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TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND BLIND VETERANS

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13 TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND BLIND VETERANS. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Increases property tax exemption for totally disabled veteran to \$10,000 and extends this exemption to widow until remarriage. Extends blind veteran's exemption to home owned by corporation in which he is shareholder and entitled thereby to possession.

YES

NO

(For Full Text of Measure, See Page 11, Part II)

General Analysis by the Legislative Counsel

A "Yes" vote is a vote to authorize the Legislature to increase the property tax exemption for homes of disabled veterans who have lost the use of both legs from \$5,000 to \$10,000, to extend this exemption to unremarried widows of such veterans, and to extend the \$5,000 property tax exemption for homes of blind veterans to homes in cooperative housing projects.

A "No" vote is a vote to retain the \$5,000 exemption for homes of such disabled veterans and not to permit extension of the exemption to their widows or to blind veterans having homes in cooperative housing projects.

For further details, see below.

Detailed Analysis by the Legislative Counsel

Section 14a of Article XIII of the Constitution **now** authorizes the Legislature to exempt from property taxation up to \$5,000 of the assessed value of property constituting a home of a legal resident of this state who has a permanent military or naval service-connected disability resulting in the loss of use of both legs from amputation, ankylosis, progressive muscular dystrophies, or paralysis, if such disabilities prevent moving about without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair. The exemption only applies to veterans discharged under honorable conditions who were residents of California at the time they entered the armed forces or who were residents prior to November 3, 1964.

This measure would permit the Legislature to increase the exemption for the homes of these disabled veterans to a maximum of \$10,000, rather than \$5,000, of assessed value and also to extend the exemption to the widows of such veterans until they remarry.

Section 14b of Article XIII of the Constitution **now** authorizes the Legislature to exempt from property taxation up to \$5,000 of the assessed value of property constituting a home of a blind veteran meeting the same qualifications, except for the nature of the disability, as a disabled veteran who has lost the use of his legs. The exemption for a blind veteran does not now cover living units in a cooperative housing project, since the project is owned by a corporation.

If approved by the voters, this measure would provide that the exemption for a blind veteran shall apply to the home of such a veteran which is owned by a corporation in which the veteran holds shares entitling him to possession of a home owned by the corporation.

Statutes Contingent Upon Adoption of Above Measure

The text of Chapter 1332 of the Statutes of 1969, which was enacted to become operative if and when the above amendments are approved, is on record in the office of the Secretary of State in Sacramento and is also contained in the 1969 published statutes. A digest of that chapter is as follows:

The chapter would raise the exemption on the homes of disabled veterans who have lost the use of both legs from \$5,000 to \$10,000 assessed value and extend the exemptive unremarried widows of such veterans. It would also extend the exemption for blind veterans to homes of such veterans owned by corporations in which the veteran holds shares entitling him to occupy a home owned by the corporation.

Argument in Favor of Proposition 13

This proposed amendment to the California Constitution would have the following effects:

- (1) It would increase to \$10,000 the property tax exemption granted to certain disabled veterans, and would extend this exemption to the widows of such disabled veterans. Presently, they are granted a \$5,000 exemption.
- (2) It would extend the existing blind veterans' property tax exemption to a qualified person whose home is owned by a corporation of which he is a shareholder (i.e., blind veterans who live in an own-your-own apartment, condominium, etc.).

The first effect, the increase in the property tax exemption, represents the principal thrust of the proposed amendment. The veterans who would benefit from the increased exemption are those who are virtually totally disabled; almost all have suffered a severe spinal cord injury. These men are amputees, paraplegics, quadriplegics. They have fought their country's battles, and in so doing, they have been crippled for life.

in recognition of the immense sacrifice made by these veterans, the Federal Government (through Public Law 702) has provided financial assistance to help them build homes specially adapted to their needs, with grab-bars on the walls, wheelchair ramps, etc.

The steady increase in property taxes over recent years, however, has placed many of these paralyzed veterans in such a bind that they may soon be compelled to sell their present specially-built homes—unless some relief is provided. When approved, this constitutional amendment will provide that relief.

There is nothing undue or unusual about giving our California paralyzed veterans this consideration and this assistance. States such as Florida and New Jersey grant complete property tax exemptions to their service disabled veterans. This amendment does not go that far; it simply increases the exemption sufficiently to guarantee that these veterans will not be immediately threatened with loss of their homes.

The California State Board of Equalization estimates that approximately 860 disabled veterans from throughout the State are now eligible for this property tax exemption. The Board estimates that increasing the exemption as provided for in this amendment would result in a shift in the local property tax burden of approximately \$150,000—State-wide. The cost, then, is minimal.

The second aspect of this amendment, regarding the blind veteran's exemption, has no financial implications, according to the Board of Equalization. It simply insures that a blind veteran who lives in a condominium or similar dwelling can receive the same exemption as one who lives in a normal single-family house.

Men asked to fight in wars by the society in which they live, and who are maimed as a result, deserve the consideration of that society. Thus, Proposition 13 deserves a YES vote.

SENATOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN

14 STATE CIVIL SERVICE. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Continues existing civil service system, revises language and removes certain provisions. Requires additional positions be civil service and removes certain positions from civil service.

YES	
NO	

(For Full Text of Measure, See Page 12, Part II)

General Analysis by the Legislative Counsel

A "Yes" vote on this measure is a vote to revise the civil service provisions of the State Constitution to restate these provisions and to exempt from civil service employees of the Lieutenant Governor's office directly appointed or employed by the Lieutenant Governor, to exempt an additional employee for each member of an elected board or commission, and to authorize the inclusion in state civil service of certain nonstate employees in programs taken over by the state.

A "No" vote is a vote to reject this revision.

For further details, see below.

Detailed Analysis by the Legislative Counsel

Generally, Article XXIV of the Constitution now provides for (1) a state civil service which includes every state officer and employee, with certain specified exceptions; (2) permanent appointments and promotions based upon merit ascertained by competitive examination; (3) a Personnel Board to enforce the civil service laws, and an executive officer to perform and discharge all powers and functions vested in the board by the Constitution or by law, except for certain specified duties requiring action by the board itself; (4) temporary appoint-

ment; and (5) preferences for veterans and their widows.

The revision would retain the substance of these provisions with the following major changes:

(1) All employees of the Lieutenant Governor's office directly appointed or employed by the Lieutenant Governor would be exempt from the civil service system.

(2) The number of exemptions for the Public Utilities Commission would be reduced.

(3) The Constitution now provides for two exempt positions for each elected state officer but provides that in the case of a state board composed of elected members the members each have one exempt position and the board as a whole has one exempt position. The revision gives each member of such a board two, rather than one, exempt position, and retains the board's one exempt position.

(4) The Constitution now provides an exempt position for each board and commission whose members are appointed by the Governor. Under the revision an exempt position would also be given to each statutory state board or commission whose members are not appointed by the Governor.

(5) The existing constitutional provision which authorizes the Legislature to transfer

of such license or any other person, or any or association by which he or she is employed, or in whose services he or she is, will treat, cure, or attempt to treat or cure, any venereal disease, or will treat or cure, or attempt to treat or cure, any person afflicted with any sexual disease, for lost manhood, sexual weakness or sexual disorder or any disease of the sexual organs; or being employed by, or being in the service of any person, company or association so advertising. The proceedings for the refusal to grant, suspension or revocation of a license upon any of the foregoing grounds shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code as it now reads or as it may be hereafter amended by the Legislature, and the board shall have all the powers granted therein. The secretary on all cases of revocation shall enter on his register the fact of such revocation, and shall certify the fact of such revocation under the seal of the board to the county clerk of the counties in which the certificates of the person whose certifi-

cate has been revoked is recorded; and said clerk must thereupon write upon the margin or across the face of his register of the certificate of such person the following: "This certificate was revoked on the _____ day of _____," giving the day, month and year of such revocation in accordance with said certification to him by said secretary. The record of such revocation so made by said county clerk shall be prima facie evidence of the fact thereof, and of the regularity of all proceedings of said board in the matter of said revocation.

(b) (c) At any time after two years following the revocation or cancellation of a license or registration under this section, the board may, by a majority vote, reissue said license to the person affected, restoring him to, or conferring on him all the rights and privileges granted by his original license or certificate. Any person to whom such rights have been restored shall pay to the secretary the fee specified in Section 5 upon the issuance of a new license.

12	COMPENSATION OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Provides that county governing body, rather than Legislature, shall prescribe compensation of its members by an ordinance that is subject to referendum.	YES	
		NO	

This amendment proposed by Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 19, 1970 Regular Session, expressly amends existing sections of the Constitution; therefore, **EXISTING PROVISIONS** proposed to be **DELETED** are printed in **STRIKEOUT TYPE**; and **NEW PROVISIONS** proposed to be **INSERTED** are printed in **BOLDFACE TYPE**.)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
ARTICLE XI**

First—That subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XI is amended to read:

(b) The Legislature shall provide for county powers and an elected governing body in each county. **Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 4 of this article,**

each governing body shall and prescribe by ordinance the compensation of its members, but the ordinance prescribing such compensation shall be subject to referendum. The Legislature or the governing body may provide for other officers whose compensation shall be prescribed by the governing body. The governing body shall provide for the number, compensation, tenure, and appointment of employees.

Second—That subdivision (b) of Section 4 of Article XI is amended to read:

(b) The compensation, terms, and removal of members of the governing body. **If a county charter provides for the Legislature to prescribe the salary of the governing body, such compensation shall be prescribed by the governing body by ordinance.**

13	TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND BLIND VETERANS. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Increases property tax exemption for totally disabled veteran to \$10,000 and extends this exemption to widow until remarriage. Extends blind veteran's exemption to home owned by corporation in which he is shareholder and entitled thereby to possession.	YES	
		NO	

(This amendment proposed by Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 29, 1969 Regular Session, expressly amends existing sections of the Constitution; therefore, **EXISTING PROVISIONS** proposed to be **DELETED** are printed in **STRIKEOUT TYPE**; and **NEW PROVISIONS** proposed to be **INSERTED**

or **ADDED** are printed in **BOLDFACE TYPE**.)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
ARTICLE XIII**

First—That Section 14a of Article XIII be amended to read:

Sec. 14a. The Legislature may exempt from taxation, in whole or in part, the property, constituting a home, of (a) every resident of this State who, by reason of his military or naval service, is qualified for the exemption provided in Section 14 of this article, without regard to any limitation contained therein on the value of property owned by such person or his wife, and who, by reason of a permanent and total service-connected disability incurred in such military or naval service due to the loss, or loss of use, as the result of amputation, ankylosis, progressive muscular dystrophies, or paralysis, of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair, has received assistance from the Government of the United States in the acquisition of such property, and; (b) the home of the widow of every such person if the home was acquired as described in subdivision (a); except that such exemption shall not extend to more than one home nor exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for any person, or for any person and his spouse, or for his widow. This exemption shall be in lieu of the exemption provided in Section 14 of this article.

Where such totally disabled person, such person and his spouse, or his widow, sells or otherwise disposes of such property and thereafter acquires, with or without the assistance of the Government of the United States, any other property which such totally disabled person, such person and his spouse, or his widow, occupies habitually as a home, the exemption allowed pursuant to the first paragraph of this section shall be allowed to such other property.

This section shall not apply to a widow upon her remarriage.

Second—That Section 14b of Article be amended to read:

SEC. 14b. The Legislature may exempt from taxation, in whole or in part, the property, constituting a home, of every resident of this state who, by reason of his military or naval service, is qualified for the exemption provided in subdivision (a) of Section 14 of this article, without regard to any limitation contained therein on the value of property owned by such person or his spouse, and who, by reason of a permanent and total service-connected disability incurred in such military or naval service is blind in both eyes with visual acuity of 5/200 or less; except that such exemption shall not extend to more than one home nor exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any person or for any person and his spouse. This exemption shall be in lieu of the exemption provided in subdivision (a) of Section 14 of this article.

Where such blind person sells or otherwise disposes of such property and thereafter acquires, with or without the assistance of the government of the United States, any other property which such totally disabled person occupies habitually as a home, the exemption allowed pursuant to the first paragraph of this section shall be allowed to such other property.

The exemption provided by this section shall apply to the home of such a person which is owned by a corporation of which he is a shareholder, the rights of shareholding in which entitle him to possession of a home owned by the corporation.

This section shall apply to such property for the 1965-1966 fiscal year in the manner provided by law.

14 STATE CIVIL SERVICE. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Continues existing civil service system, revises language and removes certain provisions. Requires additional positions be civil service and removes certain positions from civil service.

YES	
NO	

(This amendment proposed by Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 36 of the 1970 Regular Session, as amended by SB 780 of the 1970 Regular Session, expressly repeals an existing article of the Constitution, and adds a new article thereto; therefore, **EXISTING PROVISIONS** proposed to be **REPEALED** are printed in **STRIKEOUT TYPE**; and **NEW PROVISIONS** proposed to be **ADDED** are printed in **BOLDFACE TYPE**.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE XXIV

First—That Article XXIV is repealed.

ARTICLE XXIV

STATE CIVIL SERVICE

SECTION 1. Permanent appointments and

promotion in the State civil service shall be made exclusively under a general system based upon merit, efficiency and fitness as ascertained by competitive examination.

Sec. 2. (a) There shall be a State Personnel Board of five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The first terms of office shall expire on January 15, 1937; January 15, 1939; January 15, 1941; January 15, 1943; and January 15, 1945. Each subsequent appointee shall hold office for 10 years from the expiration of the term of his predecessor and until his successor is appointed and qualified, except that an appointment to a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term shall be but for the remainder of that term. A member may be removed by a vote of two-thirds of