



For Immediate Release

Contact: Carol E. Schatz
President & CEO
(213) 624-1213

Central City Association Announces Positions on the March 2nd Ballot

Los Angeles (February 17, 2004) – The Central City Association (CCA) of Los Angeles has announced its positions for measures on the March 2nd ballot. The CCA Executive Committee met in early February to complete the deliberations process that began in January.

“The March ballot is of great concern to the CCA membership due to its effect on the long-term financial stability of the state and local economy”, says Carol E. Schatz, President and CEO of CCA. “As LA’s premier business advocacy association, CCA’s membership increasingly concerned with the number of state and local initiatives that add to the voted indebtedness and that add to the burden on commercial property owners. The cumulative impact of these measures is staggering”, Schatz said. “As an example, a 24-floor building in Downtown Los Angeles has experienced a 112% increase on its baseline property tax burden from state and local bond measures and other assessments”, she continued.

- **CCA SUPPORTS Measure R**, a \$3.8 B local school construction bond that will be used in-conjunction with State Proposition 55 funding as matching funds. CCA supports and applauds LAUSD’s school construction efforts however this support is with the understanding that the private sector is growing increasingly concerned about the cumulative effect of these measures which increases the voted indebtedness and places Downtown properties at a competitive disadvantage with other local office markets.

- **CCA SUPPORTS Proposition 55**, the second of two state-sponsored propositions that will approve the sale of a total of \$25.3 B in general obligation bonds for new school construction and rehabilitation. These funds will be used as the state-match portion for the LAUSD and other local district projects at all education levels from kindergarten to the community college and university system.

- **CCA OPPOSES Proposition 56**, an attempt to lower the threshold of passage from a 2/3 majority to a 55% majority for budget or budget-related tax/appropriation bills in the legislature. The threshold change is masked in a series of “reforms” including forfeiture of salary by the Governor and Legislature if no budget agreement is reached and by the creation of a revenue reserve fund. Clearly, this measure provides legislators with the ability to raise taxes much more easily than do the existing requirements of state law.

- **CCA SUPPORTS Proposition 57 & 58**, proposals that are geared to economic recovery and budget stability. Prop. 57 approves the sale of \$15 billion in general obligation bonds for use in repaying previous years’ budget deficits. Prop. 58 requires the state legislature to approve a balanced budget, create detailed reserve requirements and restrict future deficit borrowing. The Governor, the State Controller and the leadership of both political parties support 57 and 58 as the best course of action to address the state’s massive budget crisis.

“It is our hope that the efforts of Governor Schwarzenegger and State Controller Steve Westly will improve the overall financial stability of the state. Improved financial stability can have a significant impact on private investment and job growth in California”, says Schatz.

About the Central City Association

Central City Association is an 80-year-old business advocacy organization representing more than 450 businesses, trade associations and non-profits employing over 250,000 people in Los Angeles County. CCA is the leading architect for revitalization in Downtown Los Angeles and is L.A.'s premiere business advocacy leader shaping public policy on a broad range of issues.

###