NOVEMBER 2 - WE DECIDE!
VOTE - Make your voice heard

EHC’s Voter Registration Drive
September and October

In this issue:
Welcome letter from EHC’s Executive Director..... ...Page 3
Proposition “F”............................................................Page 4
The process of voting absentee.................................Page 4
Proposition “B”............................................................Page 5
Important dates to remember.....................................Page 5
Proposition “A”...........................................................Page 6
Where do I go to Vote?................................................Page 6
Proposition “64”..........................................................Page 7
Proposition “72”..........................................................Page 8
What do I do on election day?.....................................Page 8
What happens if my name is not on the list?...............Page 8
Proposition “69”..........................................................Page 9
What is an initiative proposition?..................................Page 9
Proposition “66”..........................................................Page 9
Proposition “60”..........................................................Page 10
Proposition “62”..........................................................Page 10
Proposition “59”..........................................................Page 10
Levels of government.......................................................Page 11
Voter Bill of Rights...........................................................Page 11
Environmental Health Coalition

Working for a Toxic-Free San Diego
1980-2004

Toxinformer Staff
Editor
Gabriel G.O. Fabila
Translators
Claudia Vizzcarra Barton
Carla Garcia Zenjdejas

EHC Board of Directors

- Beatriz Barraza, President
- Sharon Kalemkiarian, Esq., Vice President
- Margaret Godshalk, Secretary
- Tony Pettina, M.A., Treasurer
- Michael Martinez
- Mark Mandel
- Clarice Gaylord, Ph.D.
- Marta Flores
- Jaime Cota
- Patty Bailey
- Albert Huang
- Tony Pettina, MA, Treasurer
- Margaret Godshalk, Secretary
- Sharon Kalemkiarian, Esq., Vice President
- Beatriz Barraza, President
- Jorge Osuna
- Amelia Simpson
- Luz Palomino
- Leticia Ayala
- Francisca Jimenez
- Rosa Maria Angeles
- Nicole Hensley
- Ethan W. Karem
- Michelle Rodriguez
- Veronica Garcia
- Laura Hunter
- Sonia Rodriguez
- Albert Huang
- Paula Forbes
- Mani Moya
- Randa Baramki
- Rosa Maria Angeles
- Francisco Jimenez
- Leticia Ayala
- Luz Palomino
- Amelia Simpson
- Magdalena Corda
- Jorge Osuna
- Diana Tavorian
- Sonya Holmqist
- Lilia Escalante
- Patricia Hippolito
- Veronica Garcia
- Michelle Rodriguez
- Gabriel G.O. Fabila
- Pilar Anballo
- Joy Williams
- Melanie McCutchan
- Laura Hunter
- Sonia Rodriguez
- Albert Huang
- Paula Forbes
- Mani Moya
- Randa Baramki
- Rosa Maria Angeles
- Francisco Jimenez
- Leticia Ayala
- Luz Palomino
- Amelia Simpson
- Magdalena Corda
- Jorge Osuna

EHC Staff

- Diane Tavorian, Executive Director
- Sonya Holmqist, Associate Director
- Lilia Escalante, Fiscal Manager
- Patricia Hippolito, Office Manager
- Veronica Garcia, Office Assistant
- Michelle Rodriguez, Executive Assistant
- Gabriel G.O. Fabila, Media Relations/Communications
- Pilar Anballo, Leadership Training Director
- Joy Williams, Research Director
- Melanie McCutchan, Research Associate
- Laura Hunter, Director, CBC
- Sonia Rodriguez, Organizer, CBC
- Albert Huang, Policy Advocate, CBC
- Paula Forbes, Director, TFN
- Mani Moya, Community Organizer II, TFN
- Randa Baramki, Community Organizer II, TFN
- Rosa Maria Angeles, Organizer, TFN
- Francisco Jimenez, Organizer, TFN
- Leticia Ayala, Director, CeCLP
- Luz Palomino, Organizer, CeCLP
- Amelia Simpson, Director, BEJC
- Magdalena Corda, Organizer, BEJC
- Jorge Osuna, Policy Advocate, BEJC

Environmental Health Coalition is dedicated to environmental and social justice. We believe that justice is achieved when empowered communities act together to make social change. We organize and advocate to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution. EHC supports efforts that create a just society which foster a healthy and sustainable quality of life.

The Border Environmental Justice Campaign (BEJC) works in solidarity with social justice groups in the border region to promote worker and community right-to-know about the chemicals used by the maquiladoras, to increase their capacity to influence conditions that directly affect their health, and to demand cleanup of abandoned and contaminated sites.

The Clean Bay Campaign (CBC) unites workers, bayside communities, and conservationists to clean up, restore and protect San Diego Bay as a clean and healthy multi-use water resource capable of supporting a diverse range of activities.

The Research and Community Assistance Program responds to the needs of residents by providing scientific, technical, and policy information and assistance, and empowering residents with appropriate and effective strategies.

The Toxic Free Neighborhoods Campaign (TFN) works with affected residents to promote land use and planning reforms, the relocation of hazardous industries to industrial zones, and the reduction of toxic air contaminants released by industry.

The Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning (CeCLP) works with community residents, housing advocates, health officials, and government agencies to eliminate the sources of lead exposure in San Diego County.

STAY INFORMED! BECOME A MEMBER OF EHC TODAY!

Yes, I want to become a member of EHC. I am enclosing my tax-deductible membership contribution of:

- $15 Students and Seniors
- $25 Individual
- $40 Booster
- $100 Super Supporter
- $250 Toxic Avenger
- $___ Other

Name__________________________
Street__________________________
City__________________________ State______ Zip_________
Phone: (W)____________________(H)___________________

Email: __________________________
Card No.________________________ Exp.Date__________
Signature________________________

Mail to: EHC, 1717 Kettner Blvd., Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92101

EHC encourages the reuse of Toxinformer articles. Please acknowledge EHC as the source and send us a copy of all reprints.

Toxinformer is designed using PageMaker 6.5, donated to EHC by Adobe.
Welcome to EHC’s 2004 Voter Guide

November 2 – We Decide!

Every election is important. Every decision you make as a voter affects your health, your environment, your future and your life.

This may sound cliché but it is so true. National races are won or lost by a few thousand votes; local races by less than one hundred. In a democracy, the future isn’t something that just happens; it’s something we shape for ourselves, together. Our power, the community’s power, is diminished when we stay home from the polls. When we don’t participate the power of polluters and corporate interests grows and dominates. We can build the community’s voice, the community’s power, when we take the time to participate in the process.

The EHC 2004 Voter Guide was developed after extensive research, debate and discussion by the staff, leaders and Board of Directors. Inside you will find the EHC position on key propositions with a clear description of the impacts of each measure. We hope this guide will help you decide how to cast your very important vote on November 2.

Change doesn’t come in a single election. It often takes a very long time, especially when we are fighting for environmental and social justice. Clean air and water, healthy children, civil rights, corporate accountability, a government that works on our behalf – these are the EHC goals and our opponents are mighty and many. We may not win every election, but we will certainly lose every one if we don’t get involved. Talk to your neighbors, write to your elected officials, testify at public hearings.

VOTE. We have to do it all.

Remember the words of Mahatma Gandhi: “We must become the change we wish to see in the world.”

Diane Takvorian
Executive Director, EHC

VOTER FORUM
OCTOBER 27, 7:00 PM

Join Environmental Health Coalition. Learn more about the Ballot Propositions.

Kimball Elementary
302 W. 18th St.
National City, CA 91950

VOTE to protect your health, your environment, your future.
VOTE NO ON PROP “F”
Keep our community voices strong! Don’t sell out San Diego to powerful downtown interests!

STRONG MAYOR

Proposition F, also being touted as the “strong mayor” proposal, will erode true community representation and centralize power in the office of the mayor. Right now, San Diego’s mayor has power over the agenda of the City Council, and is a ninth voting member of the City Council. The city manager currently hires and fires city employees, including the heads of the police and fire department.

If Proposition F passes, the mayor will have many new powers, including:
- Sole authority to appoint the City Manager, subject to Council approval
- Authority to hire and fire heads of city departments
- Authority to dismiss the City Auditor and Controller, the Chief of Police or the Chief of the Fire Department, subject only to a right for these city officials to appeal to the City Council to overturn the Mayor’s decision
- Sole authority to appoint City representatives to boards, commissions, committees and governmental agencies, unless controlling law vests the power of appointment with the City Council or a City Official other than the Mayor
- Veto power

There are three major reasons to oppose Proposition F.

- First, the proposal will severely diminish the voices of community-elected representatives on the City Council, giving EHC communities in San Diego less power
- Second, the proposal will inject politics into the operations of every City department by giving the mayor the power to hire and fire the heads of those departments
- Finally, the proposal was placed on the ballot with a minimum of public debate. Only two quickly called public meetings were held before the council decided to put this measure on the ballot. A measure of this magnitude, that would have such lasting effects on our local government, should have been the subject of an intensive public debate prior to being placed on the ballot.

Our communities deserve true representation by their elected council members, and city departments that are not swayed by powerful political forces. Join us in preserving community voices by voting “No” on Proposition F.

THE PROCESS OF VOTING ABSENTEE

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot. Rather than go to the polls to cast a ballot on Election Day, you may apply for an absentee ballot, which you will need to complete and return to your elections official. After you have voted, insert your ballot in the envelope provided for this purpose, making sure you complete all required information on the envelope. You may return your voted absentee ballot by:

1) Mailing it to your county elections official
2) Returning it in person to a polling place or elections office within your county on Election Day
3) Authorizing a legally allowable third party (relative or person residing in the same household as you) to return the ballot on your behalf.

Regardless of how the ballot is returned, the county elections office MUST receive it by the time polls close (8 p.m.) on Election Day. Late-arriving absentee ballots are not counted.
A YES vote on Proposition B will stop plans to build a solid waste landfill on about 270 acres of Gregory Canyon, 3 miles east of I-15 along highway 76. Prior to the landfill being approved by the voters in 1994, the County of San Diego had rejected the site as a potential landfill site several times.

The reasons why are numerous. The proposed dump poses a very significant threat to the San Luis Rey River, a source of drinking water for north county residents and the Pala Indian Reservation. Most landfills leak and even the dump project manager admitted that it could leak. It does not take much pollution to contaminate a water supply. TCE, a carcinogen, is frequently found leaking from dumps and only four drops mixed into an average-sized swimming pool (20,000 gallons) renders the water undrinkable.

According to the project’s Environmental Impact Report, the dump would have significant environmental impacts to air quality, noise, and the natural beauty of the area.

The dump would also desecrate Gregory Mountain and Medicine Rock, religious sites still used by the Pala band. The sites are eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places. There are also three federal endangered and 35 federal/state threatened species on the site.

This is not a “Not In My Backyard” campaign! There are much better alternatives to handle our waste than putting a landfill in Gregory Canyon. San Diego hasn’t reached the state requirement of recycling 50% of our waste so we should increase recycling efforts. Current landfills still have capacity and can be expanded and when San Diego does need a new facility the location should be selected through a more democratic and environmentally rigorous process. This dump is not needed by San Diego! Recently the local news media reported that Los Angeles is looking for out-of-region landfills – including within San Diego County – to send their trash. There are no restrictions prohibiting trash from Orange, Riverside, or Los Angeles counties from coming to Gregory Canyon.

EHC has a long history of opposing the dump at Gregory Canyon. After reviewing the Environmental Impact Report, Environmental Health Coalition opposed the landfill in 1999; our opposition remains firm. Join EHC in saying “Dump the Dumb Dump” by voting “Yes” on Proposition B.
VOTE NO ON PROP “A”
We want effective planning, not more highways!
TRANSNET TAX

Shall San Diego County voters continue the existing half-cent transportation sales tax (SDCRTC Ordinance 0401) for forty years, including creating an Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee to conduct yearly audits ensuring voter mandates are met?

Proposition A would extend Transnet, the 1/2 cent local sales tax approved by voters in San Diego County in 1987 that is scheduled to expire in 2008. Proposition A requires a 2/3 vote to pass and if approved, would extend the 1/2 cent tax for another 40 years, generating approximately $14 billion. That money would be used to fund projects identified in Transnet and by the Regional Transportation Plan.

Transnet Cheats Mass Transit!
Due to the inequity in the proposed division of Transnet funding, Transnet will fund 62% of new local street and road needs, and 33% of new highway needs, but just 12% of new transit needs identified by the Regional Transportation Plan. The San Diego region as a whole has massively underfunded its transit system, and Transnet will only serve to make this deficit worse. Overall, a small proportion of funds will end up benefiting existing transit dependent urban neighborhoods and a very large proportion of the funds will be used to increase freeway capacity and to expand local road construction in coastal neighborhoods, the suburbs and back country.

Transnet Cheats Urban Neighborhoods!
Proposition A does not allocate the tax money fairly. Almost 85% of all transit infrastructure funded by Transnet will serve suburban neighborhoods. Transit works best, is used more, and is urgently needed in urban neighborhoods, particularly low-income neighborhoods with a large proportion of transit-dependent riders. While increased transit opportunities in the suburbs would be beneficial, transit opportunities currently in those areas are grossly underutilized. Instead, precious transit resources should be directed to make transit easily accessible, safe, clean and affordable in existing transit dependent neighborhoods.

Also, the developer impact fees which are part of Transnet will do little to pay for the increased infrastructure needed to support new development. Proposition A proposes a $2000 impact fee for each new residential unit, far short of the the actual cost of infrastructure needs produced by those units. No fees would be charged for commercial or industrial development, no matter their impact on surrounding streets and roads.

Transnet Cheats the Environment!
By continuing to perpetuate the pattern of funding roads and highways, rather than heavily investing in transit, Transnet serves to continue sprawl-style development which pollutes our air and destroys our open spaces. Moreover, there is no funding in Transnet to mitigate the air pollution and public health impacts of these additional roads and highways. While funding is included for habitat preservation, this funding is not secured and could be changed during Transnet’s 40-year lifespan.

This kind of “business as usual” transportation funding will not stop sprawl-style development, and it will not keep tax dollars from being siphoned out of our inner city communities where they are desperately needed. We need a Transnet tax that will help transit dependent communities achieve mobility and ease traffic congestion by discouraging sprawl development. EHC urges a “No” vote on Proposition A.

WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE?
Each registered voter has one location assigned to go vote. This is called your “polling place” or precinct. The address of this place is located in the sample ballot that you received. You can also find out by calling the county elections office at (858) 565-5800, Toll Free 1 (800) 696-0136, TDD (858) 694-3441, or if you have access to the internet by visiting their website at www.sdvote.com.

November 2 is “Election Day.” Polling places will be open from 7 am to 8 pm.
**VOTE NO ON PROP 64.**

Do you think corporations should be able to gain a competitive advantage by violating the law and polluting our air, water, and food? If not, VOTE NO on Proposition 64.

**LIMIT ON PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT OF UNFAIR BUSINESS COMPETITION LAWS**

Proposition 64 would take away an individual’s or organization’s right to sue to stop unfair business practices. EHC recently filed a lawsuit against candy manufacturers that produce candy with lead in it using the law that would be affected by this Proposition, the Unfair Business Competition Law. This law has also been used in the past against Safeway, when it changed the date on old meat and resold it, and against oil companies that polluted California drinking water, among many others. Proposition 64 would prohibit lawsuits for practices such as false advertising, polluting, and mislabeling, from being filed by anyone other than someone directly injured and who has suffered a financial loss as a result, or a governmental agency. Many consumer protection laws have come as a result of public interest cases brought by nonprofit groups that have identified problems in the course of their work. Additionally, Proposition 64 will force organizations and individuals to wait until harm has occurred before enforcing their rights.

Lawsuits like the one filed by EHC to stop the lead candy manufacturers seek to prevent problems and injuries before they occur. Injured individuals would only be able to file suit after losing money or property (loss of health does not count) and if they can prove that others are similarly situated, which is very difficult to prove.

Proposition 64 is being funded by many corporations that have been sued under the current law. Blue Cross, which has been the subject of three such lawsuits for underpaying physicians and hospitals, among other practices, contributed $250,000 to the passage of Proposition 64. Microsoft donated $100,000 to the proposition, after having been sued in 2003 for knowingly allowing security flaws in its programs. State Farm donated $100,000 to the campaign and has been sued under the law twice, once by Northridge earthquake victims for changing earthquake policy coverage without notifying the policyholders. In total, over $2.4 million has been given to pass the initiative by corporations that have been sued under the Unfair Business Competition Law.

Protect this important legal tool in the fight for public health, the environment, and justice.

**Join EHC and the following organizations in saying NO to Prop. 64:**

AARP
American Lung Association of California
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
California Nurses Association (CNA)
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS)
Environmental Law & Justice Clinic
Gray Panthers California
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
Sierra Club of California
United Farm Workers (UFW)

**Prop 64 is supported by:**

21st Century Insurance
Caterpillar Inc
Intel
Safeway, Inc
SBC California
Union Bank of California
Alliance of Automobile Manufactures
Association of California Life and Health Insurance
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Much has been in the media recently about the growing ranks of the uninsured in this country. Proposition 72 seeks to do something about that situation in California, by requiring large and medium-sized employers to provide health benefits to their employees. It would also require that 80% of the premiums be paid for by the employers, so that increasing costs are not passed on to the employee. Large companies with over 200 employees would be required to provide health insurance for the employee and dependants, whereas medium-sized companies, with 50-199 employees, would just be required to provide insurance for the employee. This would level the playing field with the majority of large and medium-sized companies that already provide health coverage for their employees. Small companies would be exempt from the measure, unless tax credits to assist with insurance are adopted. Companies with fewer than 20 employees are completely exempt.

Currently, the uninsured rely on government programs, emergency rooms and clinics. Proposition 72 would ensure that an additional 1.3 million Californians would be able to get preventative care, prescription drug coverage, and major medical coverage in a consistent manner. By providing them with health insurance, Proposition 72 will reduce the burden on emergency rooms and save tax dollars.

EHC urges a “Yes” vote on Proposition 72. Access to affordable and reliable health care is a right for all Californians.

**WHAT DO I DO ON ELECTION DAY?**

There are 3 main steps for you to do at the polls. They are:

- **Check in.** If this is your first time voting or if you registered by mail, you might be asked for an ID. Be prepared.
- **Mark your ballot.** You go into a booth to vote in private. Remember: You don’t have to vote on everything; you can take notes with you for the items that you will be voting on. If you want, you can bring in someone to help you, and if you make a mistake you can ask for another ballot or ask for help to the poll representative.
- **Turn your ballot in.**

**WHAT HAPPENS IF MY NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST?**

If your name is not on the list when you go to vote, you are allowed to vote with a “provisional ballot.” Your vote is kept private and put in a special envelope. The county elections office will look into whether you are registered in your county and will count your vote if at all possible. You can call (800) 696-0136 after 30 days to find out if your ballot was counted or not, and the reason.

Should legislation requiring health care coverage for employees, as specified, working for large and medium employers be approved?

VOTE YES ON PROP 72.
To provide health care for 1.3 million California workers and children!

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS
VOTE NO ON PROP 69.
Do you want the government and private laboratories to have access to the information stored in your DNA? If not, VOTE NO on Proposition 69!

DNA SAMPLING

Proposition 69 would require that DNA samples be collected, stored and tested from all adults arrested on felony charges, as well as juveniles arrested on specified charges. Even if those arrested are later found to be innocent, or are never charged with a crime, they will have to petition a court to be removed from the database. It is estimated that 50,000 people per year are arrested but are never charged with a crime. California law already requires the collection, storage and testing of DNA from people convicted of serious and violent felonies, including kidnappers, rapists, murderers and child molesters.

If Proposition 69 passes, tens of thousands of people never charged with or convicted of a crime will be added to this violent criminal database. This measure will likely cost in the tens of millions of dollars in startup costs, and untold millions in maintenance costs. Furthermore, once in the database, privacy rights will not be protected by the limited provisions in the measure. DNA testing and sorting may be conducted by private laboratories, giving them the private information – such as a genetic predisposition to heart disease, obesity, Alzheimer’s, etc. – contained in your DNA.

EHC urges a “No” vote on Proposition 69.

WHAT IS AN INITIATIVE PROPOSITION?

This is a process that enables voters to bypass the Legislature and have an issue of concern put directly on the ballot for voter approval or rejection by securing enough signatures on a petition. There are two types of initiatives that can be placed on the ballot: 1) statute revisions, which create or modify a law, and 2) constitutional amendments. An initiative can also be used to get funding for certain programs and projects; these are then called Bond Initiatives.

VOTE YES ON PROP 66.
Keep petty offenders out of the prison system!
Fix the “Three-Strikes” Law by VOTING YES on Proposition 66!

LIMITATION ON “THREE STRIKES” LAW

Proposition 66 will fix the Three-Strikes law to allow it to keep violent and serious criminals in prison, but not crowd our prisons with non-violent offenders. Currently, California is the only state with a Three-Strikes law that applies to non-violent crimes. For this reason, petty offenses, such as theft of a loaf of bread, have resulted in three-strikes sentences. It is estimated that Proposition 66 would save California as much as 700 million dollars per year in prison operating costs, and more than a billion dollars for the construction of new prisons.

Aside from the exorbitant financial costs of the current three-strikes law, the societal costs are enormous as well, especially in communities of color. Nearly 75% of all three-strikes offenders are people of color, the law is being disproportionately used against African-American and Latino offenders. (Proposition 66 would require mandatory sentences of double time for second serious felonies, and 25 years to life for a third violent or serious felony.)

EHC urges a “Yes” vote on Proposition 66, to ensure that violent offenders are taken off the streets, but that those convicted of minor felonies receive fair treatment and sentences.
Vote “Yes” on Proposition 60!
Protect your right to choose your representatives!

Proposition 60 was placed on the ballot to counter Proposition 62. A “yes” vote on Proposition 60 will protect California’s existing primary system of elections. It will give voters the maximum number of candidates to choose from at the general election, since every political party in the primary will be able to have a candidate on the general election ballot, regardless of the number of votes that candidate received in the primary. Proposition 60 would write this system of governance into the California constitution.

EHC recommends a “Yes” vote on Proposition 60, because it is important to maintain and protect a primary system which guarantees voters the maximum choice, and which allows political parties and candidates from all sides of the political spectrum to have a voice in the debate.

Vote “No” on Proposition 62!
Say No to “old boy” politics!

Proposition 62 would create a radical change in the existing form of primary elections in California. It would adopt a Louisiana-style election scheme, which would allow only the top two candidates from the primary election to advance to the general election – regardless of party affiliation. While it’s proponents refer to this as an “open primary”, it is not, and in fact the proponents were ordered by a Sacramento superior court to stop referring to it as such. In practical terms, California’s minor political parties would be excluded from general elections, and in many districts, the general election could be between two Democrats or two Republicans. This would drastically reduce the vigorous political debate and diversity of viewpoints currently in California general elections.

EHC urges a “No” vote on Proposition 62; Achieving social justice depends upon a vigorous political debate, which is open to a wide variety of viewpoints.

VOTE YES ON PROP 59.
You have the right to know!
PUBLIC RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS

Proposition 59 is about ensuring open and accountable government in the State of California. Currently, the California public records act and open meetings laws require that, in general, the government operate in a transparent manner. Proposition 59 would elevate those requirements to a “civil right” in California, by creating a constitutional right to know about state and local government action. It will require that those who interpret the open government laws, such as our public agencies, officials, and courts, take a broad interpretation of laws that promote public knowledge, and narrowly limit laws, which limit government openness.

Any new restrictions on this right to know will require a clear demonstration of the need for any new limitations. Proposition 59 will also permit courts to invalidate existing laws that cannot meet that requirement. At the same time, the constitutional right to privacy will not be affected by this proposition.

EHC has long fought for the public’s right to know about issues affecting justice, the environment, and our health, and supports the expansion and strengthening of this right through Proposition 59.
So, you are going to vote...

Hopefully you have had enough time to study the propositions and the candidates; but just in case you didn’t, below you’ll find a crash course on some of the offices that we are going to be voting on.

So read on and remember, if you don’t choose, somebody will choose for you!

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**At the Polls**

1. You have the right to cast a ballot if you are a valid registered voter.
2. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if your name is not listed on the voting rolls.
3. You have the right to cast a ballot if you are present and in line at the polling place prior to the close of the polls.
4. You have the right to cast a secret ballot free from intimidation.
5. You have the right to receive a new ballot if, prior to casting your ballot, you believe you made a mistake.
6. You have the right to receive assistance in casting your ballot, if you are unable to vote without assistance.
7. You have the right to return a completed absentee ballot to any precinct in the county.
8. You have the right to election materials in another language, if there are sufficient residents in your precinct to warrant production. Currently San Diego County offers election materials in Spanish, Filipino and Vietnamese.
9. You have the right to ask questions about election procedures and observe the elections process.
10. You have the right to report any illegal or fraudulent activity to a local elections official or to the Secretary of State’s Office.

**Federal Government:** The national government consists of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The head of the executive branch is the President of the United States, while the Supreme Court of the United States is the head of the judicial branch. The legislative branch consists of the United States Congress, which is divided into two chambers, a Senate and a House of Representatives; each state has two Senators; there are a total of 435 Representatives apportioned on the basis of population. California has 53 Representatives, five of whom represent San Diego County. Important duties of Congress include taxation, approving treaties with other nations, defense and declarations of war, and establishing national environmental laws and policies.

**State Government:** California has a three-branch government modeled on the US federal government. An elected Governor heads the executive branch. California’s legislature is composed of the Senate and the Assembly. There are 5 Senate Districts and 7 Assembly Districts representing San Diego County. The State has the authority to enact laws that provide more protections than existing federal rules. California has better environmental and labor laws than most other states and the federal government.

**County Government:** The County is a larger geographic area than a city, and usually has many cities in it. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body and they are elected officials. There are five Supervisorial Districts in San Diego County. County governments oversee services and issues such as health and welfare, environmental protection, the courts, libraries, sheriff’s departments, taxes, and zoning in unincorporated areas.

**City Government:** All 18 cities in San Diego County have a City Council/City Manager type of government. The voters elect the Mayor and City Council members; the City Manager is hired by the City Council. Elected city officials are responsible for establishing land use and zoning laws and providing many types of public services.

**School District:** Schools have their own governing body called the Board of Education, whose members are elected in local elections. They are responsible for overseeing the School District, which is the department in charge of running the schools. The superintendent of schools is the head of the School District and in most cases is hired by the Board of Education. There are 42 school districts in San Diego County.
## EHC’S 2004 VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>PROPOSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>A We need effective planning, not more highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>B Protect San Diego County’s water supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>F Keep community voices strong in city government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>59 You have a right to know.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>60 Protect your right to choose your representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>62 Say no to &quot;&quot;old boy&quot;&quot; politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>64 Protect the public’s right to sue polluters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>66 Fix the three-strikes law. Keep petty offenders out of the prison system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>69 Protect the privacy of your DNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>72 Access to affordable and reliable health care is a right for all Californians.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MORE RESOURCES/ MAS INFORMACION:

WWW.ENVIRONMENTALHEALTH.ORG  
WWW.SDVOTE.COM  
WWW.EASYVOTER.COM  
WWW.SMARTVOTER.ORG  
WWW.EASYVOTER.ORG/CALIFORNIA/ESPANOL/index.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTA</th>
<th>PROPUESTAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>