olds may be eager to vote, but they are not yet ready. VOTE NO on PROPOSITION 18.

Ruth Weiss, Vice President, Election Integrity Project of California
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SUBJECT TO COURT ORDERED CHANGES