

TURN Fact Sheet

Vote No on Prop 16



What would the PG&E backed Prop 16 do?

This special interest initiative would sabotage existing law allowing communities to choose alternatives to PG&E. By hijacking the initiative process, PG&E is trying to change the California Constitution to lock in its high rates and lock out community choice forever.

Doesn't PG&E already have a monopoly?

Yes, but local communities can vote to form their own power purchasing agencies or join existing municipal utilities or irrigation districts, in order to get lower rates and cleaner and greener energy.

How would the ballot initiative change that?

By requiring a 2/3 vote, a threshold the legislature has proved is impossible to reach, creating an additional barrier beyond the normal voter approval process.

Why does PG&E want to stop community choice?

PG&E doesn't want to lose customers. But instead of trying to keep them with good customer service and reliable electricity PG&E has done nothing to fix its exploding manhole covers, frequent power blackouts, high bills and dumb "smart meters."

What has PG&E done in the past to stop community choice?

PG&E fights community choice with multi million dollar misinformation campaigns and other sleazy tactics.

- Spent \$10 million on misinformation campaign to defeat Prop H in San Francisco.
- Spent \$12 million on misinformation campaign to defeat SMUD Yolo County annexation.
- Fined for employing shady tactics to convince City of Fresno to leave the San Joaquin Irrigation District.
- Tried to use energy efficiency funds to bribe City of Novato to oppose Marin public power initiative.

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Why a statewide ballot initiative?

After spending millions spent to stop local power movements, PG&E CEO Darbee reportedly told shareholders a statewide ballot initiative would be cheaper in the end. All funding for the campaign comes from one special interest, PG&E, which has already spend \$6 million and has pledged to spend at least \$30 million.

How high are PG&E's rates?

PG&E has higher rates than municipal utilities, and higher rates than most utilities in California. Also high are PG&E's:

- Executive pay.
- Public relations, marketing and lobbying expenses.
- Shut offs - about 15,000 every month
- Customer complaints, which are on the rise due to dumb "smart" meters.

How will customers outside of PG&E territory be impacted?

Now, municipal utilities can annex new areas with the approval of a simple majority of the voters. New homes or businesses within existing municipal power districts might be unable to get service without the approval of "two-thirds of the voters in the territory to be served."

Is public power a good deal for consumers?

Consumers have the right to choose for themselves. Californians want clean, green and affordable power, and if PG&E can't deliver it consumers should be able to vote in an energy provider that can.

Does any other company have a constitutionally protected monopoly?

No, but if PG&E is able to purchase constitutional protection from competition, other wealthy corporations may try to follow suit.