

Talking about the California Democracy Act:

“All legislative action on revenue and budget must be determined by a majority vote.”

+What we now have is minority rule, where a small minority of legislators in either the state Senate or Assembly can block the majority, resulting in budget gridlock.

+Minority rule is undemocratic because it allows a small minority to rule by obstruction, thwarting the will of the majority until their demands are met. Mostly they just say “no”, bringing government to a halt but taking no responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

+Minority rule has brought California to its knees. Minority rule is undemocratic because it keeps the majority of legislators from carrying out the wishes of the majority of voters who elected them.

+The California legislature has tried repeatedly over the years to raise revenue in ways that would make the tax system more fair for individuals and businesses. Each time they’ve been stopped by the minority who just say “no” to all revenue proposals.

+ By saying “no,” they create budget gridlock, denying both the needs and the will of the majority of voters. By saying “no” often enough, they can force the majority of legislators to go against their best judgment just to get some budget passed, *even if it is disastrous for the education, health and well-being of the people of California.*

“Revenue” is not just about tax rates. “Revenue” can be raised *without raising tax rates*, just by plugging tax loopholes for corporations and special interests. “Revenue” can be raised without taxing any individuals by *selling* the voters’ oil to oil companies, instead of *giving it away for free*.

+ With the state facing a current deficit and on-going yearly deficits \$20 billion, the survival of basic services and a healthy public sector is at stake. The California Tax Reform Association has identified 10 measures which would have the least impact on economic growth and recovery—the “low-hanging fruit” in the tax system.- and would yield \$20 billion a year. <http://caltaxreform.org/?p=211>

+Passing the California Democracy Act would allow a majority of the legislators to close loopholes and end giveaways. Two examples: In the Peoples Republic of Alaska, the state collects 25% of the price of the oil extracted, Texas gets 10%, California gets 0.

Companies that made lots of money in 2007, and paid taxes on this revenue, got refunds of the 2007 taxes if they lost money in 2009, when the state could least afford it.