

YOUTH ENRICHMENT POLICY PROJECT

THE EDMUND G. "PAT" BROWN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS | California State University, Los Angeles

Written By:
Melanie Barajas
Senior at
Roosevelt High School
2010-2011

On November 4, 2010 I was privileged enough to be able to attend the Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs 18th Annual Conference "Los Angeles 2010: Moving the Southland Forward". I learned a various amount of information at this conference. The information I learned truly impacted my life because there were many topics I wasn't familiar with and I was well educated about them at the conference. This conference was one of the first steps into my future as a politician. I watched all the discussions that were being held with enthusiasm because the topics they spoke of were interesting—for instance, Immigration Reform and Prop. 23. One of the discussions that captured my attention the most and is important to me was Prop 23.

During the discussion on this proposition, I learned how Prop. 23 will be able to create jobs for many unemployed people. There is a 12% unemployment rate at this very moment in California. If this law passes many people will be able to get jobs and our economy will improve. Not only does this proposition focus on creating jobs but it will help our environment as well. Proposition 23 will help preserve California's clean air and water laws. There won't be as much pollution as there currently is. Our environment will be much cleaner. Many people aren't aware of the climate change because it changes slowly. Recently, scientists have realized climate changes have been occurring. One of the reasons for this pollution is due to major company disposals. Proposition 23

will reduce that because it won't allow as much pollution to be emitted into the air. All this information was new to me. I didn't realize how much global warming was causing changes in the climate and that this proposition will help our families by saving and providing jobs for them.

This new information is not only valuable to me, but it's important as well. The reason for this is because I will be the future of tomorrow. I am now aware of the current state of our environment and if we all come together as one and inform others about the situation, we can help our environment and not pollute as much as we have. Like me, there are thousands of people who aren't aware of this situation and what Prop. 23 is all about. As a person who got informed about it, I took it upon myself to inform others about this pressing issue. I do not want to live in a future where pollution is destroying the world. It is not too late to take action and prevent serious consequences. This information helped me understand that when there's a situation as serious as pollution and global warming it will be best if we treat it as soon as we can and that is exactly what Prop. 23 is addressing. Not only will it help our environment, but this proposition will be helping the economy by keeping and creating jobs to employ people. If these jobs are granted slowly the economy will be improving. In the future, when I will be an adult, I won't have to worry as much about the economy and how it is today and about global warming. The main reason this discussion was important to me is because I was educated about Prop. 23. I will be working hard in college and hopefully become a politician. Once I have completed my dream, I will hopefully someday work on a proposition like Prop. 23 and help build a better future for the future generations that come after me.