

# Has California Terminated Arnie?

by Harley Schlanger

There is no way the public relations hacks working for Arnold Schwarzenegger can spin their way around the decisive beating given to him on Nov. 8 by the voters of California, in the special election that he had insisted must take place. The Governor, who came into office in 2003 as a by-product of a fluke recall campaign, suffered a massive political rejection, failing to win even one of his four core ballot initiatives, despite spending nearly \$70 million to con the state's voters into giving him dictatorial powers.

The thrashing has led to widespread speculation that Schwarzenegger may reconsider his plans to run for reelection in 2006. His wife, Kennedy family member Maria Shriver—who was noticeably absent during the special election campaign—has said that she wishes he would quit politics. His dreadful showing may convince the gang, centered around anti-American System fascist George Shultz, which put big money behind him, that Arnie lacks what it takes to dismantle government on behalf of speculative financial interests and corporate cartels.

## A Humiliating Defeat

After months of insulting Democratic legislators, calling them “spending addicts” and “girlie men,” while trying to intimidate them into taking down the state's social safety net, Schwarzenegger took the populist/fascist route of “going to the people.” He denounced legislators as captives of “special interests”—by which he meant unions—and organized the special election so the “people”—that is, the corporate cartels—would give him the power to govern without working through a legislative process.

The goal in this, as spelled out by his chief controller, Shultz, was to slash government spending, get rid of unions, and impose further deregulation and privatization, while giving tax cuts to large corporations and the most wealthy residents of the state.

By using the “initiative” process, placing a complex issue on the special election ballot as a “yes” or “no” vote, he and his backers hoped to eliminate the checks and balances of the legislative process. Arnie expected that it would be easy to appeal to the anti-government prejudices of frustrated voters, who would give him the power to rule with no opposition or oversight from elected officials.

But the voters turned on him and his efforts to manipulate them. Each of his four core initiatives were easily defeated. Proposition 74, which attacked the teacher's union and public education, lost 55.1% to 44.9%. Prop. 75, which blamed his inability to impose deadly austerity measures on the opposition of unions, was beaten by 53.5% to 46.5%. The “Make Arnie Dictator Act,” Prop. 76, which would have enabled him to unilaterally cut the budget (this was at the heart of his agenda) was smashed, with 62.1% voting no. And his Tom DeLay-style redistricting proposal, Prop. 77, was also crushed, with 59.5% voting no.

To make sure that no one missed the intention of the voters, all eight ballot initiatives lost. The message was simple: Not only was the outcome a total rejection of Arnold, but of government by initiative.

The actual vote total against Arnold could have been much higher, had there been a more consistent and aggressive campaign by the Democratic Party. As in the 2003 recall of Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, some Democrats were passive, or sat it out completely. There were 2.26 million fewer votes cast than in the recall. The early consensus is that many “moderate” Republicans and “independents” who had voted for Schwarzenegger in 2003, stayed home, while many who opposed the special election simply did not vote.



EIRNS/Brendon Barnett

*Will Arnie get the message now? Here, a pre-election roving rally in Beverly Hills features Schwarzenegger, Bush, and Cheney in costume (played by the LaRouche Youth Movement).*

## Key Role of LaRouche

From the day Arnold announced, in his State of the State address in January 2005, that this would be the “Year of Reform,” Lyndon LaRouche and his movement acted to defeat the man who wished to terminate representative government. In taking on the Shultz-Cheney drive to steal Social Security, LaRouche PAC produced a pamphlet which featured Arnie’s efforts—also on behalf of Shultz—to divert the California state public pension funds to private financial interests. Because of blunders by Arnie’s people, and the incredible outburst of opposition to this plan, Schwarzenegger withdrew it from the special election, although he vows to revisit it in 2006. Nearly 1 million copies of this pamphlet were distributed in the state.

In recent weeks, the efforts of LaRouche PAC and the LaRouche Youth Movement have shaped the activity of those Democrats who wished to defeat Arnie. From California Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, who joined LaRouche at a town meeting in Beverly Hills, to the chairmen of the Democratic Party in Los Angeles and Orange Counties—Eric Bauman and Ray Cordova, who participated in the internet radio program, “The LaRouche Show,” on the weekend before the vote—the word went out, far and wide: A vote for Arnie is a vote for dictatorship.

The voters got the message. Will Arnold?

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## Interview: Eric Bauman and Ray Cordova

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## Democratic Leaders Dissect the Governor

*These are excerpts from the transcript of “The LaRouche Show,” Nov. 5, broadcast on internet radio at 3 p.m. Eastern Time. Hosted by Lyndon LaRouche’s Western States spokesman Harley Schlanger, the show featured two California Democratic Party leaders discussing California Governor Schwarzenegger’s ballot initiatives: Eric Bauman, chairman of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee, and Orange County Democratic Chairman Ray Cordova. Two LaRouche Youth Movement members, Cody Jones and Summer Shields also participated. The full program is archived at <http://www.larouchepub.com>.*

**Schlanger:** Many of our listeners outside of California, are not too familiar with the four propositions backed by Arnold—Propositions 74, 75, 76, and 77—so can you give us a brief summary of these propositions, and why the vote

on Tuesday is so important?

**Bauman:** Sure, and I’m actually going to expand a little bit on the propositions beyond that.

... When Arnold’s cabal of consultants came up with the notion to have this election, now almost 18 months ago, and he was riding high at close to 70% in the polls, their notion was that they would have a special election this year, where no funding limits would apply, where they’d be able to plaster his face on TV for three months, and he would move into next year’s re-election, having spent millions of dollars pumping himself up, and pumping his face out there, and thereby neutering the Democratic Party next year.

Furthermore, they thought that they could use his popularity as a star, as a movie star, as the “Terminator,” to make substantive changes to California law, that would make this a much more Republican-leaning, Republican-type state.

The Governor’s key agenda has four parts, and it all starts with Proposition 76. Proposition 76, which the Governor has titled the “live within our means” act, is probably the most dangerous initiative that has ever been placed on the ballot in California history. That isn’t because the day it goes into effect, it wipes \$4 billion in education funding out. And it’s not because future increases in state spending would be based on a rolling average of the prior three years’ revenue increases. It lies in the fact that Proposition 76 allows the Governor to unilaterally declare a fiscal emergency in the state, and then, in short order, go into a back room, with no oversight, no public hearings, and no appeals process, and cut any part of the budget he wants, in any amount that he wants. And the legislature has virtually no ability to reverse those cuts that he makes.

**Schlanger:** This is one way that he could avoid any kind of discussion in the future, any kind of deliberative process.

**Bauman:** Absolutely. In essence, what Proposition 76 does, is create a dictatorship, and in the many, many places that I’ve spoken about this election over the last three months, I always point out that 49 other governors in America do not have this power. The President of the United States does not have this power, and I damn well don’t want to see Arnold Schwarzenegger have this power to destroy California. If you look at his vetoes to the budget, and his vetoes to legislation, you know that his heart’s not where it needs to be. You know that his priorities are different than the people of California. He’s cut and vetoed health programs, and seniors’ programs, and education funding, and public safety funding, all in favor of promoting programs that help his big business cronies, and absolutely nothing that helps the poor people of the state of California. So, that’s Proposition 76.

Now, of course, they have come up with the coy name, the “live within our means” act, and you know, one thing Republicans are very good at, is framing arguments using simple, logical-sounding rhetoric, and it makes perfect sense