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## Question & Answers About Proposition 23

### What would Prop. 23 do?

- Texas oil companies are spending millions to push Prop. 23, a deceptive ballot proposition that would kill California's clean energy and air pollution control standards and destroy the state's fast-growing clean tech economy.
- Four years ago, with bipartisan support from businesses, labor, environmental and health organizations, California passed a law – AB 32 – that has made California the leading state for clean energy and clean tech businesses. It also holds polluters accountable and requires them to reduce air pollution that threatens our health and contributes to global climate change.
- Prop. 23 - The Texas oil companies' initiative would kill these clean energy and clean air standards, resulting in more air pollution, slow development of renewable energy, and extinguish competition and jobs from clean energy businesses.

### Who is supporting Prop. 23?

- The deceptive campaign is being funded by Texas oil interests and other oil companies. Two of the primary funders – Valero and Tesoro – are among the nation's largest toxic polluters. The refineries these two companies run in California are listed as top ten polluters in our state. Other supporters include oil companies that are trying to avoid our clean air laws and kill competition from clean energy businesses to keep us addicted to costly, dirty foreign oil.

### Who opposes Prop. 23?

- A broad coalition of businesses, environmental organizations, public health advocates, social justice groups, organized labor, small businesses, Republicans, Democrats and Independents all oppose this proposition that would result in more air pollution and kill California clean energy jobs. Leading groups opposed include: California Professional Firefighters, AARP, American Lung Association in California, California Solar Energy Industries Association, League of Women Voters of California, California League of Conservation Voters, California Clean Energy Fund, California Labor Federation, NRDC, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, TechNet, Vote Solar Initiative, and many others.
- For a complete list visit [www.StopDirtyEnergyProp.com](http://www.StopDirtyEnergyProp.com).

### Isn't this just a temporary suspension of AB 32?

- **NO.** The Texas oil companies want you to believe it's simply a "temporary" suspension. However, Prop. 23 would repeal AB 32 until unemployment reached 5.5% for a full year – a market condition that has only occurred three times in the last 40 years.
- Economists are unclear when – if ever – California's unemployment would reach these levels again.
- Suspension would create chaos in the marketplace, make it impossible for businesses to plan, and chill billions of dollars in venture capital investments in clean technology.
- Prop. 23 is an effective **repeal of our clean energy and clean air laws.**

(more)

## No on Prop. 23 – Stop the Dirty Energy Proposition

### Q&A

#### Page 2

#### Would Prop. 23 save jobs?

- No! **Prop. 23 would cost California hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs** that have been created because of our clean energy and clean air laws.
- In fact, according to a recent report by California's Economic Development Department, California has more than half a million (500,000) "green" jobs, due largely to policies like AB 32.
- Stephen Levy, Director of Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, recently concluded in a study that "it is likely that the first beneficiaries of green job growth will be workers who are currently unemployed."
- California green jobs have grown 10 times faster than the statewide average.
- California's clean technology sector received \$9 billion from 2005-2009 and \$2.1 billion investment capital in 2009 alone - 60 percent of the total in North America and more than five times the investment in our nearest competitor, Massachusetts.
- The National Association of Venture Capitalists opposes Prop. 23 because it is a job and economy killer.
- If AB 32 is repealed, it would send a chilling message to investors and open the door for other states. Businesses won't invest if our clean energy laws are implemented one year and suspended the next.

#### Doesn't the Legislative Analyst (LAO) say Prop. 23 could result in a modest increase in economic activity?

- The LAO says "*there is currently significant ongoing debate about the impacts to the California economy*" and that there is "*considerable uncertainty*" on "*the net impact on the economy.*"
- In fact, the LAO acknowledges that Prop 23 would "have negative impacts on the California economy", and particularly far reaching negative impacts on the growing clean energy sector. The LAO says:
  - "*[Prop. 23] could delay investments in clean technologies...*"
  - "*Investment in research and development and job creation in the energy efficiency and clean energy sectors...might also be discouraged by this proposition, resulting in less economic activity...*"
- The LAO further says Prop. 23 will cost businesses and our economy through lost energy efficiency and increased costs for dealing with public health threats and illnesses that result from increased pollution. The LAO says:
  - Prop. 23 would "*delay investments in clean technologies that might result in some cost savings to businesses and consumers.*"
  - Prop. 23 "*could halt air quality improvements that would have public health benefits, such as reduced respiratory illnesses. These public health benefits translate into economic benefits, such as increased worker productivity and reduced government and business costs for health care.*"

#### If Prop. 23 is passed, what would the impacts be to our health?

- Air pollution is a major threat to public health in California, with alarming rates of asthma and lung disease, especially among children. Each year, California's air pollution crisis contributes to thousands of premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, and thousands of trips to the hospital for California families.
- Prop. 23 would let the Texas oil companies and other polluters off the hook -- drastically increasing air pollution and public health risks. That's why it's opposed by AARP, the American Lung Association in California and many other public health groups.

(more)

## No on Prop. 23 – Stop the Dirty Energy Proposition

Q&A

Page 3

### Proponents claim AB 32 would cost consumers money and jobs.

- Those seeking to repeal AB 32 cling to two studies by a Sacramento State professor claiming economic doom and gloom. However, the Legislative Analyst's Office evaluated these studies and said they contain "**serious shortcomings**" that render its estimates "**useless.**" Highly respected economists from Stanford, UCLA, and Tufts have also dismissed the research as "unsound and unreliable," "highly biased" and "deeply flawed."
- The fact is **repealing our clean energy laws would COST consumers and our economy.** By killing AB 32 and keeping us dependent on fossil fuels, this proposition would increase household electricity costs in California by 33%. These added costs would hurt our economy by more than \$80 billion and cost over a half million jobs by 2020.
- In California, we have an unparalleled record of generating economic profit while controlling pollution. We have been doing both for the last 35 years. State energy policies have saved California households \$56 billion from 1972-2006.

### California cannot solve the climate problem on its own, right?

- **WRONG!!** One thing is clear: if we repeal California clean air and pollution control laws, it would stall efforts by other states, the US and other nations to follow suit.
- California is once again leading the nation, not only by reducing emissions, but in attracting the economic investment and jobs that results from such policies.
- Because of AB 32, California companies received approximately 60 percent of total U.S. clean tech venture investments resulting in tens of thousands of jobs.
- A 2009 study, *The Clean Energy Economy* by the Pew Charitable Trusts, listed California as the nation's leading state in clean energy businesses (10,209), clean energy jobs (125,390) and clean energy venture capital funding (\$6.5 billion for 2006-2008).
- According to the *Wall Street Journal*, California is home to 7 of the top 10 clean tech businesses in the U.S. Five of the top 10 cities for clean tech jobs are in California.