



Assembly Bill 1416

Printing Supporters and Opponents on Official Ballots

Yolo County ACE – Elections
Jesse Salinas, Registrar of Voters



Background

- Assembly Bill 1416 ("Ballot DISCLOSE Act") took effect on January 1, 2023.
- The bill requires the inclusion of supporters and opponents on the ballot label for every statewide proposition.
- Elections Code Section 9170 allows counties to opt out of printing supporters and opponents on the official ballot for local measures (AB 1416 label).



Perceived Transparency vs Reality

Real World Example: Measure M (Woodland)

County Voter Information Guide (CVIG)

Supporters:

/s/ Tania Garcia-Cadena
Mayor, City of Woodland

/s/ Marlin H. "Skip" Davies
Retired Mayor, City of Woodland

/s/ Jesse Ortiz
Retired Yolo County Superintendent of Schools

Opponents:

/s/ Garrett Driver
President, Yolo County Farm Bureau

/s/ Ray Perkins
Former Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner

/s/ Mark Mezger
President, Yolo County Taxpayers Association

/s/ Eric Paulsen
Past President, Yolo County Farm Bureau

/s/ Nancy Lea
Principal Officer, No on Measure M – No on the Floodwall

Official Ballot

accept at least \$300,000,000
in federal and state
contribution, or up to 99% of
the project, to provide
flood risk reduction

Management Project, as
outlined in the measure, be
adopted? **Supporters:** Tania
Garcia-Cadena, Mayor; City
Council Member Tom Stallard;
City Council Member Richard
Lansburgh **Opponents:**
Garret Driver, Yolo Farm Bur;
Ray Perkins, Fmr YoloCo Ag
Comm; Mark Mezger, Yolo
Taxpayers Assoc; Eric Paulsen,
Yolo Farm Bur

Yes
 No

- Difficult to understand abbreviations and missing names due to character limit
- Voters not knowing that there is more information already printed in their CVIG
- Possible use of ambiguously named groups

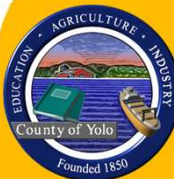


Inconsistent and Unfamiliar Format

- Every neighboring county has opted out of printing the AB 1416 label on the official ballot
- The AB 1416 label is not printed on the ballot if the jurisdiction spans into another county
- Yolo County voters would have city supporters/opponents printed for one measure and not another (see list*)

Neighboring Counties who Opted Out (indefinitely)	
County	District
Colusa	Colusa County Board of Education TA 1 Yuba Community College District TA 6 Pierce Joint Unified School District
San Joaquin	Sacramento County Board of Education TA 6
Sacramento	Sacramento County Board of Education TA 6 Los Rios Community College District TA 4 River Delta Unified School District TA 5
Solano	Sacramento County Board of Education TA 6 Yolo County Board of Education TAs 2 and 5 Los Rios Community College District TA 4 Solano Community College District TA 7 Davis Joint Unified School District TAs 1 and 5 Winters Joint Unified School District TA 2 and 3
Sutter	Yolo County Board of Education TA 5 Yuba Community College District TA 6 Woodland Joint Unified School District TA 4

*List does not include smaller special districts (e.g., water districts, etc.) which generally do not have local measures.



Measures are nonpartisan contests

Recent State Measure – Proposition 1

Supporters: California Professional Firefighters; CA Assoc. of Veteran Service Agencies; National Alliance on Mental Illness - CA

Opponents: Mental Health America of California; Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association; CalVoices

 Vac

- Supporters/opponents must submit their qualifications to the Registrar of Voters
- Registrar of Voters must assess and confirm their documentation and their 125-character limit
- If the request is not properly submitted on time the ballot will read:
Supporters: None Submitted or
Opponents: None Submitted

- Role of the City – Receive the appropriate forms
- Role of the Registrar of Voters – Approves the forms and ensures it meets requirements





Cost for the County and local jurisdictions

- Extra wording below the measure questions requires "real estate"
- Ballots may require multiple pages (ballot cards) to accommodate column wrapping and page breaks
- Cost of multiple ballot cards is not billable to the one district with the AB 1416 label
- Overall increased cost for supplies, services, and labor

Very rough mockup for November ballot indicates a possible two card (page) ballot.

Assumptions made:

- 16 Statewide Initiatives (Range of possibilities currently are 13-18)
- Character max for state and local measures
- Two candidates per local race

Impact of going from two to three ballot cards (pages) would increase cost by ~\$100,000

- Increased cost in vote-by-mail ballot printing and postage
- Cost of translations
- Staff time to proofread additional high-profile text before finalizing the ballots
- Additional labor and supplies to test, process, count, adjudicate and store multiple ballot cards
- Additional practice ballot pages in the County Voter Information Guide.



Summary - PROs

- Provides content found in voter information guide directly on the ballot
- Prevents voters from having to navigate through the lengthy voter information guide to educate themselves on the Local Measures

Summary - CONs

- Could increase the number of the ballots cards, resulting in cost increase and voter fatigue
 - Will delay election night results and subsequent reporting schedule until certification
- Cities, Schools, and Special districts will result in inconsistent ballot layouts
- Voter confusion could result in voter mistrust



QUESTIONS?

