

Published: 10.25.2007

## Logical, rational review warrants a 'No' on 200

Our view: If you need more information on Prop 200, tune in to KUAT this Friday

Imagine walking on a Saturday morning with a member of the Star's Editorial Board. As you amble along, you ask for an explanation of Proposition 200 and justification of our adamant opposition to the ballot initiative.

We'd start by pointing out the bazillion and one reasons to vote "No":

- It's a poorly written, ill-conceived amendment to the Tucson City Charter.
- Our community's allotment of CAP water could end up in other cities.
- It would encourage sprawl outside of Tucson Water's service area and would provide an incentive to developers to dig their own wells, using scarce groundwater instead of CAP water.
- The toilet-to-tap water delivery is already prohibited by law and Prop. 200 would restrict any reasonable and safe use of effluent other than releasing it into the Santa Cruz.
- The revenue from the garbage fee has been reinvested into the community to fix roads and to support fire and police services. Waivers are available to help those who cannot afford the trash-hauling fee.

While it is disingenuous for those opposed to Prop. 200 to argue that if the fee goes away so does a significant chunk of police and fire protection, \$23 million would be a wallop to the city budget. Your favorite city program could be at risk if Prop. 200 passes. And the city's finance director says it will make it impossible to add badly needed police and fire reinforcements.

### Emotions clash with logic

As we stroll along on a bright autumn day, we could continue rattling off the logical reasons for opposition; however, many of the pro-200 arguments are emotional.

Prop. 200 has unified divergent interests in a common goal: flushing Prop. 200 down the drain. Yes, the big moneyed home builders and car dealers are opposing it and funding much of the "vote no" effort. However, to discount their motives only as lining their pockets is sophomoric. Business owners and managers are invested in the community with more than just money. They live in our community, raise their children and hope to create a community in which their grandchildren can live and work.

Likewise, the folks in business suits provide jobs. It's easy to take cheap potshots at business owners like Jim Click. But let's not forget the almost 1,000 full-time jobs his automotive

### Prop 200 videos

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- The \$14 garbage fee
- "Toilet-to-tap"
- Future water connections
- The meaning of the word "distributor"

### Prop info

- Watch John Kromko, Prop. 200 author, and Larry Hecker, who heads the "No on 200 Committee," discuss Prop. 200 during "Arizona Illustrated" at 6:30 p.m. Friday on KUAT-TV, Channel 6. The show repeats at 12:30 a.m. The program will be streamed on KUAT's Web site, [kuat.org](http://kuat.org), and, beginning next week, on the Arizona Daily Star's Web site, [azstarnet.com](http://azstarnet.com), through election day, Nov. 6.

enterprise offers. Such careless comments diminish community building. It's hard to imagine our community without business philanthropy.

Focusing on those in business suits also discounts the **grass-roots groups, such as the Pima County Interfaith Council**, who are knocking on doors to let voters know about the detrimental impact of the initiative.

State and federal officials are usually loathe to take a position on local initiatives. We asked Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Sen. Jon Kyl's staff about the proposition. Both were following it but declined to get involved in the fray. Napolitano told a Star editorial board last month: "I'm going to let Tucsonans work their way through it."

Therefore, it was exceptional that Arizona Corporation Commission members came to Tucson Friday specifically to voice opposition to the proposition, which would prevent Tucson Water from supplying water to at least seven private water companies affecting about 1,500 citizens that the commission regulates.

Commissioner Kris Mayes told us Proposition 200 would be catastrophic for the water companies the commission regulates and their customers.

### **Listen and then decide**

Unfortunately, cynicism and "sticking it to the man" is the most disconcerting and frustrating aspect of much of the campaign.

Reader comments online, letters to the editor and a few nasty phone calls tell us that a small, but vocal contingent of folks will be voting "yes" so they can see public officials squirm. They plan to sit back and laugh at the train wreck they've created.

This negative action only destroys community and creates bad public policy. We hope you will weigh the facts and thoughtfully cast your ballot based on logic, not cynicism.

You can hear both sides of the issue on Friday's "Arizona Illustrated" on KUAT-TV, Channel 6. The entire half-hour show will be devoted to Proposition 200. John Kromko, Prop. 200 author, and Larry Hecker, who heads the "No on 200 Committee," will be guests.

If you miss the half-hour discussion Friday, the program will be streamed in its entirety until election day on KUAT's Web site and next week on the Star's Web site.

When you listen to the arguments from both sides, we believe you'll understand our strong opposition to the initiative and vote no on Prop. 200.

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