



STOP THE SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS ACT

What the initiative says

& What that really means...

The Stop Special Interest Money Now Act

Article 1.5 of Chapter 5 of Title 9 of the Government Code (commencing with section 85150) is added to read as follows:

§85150 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and this Title, no corporation, labor union, or public employee labor union shall make a contribution to any candidate, candidate controlled committee; or to any other committee, including a political party committee, if such funds will be used to make contributions to any candidate or candidate controlled committee.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and this Title, no government contractor, or committee sponsored by a government contractor, shall make a contribution to any elected officer or committee controlled by any elected officer if such elected officer makes, participates in making or in any way attempts to use his or her official position to influence the granting, letting, or awarding of a public contract to the government contractor, during the period in which the decision to grant, let, or award the contract is to be made and during the term of the contract.

§85151 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and this Title, no corporation, labor union, public employee labor union, government contractor, or government employer shall deduct from an employee's wages, earnings, or compensation any amount of money to be used for political purposes.

Sounds fair and balanced, right? Take a closer look -- it's not what it seems. Prop 32 – more appropriately called the **Special Exemptions Act** – was intentionally written to create special exemptions for billionaire businessmen, giving them even more political power to write their own set of rules.

The initiative exempts secretive Super PACs, which can raise unlimited amounts of money from corporate special interests and billionaire businessmen to support their candidates or defeat their enemies and does nothing to prevent anonymous donors from spending unlimited amounts to influence elections.

Corporations have spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the last decade on ballot measures and independent expenditure campaigns in our state. Prop 32 does nothing to change that – and instead, secretive Super PACs will become the law of the land in California, with no accountability, checks or balances.

Prop 32 says it will stop corporations and unions from collecting political funds through payroll deductions -- but 99% of California corporations don't use payroll deductions for political giving; they would still be allowed to use their profits to influence elections. That's why corporations spend 15-times as much as unions spend on political contributions, according to the [Center for Responsive Politics](#). Unions, on the other hand, use payroll deductions to collect a portion of dues money for political purposes. This is an accepted and practical way for unions to collect the funding needed to compete with the better-funded corporate special interests.