OPENPRIMARIES

CALIFORNIA

INTRO

In 2010 California voters approved proposition 14, the Top-Two Open Primaries Amendment. In a top-two open primary, all candidates appear on the same ballot and all registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, get to vote. The two candidates who receive the most votes advance to the general election regardless of their party affiliations.

RESULTS OF TOP-TWO

1. More competitive elections
2. All voters have the right to equal participation
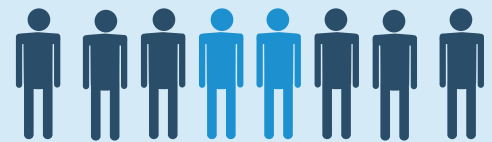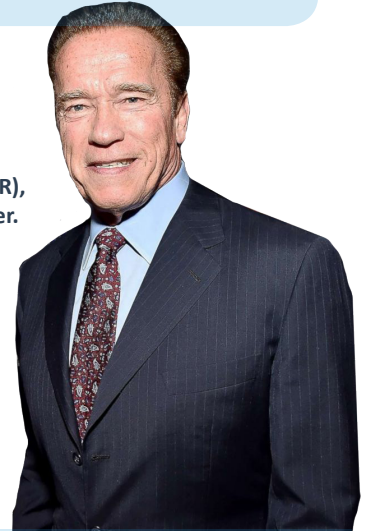3. A highly functional legislature

EMPOWERING ALL VOTERS

4.85 million independent voters—26% of all voters, and the second largest group of voters in the state —are enfranchised.

A GOVERNMENT THAT REPRESENTS VOTERS

- From immigration, to climate change, to pro-growth economic policies, the state legislature is addressing issues that Congress won't touch.
- A new, bipartisan political culture has emerged.
- Voter approval of the state legislature has tripled, and support for top two open primaries is high at 60%.

"In order for the people to win, politics as usual must lose."

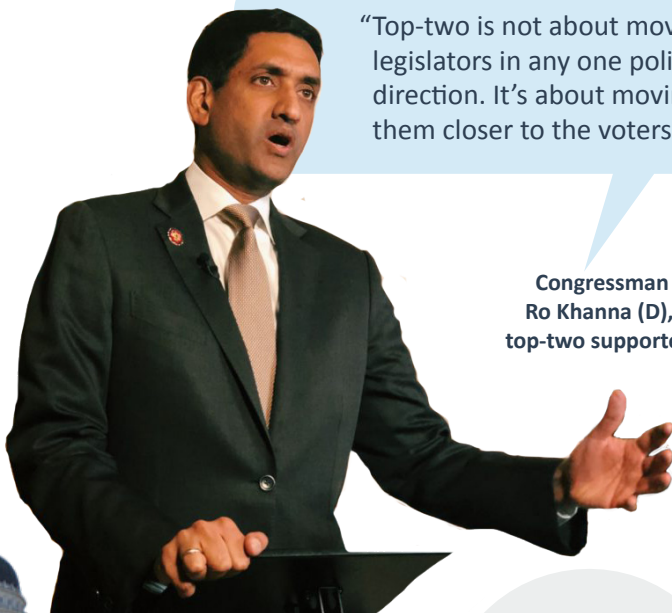**Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), top-two supporter.**

THE MOST COMPETITIVE ELECTIONS IN THE NATION

- In California, 75% of elections feature a Democratic versus a Republican candidate. Nationally, the average is 61%. 25% of elections are same party races or an independent against a major party candidate. Races with candidates running unopposed have virtually disappeared.
- Candidates reach out to all members of their district to be elected, not just the partisan few. Once in office, politicians are more accountable to ALL the voters.
- Politicians have to compete: from 2002-2010 only two incumbents were defeated, from 2012 to 2018 thirty-four incumbents were defeated.

"Top-two is not about moving legislators in any one political direction. It's about moving them closer to the voters."

Congressman Ro Khanna (D), top-two supporter.