

Contact: Sara Shults
(916) 447-8186

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2004

Governor and Attorney General Sign Ballot Argument Against Proposition 66

Say initiative is dangerous and will create a new "legal loophole" for convicted criminals to get out of prison early.

SACRAMENTO — Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Bill Lockyer have teamed up in a bi-partisan effort to defeat Proposition 66, the "Limitations on Three Strikes" initiative.

Schwarzenegger and Lockyer have jointly signed the ballot argument against Proposition 66, lending their support to Californians United for Public Safety — a coalition of every major public safety, taxpayer and child protection group in California formed to defeat Proposition 66.

In their argument against Proposition 66, the Governor and Attorney General write that "Proposition 66 creates a 'legal loophole' for convicted criminals that will cost taxpayers millions and flood our streets with thousands of dangerous felons, including, rapists, child molesters and murderers."

According to the two, "Proposition 66 does not 'fine tune' current '3 Strikes' law, but instead guts it."

Others working to defeat Proposition 66 include Crime Victims United, California Police Chiefs Association, California District Attorneys Association,

Prevent Child Abuse California, National Tax Limitation Committee, Marc Klaas of the Klaas Kids Foundation and dozens of sheriffs and legislators.

If Proposition 66 passes, six serious crimes will be eliminated from the current "strike" list including arson, residential burglary, attempted burglary, criminal threats, felony gang crimes and felonies like drunk driving in which innocent people are seriously hurt or killed. Likewise, juvenile sex offenders will no longer receive a strike for seriously injuring a disabled person during an assault with intent to commit rape.

One felon who would be released under Proposition 66 is Kenneth Parnell, the notorious child molester who kidnapped and sexual assaulted young Steven Staynor for 7 years. Parnell recently received his third strike for attempting to buy a 4-year-old boy for \$500. Instead of serving 25 years to life for his crimes against children, Proposition 66 will set him free within weeks.

For more information, visit www.keep3strikes.org.

#