



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC celebrates the passage of Proposition 30 Success of Governor's initiative bodes well for court funding

SACRAMENTO (Nov. 7, 2012) – Consumer Attorneys of California leaders today welcomed voter approval of Gov. Jerry Brown's tax measure Proposition 30, saying the successful ballot measure will go a long way toward helping California keep open both classrooms and courtrooms.

CAOC was the first organization in the state to come out in support of the governor's tax initiative, backing it in late 2011 shortly after Brown announced the push. The organization contributed \$250,000 to the effort to put it on the ballot.

"Our No. 1 priority is court funding and keeping the judicial system accessible to California consumers," said CAOC President Niall McCarthy, who is co-chair of the Open Courts Coalition to protect the courts' budget. "With the approval of Proposition 30 I am optimistic we can prevent further debilitating cuts to court operations. We give all the credit in the world to Gov. Brown for his courageous decision to take this case to California voters and for the outstanding job he did in presenting Proposition 30 as a crucial decision for our state's future."

The passage of Proposition 30 was a key element of what McCarthy described as "a tremendous night" for California consumers. "The combination of passing Proposition 30 with the possibility of a two-thirds Democratic majority in both houses of the California Legislature means that CAOC should be in a position to further protect California consumers."

CAOC played a key role in California Democrats' ability to extend their majorities in both the Assembly and Senate. Of the more than 30 legislative candidates supported by the organization, all won outright on Election Day except for two CAOC-backed candidates who remain in races too close to call. In every race in which a CAOC-backed Democrat faced a Republican, the Democrat won. CAOC supported incumbent Assembly Members Michael Allen and Betsy Butler, both of whom ran for re-election in new districts after redistricting; both trail fellow Democrats by narrow margins with many vote-by-mail and provisional ballots still to be counted.

McCarthy also hailed voters' rejection of Proposition 33, which could have led to higher auto insurance rates for some California drivers. "We were among a coalition of consumer groups that opposed Proposition 33," McCarthy said. "By defeating these misleading initiatives we were able to help protect the middle class against corporate greed."

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

For more information:

**J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916- 669-7126, jgpreston@caoc.org
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, ebailey@caoc.org**