June 5 Ballot Measures to Impact Cal State, SanBernardino

As reported in recent issues of the Friday Bulletin, two legislative measures appearing on the June 5 ballot will directly impact our campus. This special issue of the Friday Bulletin is being published to help inform members of the campus community about these important measures.

Proposition 111

Proposition 111, officially titled "The Traffic Congestion Relief and Spending Limitation Act of 1990," will give voters the opportunity to amend the state constitution. If approved, the Gann spending limit will be modified based on state population growth and the national consumer price index. Passage of Prop 111 will allow the state budget to increase by about 8.7 percent by using a funding formula that accurately reflects California’s current growth. It also will allow the state to raise the gasoline tax and truck fees to fund highway improvement and mass transit projects.

To help meet the educational needs of our growing region, more funds are needed to help Cal State maintain its commitment to a quality education for area residents. Currently, enrollment on our campus is growing at about 10 percent each year. The CSU estimates that by the year 2005 the student population will grow by an additional 180,000 persons. Even today, the state is unable to fund all of the programs, services and facilities required by the university to conduct and improve its educational activities. It’s estimated that unless the state spending limit is raised, by the year 2000 the CSU will lose the opportunity to spend nearly $400 million which would otherwise be available for carrying out instructional programs.

Opponents of Prop 111 believe the limitation on government spending would be revised far beyond what is necessary to allow for a gas tax increase. They feel that voters should make sure gas tax dollars are spent wisely before raising more taxes, and they believe that the money is already being spent for services not rendered.

Several organizations and individuals support the passage of Prop 111. These include: The CSU Board of Trustees, the California Taxpayers Association, the California Chamber of Commerce, the League of California Cities, the California Manufacturers Association, the University of California, the California Community Colleges, Governor George Deukmejian and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig.

Proposition 121

If approved by voters, Proposition 121 or "The Higher Education Facilities Bond Act of 1990" will provide $450 million to help construct new buildings and upgrade existing facilities on the campuses of the California State University, the University of California and the California Community Colleges by authorizing a general obligation bond. The CSU depends on such bonds to help fund capital construction, renovation and equipment for all 20 campuses. New classrooms, labs and other facilities are needed to keep pace with the growing number of students entering the CSU. Additionally, many existing structures need to be upgraded and expanded.

Three major facilities projects on our campus will be impacted by Prop 121 funding. If approved, $5.5 million will help begin crucial expan-