

Resolution in Favor of AB 14, the California DISCLOSE Act

WHEREAS ever-increasing amounts of funds are raised and spent in support of and opposition to state and local ballot measures and candidates, especially in the form of advertisements; and

WHEREAS misleading political ads are often paid for by persons who avoid having their identities disclosed on election-related advertisements by channeling funds through one or more groups before those funds are received by a committee, thereby undermining the purpose and intent of laws requiring disclosure on such advertisements; and

WHEREAS the California Democratic Party platform states that California Democrats will “Support and implement full disclosure, on the ads themselves, of the largest major funders of all political television, radio, print, slate mailer, and online advertising for ballot measures, independent expenditures, and issue advocacy, in a way that clearly and unambiguously identifies the largest major donors”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee endorses AB 14, the California DISCLOSE Act, authored by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez and Marc Levine, to require ballot measure and independent expenditure advertisements to clearly disclose the two or three largest true sources of funds for contributions on their television ads, radio ads, print ads, and robocalls, even if the funds were transferred through one or more committees or persons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be provided to Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President pro Tem Kevin De Leon, Assembly Elections Committee Chair Evan Low, Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Lorena Gonzalez, Senate Elections Committee Chair Henry Stern, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Ricardo Lara, Assemblymembers Jimmy Gomez, Sharon-Quirk Silva, and Marc Levine, and to members of the California Legislature who represent Santa Clara County.