

Email this article
Print this article
Most popular pages

Click to send
Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P
Today | This Week

Other 2006 ballot measures

Jul. 12, 2006 12:00 AM

Other 2006 ballot measures

Not every ballot measure was built for the bright lights and big headlines. The following measures figure to be overshadowed by more contentious proposals. But they'll have no small impact on everything from the way you cast a ballot in future elections to local government and criminal justice.

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE (Prop. 205)

What it would do: Ensures that voters receive a mail-in ballot for every election. A limited number of polling places would be open.

The lowdown: It is expected to increase voter turnout, though it could result in increased costs for postage and other expenses, as well as additional chances for voter fraud.

BAILABLE OFFENSE (Prop. 100)

What it would do: Prevents those charged with serious felonies from being eligible for bail if they are in the country illegally.

The lowdown: Undocumented immigrants are a greater flight risk, advocates say. But some question what crimes would be considered "serious."

MUNICIPAL DEBT (Prop. 104)

What it would do: Allows municipalities to raise debt capacity for street and public-safety projects. It would rise to 20 percent from 6 of assessed property valuation.

The lowdown: It would not raise a community's level of indebtedness but would allow greater flexibility in financing streets and public-safety projects. Voters would have to approve projects before the debt could be incurred.

LEGISLATORS' SALARIES (Prop. 302)

What it would do: Increases state legislators' annual salaries 50 percent, to \$36,000 from \$24,000.

The lowdown: Proponents say higher salaries would inspire better candidates to seek office. But critics say being a legislator is a public service and would-be candidates shouldn't require additional fiscal enticement.

PROBATION FOR METH OFFENSES (Prop. 301)

What it would do: Requires that those convicted of using or possessing meth or meth-related paraphernalia be ineligible for probation under certain circumstances.

The lowdown: The proposal has drawn little discussion, although some state lawmakers are concerned it's too inflexible and heavy-handed.

STANDING IN CIVIL ACTIONS (Prop. 102)

What it would do: Blocks undocumented immigrants from being able to obtain punitive damages in lawsuits. Limits awards to actual damages.

The lowdown: Proponents say that only American citizens should have the right to seek punitive damages through the courts. Some, however, have raised questions about the measure's constitutionality.

LOCAL PROPERTY-TAX LEVIES (Prop. 101)

What it would do: Known as the 2006 Taxpayer Protection Act, it would require the levy limit for cities, towns, counties and community college districts, to be calculated from the 2005 actual tax levy.

The lowdown: It would force local governments to stick to tax limits in the state Constitution, creating some tax relief for property owners dealing with rising property values. But local governments and other districts have generally opposed efforts to limit tax rates.

Email this article
Print this article
Most popular pages

Click to send
Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P
Today | This Week