



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Attorney Russo, Supervisor Carson and Firefighters Urge Voter Support of Proposition 1A to Protect Local Taxpayer Funds

(Oakland, CA) Today, Oakland City Attorney John Russo, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and firefighters from the greater Bay Area gathered at the Gateway Emergency Preparedness Exhibit Center to urge voters to pass Proposition 1A on the November ballot. The news conference was one of four held in the state coinciding with statewide mailings of ballot pamphlets and absentee voter ballots.

The site, a memorial commemorating the 1991 East Bay Hills Fire, was an example of the necessity for fire and paramedic services. More than 2,800 homes were destroyed and 25 people were killed thirteen years ago in the Oakland fire.

“The economic loss from the fire was estimated at \$1.5 billion—the human loss, unimaginable,” said Oakland City Attorney John Russo. “And still, that fire could have been much worse had it not been for the brave men and women who fought and eventually extinguished the blaze.”

“There’s a reason public safety leaders and firefighters are standing here with me today. We know that if Sacramento keeps raiding our tax dollars, we won’t be so lucky the next time a disaster like the Oakland fire occurs,” said Russo. “Prop. 1A would ensure that we have the funds to provide fire and paramedic services our communities need and deserve.”

City Attorney John Russo, the past president for the League of California Cities (LLC), led the LLC in creating Proposition 1A and getting the measure on the November ballot.

BACKGROUND

What is Prop. 1A?

Prop. 1A would severely restrict the State of California’s ability to bankrupt local governments. Prop. 1A would end a decade long trend in which the Sacramento raids local tax dollars to pay for the State’s fiscal mismanagement. Over the past 12 years, the State has taken more than \$40 billion from local taxpayer funds. This practice has starved local communities of the funds needed to pay for fire and paramedic response, law enforcement, healthcare, parks, libraries and transportation.

Who supports Prop. 1A?

Firefighters and other public safety groups supporting Prop. 1A include California Professional Firefighters, California Fire Chiefs Association, California Police Chiefs Association, California State Firefighters Association, California State Sheriffs’ Association, Fire Districts Association of California, Peace Officers Research Association of California, California District Attorney’s Association, and many more public safety representatives and individuals throughout California. The measure is also supported by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, both the California Democratic and Republican parties, as well as local government, business, community, and senior groups.