

OPINION

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The Portland Observer

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Recall Hurts Democratic Process

California initiatives rooted in attacks on civil rights

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON SR.

The extremists' plan to control our vote, our government, and disrupt the orderly process of democracy, is at work in California.

The state's Oct. 7 recall election is an attempt to torpedo our democratic process; and Proposition 54, the Connerly information initiative, would ban race as a factor in pursuit of research, law enforcement and other legitimate quests.

Recalling Gov. Davis is another attempt to overturn a legitimate democratic election by using an archaic law. The atmosphere may be a circus, but the ramifications are much too serious. As Stanford Professor David Kennedy states, "The recall is really a nuclear weapon in the political arsenal."

There is a standard for removing elected officials from office. If there is malfeasance, corruption or treason, or if someone is shown to be unfit for office based upon the standard, there should be orderly succession and the people's government continues.

A privately funded, multimillion dollar petition drive to initiate a recall election is not the answer. The state is facing an historic budget deficit, as does nearly every other state. In part, this has been triggered by a massive cut in taxes without the corresponding capacity to generate revenue.

We are now witnessing a pattern of destruction unleashed by the right-wing: Newt Gingrich's contract on America in 1994, the confederate agenda attacking civil rights and civil liberties, the false standard for impeaching President Clinton, the stolen 2000 presidential election in Florida, redistricting schemes in Texas and Colorado to seek control the Congress, and the war in Iraq under the pretenses of imminent threat, weapons of mass destruction, and connections



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to Al Qaeda — none of which has proven to be true.

Proposition 54 is bad for health care, bad for public safety, bad for education and bad for business. It undermines America's promise of equal protection under the law and seeks to roll back the clock on America's struggle for civil rights. Proposition 54 argues not for privacy, but for ignorance.

Today, the legacy of slavery permeates every segment of our society. Racial disparities and inequalities exist in every facet of our society: health care, education, employment, housing, criminal justice and business. How can we fight HIV/AIDS without information? How can we fight cancer without information? How can we achieve educational equity without information? How can we fight sickle cell anemia without information? How can we fight hate crimes without information? How do we fight high infant mortality rates without information?

We will not allow Ward Connerly to place a "gag order" on the collection of data and information needed to analyze social problems, design public policy and identify positive solutions. Censorship of information is no way to achieve equality.

We will not allow Ward Connerly's information ban to deprive us of the tools to achieve Dr. King's dream of equal access and equal protection under the law.

During these next 60 days, we will engage in a mass voter education and voter registration campaign, a campaign of voter mobilization and coalition building. Let's keep our eye on the prize and not succumb to misguided attempts to subvert the democratic process and turn back our struggle for civil rights.

We can and we will win.

No on Proposition 54. No on the Recall. Keep Hope Alive.

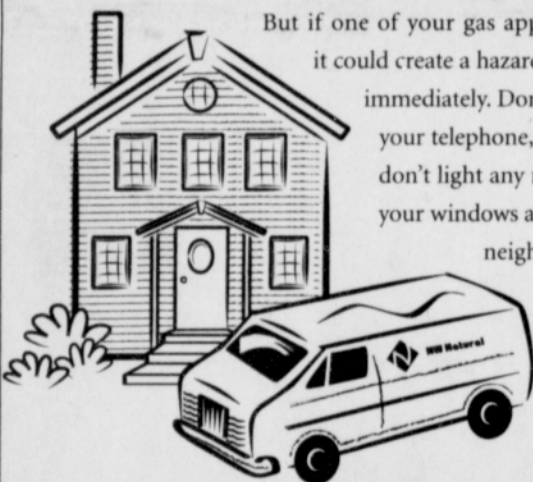
Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. is a civil rights leader and founder of the National Rainbow Coalition.

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We'll send somebody nice out to check on things. Natural gas is an exceptionally safe and reliable way to heat your home. By working together, we can keep it that way.



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Multnomah County is seeking applications for the 2003-2004 Board of Property Tax Appeals Board.

Multnomah County property owners may appeal for reductions for real market or assessed value of property. The Board also considers applications to excuse liability for penalty imposed for late filings.

Once appointed, Board members must attend a mandatory training session held in January. This is a volunteer Board; however, Board Members are paid \$100 a day or \$50.00 for half a day.

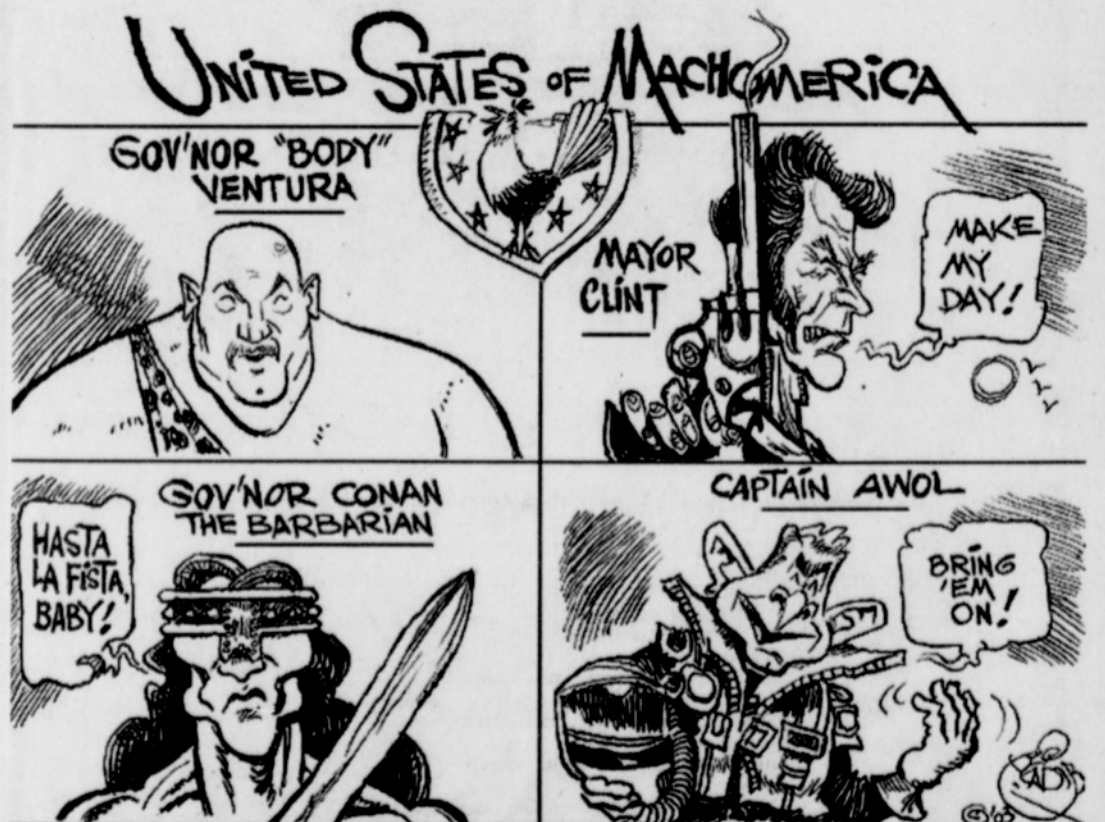
There are two panels of three members each that need to commit 2-3 days per week, during the months of February, March and April for hearing appeals.

Qualification for appointment includes one or more of the following:

- Applicants must be residents of Multnomah County.
- Real estate experience (e.g. broker, property appraiser)
- Title experience
- CPA or economist
- Educator in the finance or business area
- Banking experience (e.g. loan officer)
- Attorney with experience in property tax
- Property management experience
- Tax preparer
- Homeowner
- Past Board of Property Tax Appeals member

Applicants may contact:
Pat Thompson or Debi Huff at (503) 988-5241
501 SE Hawthorne, Suite 175
Portland OR 97214

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2003



Oregon Action Fights for Drug Benefits

Oregon Action needs your support to remind our elected officials to their responsibility to carry the fight for prescription drug assistance for all people — for

those on the Oregon Health Plan, for the uninsured and for the private sector.

It is not enough to limit assistance. The prescription drug

purchasing pool must include each of the above classifications.

Thank you for your support,
Rosalind "Rosy" Foster