

No on SB 594:

Cynical Gut-And-Amend Would Silence Sheriffs, Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, School Boards, Cities, Counties, Community Colleges and Other Local Governments By Shutting Them Out of Political Process.

Senate Bill 594 (Hill) was recently amended with only weeks to go in the legislative session (gut-and-amend) and now contains broad language that would vastly limit the ability of any nonprofit organization that receives *any* public funding from a local government from participating in state and local ballot campaigns. Here's why a broad coalition is coming together to oppose SB 594:

SB 594 silences the voice of trusted organizations and would create an un-level playing field on important public policy issues.

- SB 594 would inhibit the ability of nonprofit associations from actively supporting or opposing state and local ballot measures or contributing private, non-public funds to such measures – even when these measures have a direct impact on their members and the residents they're entrusted to represent.
- This measure would shut trusted organizations out of state and local ballot measures. Organizations impacted include the California State Sheriffs' Association, the California Fire Chiefs Association, the California Police Chiefs Association, the California School Boards Association, Community College League of California, California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, Association of California School Administrators, local chambers of commerce and thousands of others.
- If these organizations are silenced from the political process, the voters of California will lose trusted voices that they turn to for sound advice on matters that impact their communities.

SB 594 is an egregious last-minute power play.

- SB 594 is a cynical, last minute ploy by a few interests that seek to increase their influence by silencing respected organizations that may not always agree with their political positions.
- SB 594 was gutted and amended on Aug. 7. Not only does this disrespect the legislative process and preclude members from fully digesting its far-reaching implications, but it also directly contradicts the proponents' main argument that the bill is intended to increase transparency in the political process.

SB 594 is a solution in search of a problem. Public funds cannot be and are not used in political campaigns.

- California already has strong laws on the books that prohibit the use of public funds in political campaigns, and the FPPC has jurisdiction to ensure compliance. These organizations never use public funds for political campaigns.
- Further, SB 594 treats organizations that receive state funds differently than those that receive local funds - a clear signal of the proponents' motive: To silence entities associated with local agencies.

SB 594 creates vast new responsibilities for the Attorney General to audit tens of thousands of nonprofit organizations – increasing state costs and overstepping the jurisdiction of the FPPC.

- SB 594 outlines new disclosure requirements for nonprofits that receive more than 20% of their annual revenues from one or more local agencies. The Attorney General would have responsibility for auditing these organizations on a biennial basis, whether or not they have participated in campaign activities.
- SB 594 could apply to tens of thousands of nonprofit organizations, creating a new and costly bureaucracy at the AG's office, as well as time-consuming and costly audits for nonprofit organizations.