Dear members and friends:

As we go to press, the U.S. is soon to hold its first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. While California is working to create greater access to voting, sixteen states have new voting restrictions in place. This could have serious consequences for many Americans — but most acutely for the people and communities we serve as nonprofits.

By the time you read this, you’re likely to know how it all came out.

But it remains deeply important that the social sector continue to make ourselves heard at the ballot box — because nonprofit votes count. They count in numbers, and they count in the nature of their outcome. When nonprofits use our substantial voting power, we not only advance our own missions — we change the world for the better.

That works in a very real way. Consider: if everyone who worked or volunteered in human services voted, we’d have better human services funding. If everyone who worked or volunteered on environmental issues voted, we’d have a better environment. If everyone who worked or volunteered in education voted, we’d have better schools. When the social sector votes, the social well-being of our state and our country rises — and everyone benefits, especially the most vulnerable. When policymakers start to recognize the nonprofit community as the powerful voting force we are, they take notice and work harder to address our concerns — and that benefits everyone too.

Just imagine if everyone touched by the work of nonprofits made their voices heard and voted with their values. That voting power turns into better schools, affordable health care, a cleaner environment, and a better country, where people believe their voices matter. That means a better world for all of us here now, and for those who will follow.

We’ll be back in touch before long with our thoughts about how the election results affect our work as nonprofits. Until then, it’s been good to work together on mobilizing the nonprofit community to vote and make our voices heard.

Jan Masaoka
CEO, CalNonprofits
janm@calnonprofits.org

The View from Sacramento

By CalNonprofits Policy Director Nancy Berlin and Sacramento Advocate Jennifer Fearing

At the end of California’s legislative session, CalNonprofits racked up an impressive list of wins. Our legislative agenda this year reflected the range of values that nonprofits embrace, as we worked on bills to build the sustainability of our nonprofit ecosystem and support the communities we serve.

We championed SB 3, AB 2251, and SB 1234 — bills that strengthen our workforce, by providing more just wages, helping young people struggling with student debt and workers facing the economic uncertainties of retirement.

We advocated for broader opportunities for civic engagement by expanding voting access and making it easier to vote, with AB 2466 and SB 450.

We fought for AB 1348, a bill to help nonprofits learn about and compete for federal funding opportunities, and we fought against AB 2855 — the “warning

— continued on page 3
CalNonprofits Takes Stands on November Propositions

Our Board of Directors took a stand on three propositions on the ballot this November. At press time, voters have not yet weighed in, but by the time you read this you will know which of the measures won or lost. Here’s a brief summary of our positions on Propositions 54, 55 and 59 – and why we believe these propositions matter to nonprofits.

Proposition 54 – Legislature Transparency Act
Support: CalNonprofits supports Proposition 54 because it would make it easier for nonprofits to get the information they need to assess legislation and inform their communities about issues that affect them.

Proposition 55 – Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare Amendment
Support: Many nonprofits rely on state dollars to fund the important community services they provide. By helping the state maintain and fund education, the state will then be freed up to direct funds that would have otherwise been necessary for education to other essential services. For these reasons, CalNonprofits supports Proposition 55.

Proposition 59 – The California Overturn of Citizens United Act Advisory Question
Support: CalNonprofits champions policies that mandate fair political practices and transparency. For this reason, CalNonprofits supports Proposition 59 because it sends a message about the need for campaign finance reform and free and fair elections.

For more information on these and other California ballot measures, check out http://votersedge.org/ca
label” bill that would have mandated excessive and unnecessary reporting requirements for nonprofits.

And we launched the first California Nonprofits Day to celebrate the importance of nonprofit organizations to the economy and well-being of California, marked by the passage of ACR 192.

As you know, it was not CalNonprofits alone that secured these wins. They could not have happened without the hundreds of nonprofits that signed official policy letters, educated their constituents and communicated with their elected officials.

Find out the details on all of these bills on our Legislation Tracker at www.calnonprofits.org/public-policy/bill-tracker.
CalNonprofits 2016 Convention

On October 6th, over 200 nonprofit leaders, funders, and supporters of the nonprofit community gathered at The California Endowment in Los Angeles to flex, build and celebrate the power of California nonprofits.

“Meet with us in our district offices. Ask for our help with your strategy.” — Phil Ting

Introduced by CalNonprofits Board Chair Geoff Green, CEO of Santa Barbara City College Foundation, CalNonprofits CEO Jan Masaoka welcomed attendees at the opening plenary on the State of the California Nonprofit Community.

“We need a healthy nonprofit ecosystem that serves mid-sized as well as large and small nonprofits in order to thrive as a community.”
— Jan Masaoka

We had a standing-room-only crowd for the election predictions session, talking about local, state and federal races and what they mean for nonprofits. Moderated by CalNonprofits’ Nancy Berlin, we heard from Arnie Sowell, Vice President of California Policy at NextGen Climate, Raphael Sonenshein, Executive Director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles, and Manuel Pastor, Professor of Sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California.

“One of the day’s highlights was a panel featuring California State Assemblymember Phil Ting, Los Angeles Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and California State Senator Holly Mitchell, moderated by Nancy Berlin. They discussed how nonprofit leaders in public office bring nonprofit values to Sacramento: “We know our communities best and want to make change for the people we care about.”

“Off-year elections have become a catastrophe for the constituencies who need representation most.” — Raphael Sonenshein
We were all riveted by the moving and powerful telling of the Black Lives Matter story by co-founder Alicia Garza, our Keynote Speaker, who called the movement “a love letter to Black people.” She urged us to live the values of Black Lives Matter in our own organizations and look at how our missions include and assist black lives.

“Minority-led organizations are less likely to get funded.” – Orson Aguilar

Thanks to our Golden Poppy sponsors Armanino and Great Kolor, and to all of our other sponsors as well!
Lobbying is about building relationships and momentum for issues you care about. Our Sacramento Advocate Jennifer Fearing told us how to be ready to respond, adapt and jump in when a political opportunity presents itself.

Tania Ibañez, Senior Assistant to the Attorney General, gave us the straight scoop on compliance, along with Gene Takagi, Managing Attorney at NEO Law Group and Elizabeth Bluestein, Vice President and General Counsel at Public Counsel. Rosemary Fei, Principal at Adler & Colvin, moderated “Hot Topics to Keep Your Organization Out of Hot Water.”

For most nonprofits, insurance is the third biggest expense after wages and rent. And it can be confusing: health insurance, dental, vision, workers comp, D&O... The new and energetic CEO of CalNonprofits Insurance Services Colleen Lazanich explained it all at this fast-paced session.

“My thanks to you and your team for what was one of the more substantive and productive sector events I’ve attended in some time. The panel with politicos...was refreshingly candid and authentic. Such sharing doesn’t happen without someone creating a climate of trust.

— Attendee Bob Lazzarini, Director, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, Antioch University Los Angeles

“I want all CalNonprofits members to be loud, proud, and represented.”

— Jennifer Fearing

“It’s time to start thinking of the ‘limit’ on nonprofit lobbying as a ‘target.’” — Eric Gorovitz
“New research on overhead messaging shows 98% of donors are confident about how their money is spent. The best messages on overhead focus on strengthening community — strong nonprofits equal stronger communities.” — David Mermin

The debate on donor information — right to know vs. right to privacy — was a riot! It also raised some intriguing and provocative points, with each different side trying to win our hearts and minds. Board member Kris Sinclair, Executive Director Emeritus, Association of California Symphony Orchestras and Alberto Retana, President and CEO of Community Coalition teamed up against Michele Dilworth, Director at Foundation Center West, and Eric Gorovitz, Principal at Adler & Colvin. Board member Kim Klein, Partner at Klein & Roth Consulting was an awesome moderator and referee.

Lake Research Partners’ David Mermin conducted focus groups and surveys with donors and county boards of supervisors to find out what language about nonprofit overhead is most effective. This session was the first-ever presentation of this new data. Moderated by board member Cynthia Duenas, Executive Director at the Center for Human Services and featuring special guests Vera de Vera, Director of Nonprofit Sustainability at the California Community Foundation and Kim Carter, Founder and Executive Director of Time for Change Foundation, who shared their thoughts and experiences on this crucial topic.
On Friday, October 7, 2016 in Los Angeles, CalNonprofits hosted a Forum on Student Debt and the Nonprofit Workforce in partnership with Student Debt Crisis. The Forum was a blend of practical trainings and tools that can be used by nonprofit employers and employees to manage student debt. It was also a call to action, offering an opportunity to discuss what's happening nationally and locally on this issue and how the nonprofit sector can engage in the debate. Find out more at www.calnonprofits.org/programs/nonprofit-student-debt-project

Congressman Eric Swalwell (CA-15), a national champion on the issue, shared what it feels like to be a Congressman with student debt, how it informs his position, and what he thinks Congress will do to alleviate the student debt crisis in the future.

Since 1980 college tuition has increased by 300%.

— Congressman Eric Swalwell

Want to create change for people with student loan debt? You should #ProbablyVote.

— Congressman Eric Swalwell

Public Service Loan Forgiveness is the best loan forgiveness program available to anyone working for a nonprofit. Natalia Abrams and Cody Hounanian of Student Debt Crisis presented a Debt Relief Options Workshop for Nonprofit Employees, full of useful tools for individuals with student loans.

In a concurrent workshop, Christina Dragonetti of CalNonprofits previewed a newly developed employer toolkit full of useful, free and low-cost opportunities for nonprofits as employers to support employees with student debt.

We also convened the inaugural meeting of our Nonprofit Student Debt Taskforce and held a series of one-on-one consultations with Student Debt Crisis staff members.

This Forum and the Nonprofit Student Debt Project are made possible by the Trustees’ Philanthropy Fund at Fidelity Charitable, foundations who provide unrestricted support to CalNonprofits including the California Wellness Foundation, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation and the Weingart Foundation, and the thousands of nonprofit organizations that are members of CalNonprofits.

The Forum was also co-sponsored by the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network-LA, the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin, San Francisco Human Services Network, Community Partners, Valley Nonprofit Resources, the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State LA, the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, and Antioch University Los Angeles Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management Program.
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