



Ballot Initiative STRATEGY CENTER

Ballot Bulletin

April 2009

Voters advanced progressive policies and rejected the right wing's tired agenda in a big way last November. In 2008 progressives won important victories and beat back initiatives being pushed by the right wing across the country.

These successes would have been impossible had it not been for the tireless work of the campaigns on the ground that helped target, message, and mobilize the voters of their state.

Recently, the Association of Political and Public Affairs Professionals organized the 18th Annual Pollie Awards in order to recognize the "cream of the crop" in political and public affairs communication. BISC would like to recognize our [Sponsoring Consultants](#) who were honored by the AAPC as Pollie Award recipients for their outstanding work on ballot measure campaigns.

- 50 Blue, LLC
- Blue State Digital
- BuzzMaker LLC
- Changing Targets Media
- Grassroots Solutions
- Mack/Crouse Group
- MacWilliams, Kirchner Sanders & Partners
- MSHC Partners
- RBI Strategies & Research
- Squier Knapp Dunn Communications
- Stone's Phones
- Terris, Barnes & Walters
- The New Media Firm
- Wampold Strategies
- Winning Connections, Inc
- Winning Directions
- Winning Mark

And, finally, a special congratulations to longtime BISC friends Paul Harstad, Joel Benenson and David Binder, who the AAPC named to the Pollster Team of the Year, and LKK Partners, for their Public Affairs award for the "Cures Chronicles" series for the Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, an effort to continue to build public support for this issue proceeding the controversial 2006 ballot measure campaign. While we've listed specific ballot measure awards here, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention these wonderful achievements.

Needless to say, there were a lot of winners who did a tremendous amount of good work over the past year. If you are a progressive consultant and strategist who has not yet joined as a Sponsor of BISC, please contact Steve Schwartz, our Deputy ED for Strategic Development, for more information about 2009 opportunities. Congratulations again to all the winners.

Colorado: Leading in Ballot Integrity

In 2008, Colorado's signature gathering process was rife with fraud. Now, legislators from both sides of the aisle are presenting bi-partisan reform to bring integrity back to the process.

H.B. 1326 could be a model of ballot integrity reform for the rest of the nation.

[Click here](#) for more.

Connerly's Initiatives: Violating the 14th Amendment?

In 2008, Ward Connerly's fraud-filled, multi-million dollar campaign to outlaw equal opportunity programs, carbon copies of California's disastrous Prop. 209, failed in four of five states.

Now CA's Attorney General has declared Prop. 209 could [violate equal protection elements of the 14th Amendment](#). How this plays out could affect Michigan and Nebraska, which passed the divisive initiative, and Missouri, again circulating the initiative after a 2008 failed attempt.

SOS Ballot: Deception

The so-called Save Our Secret Ballot campaign (SOS Ballot) is deceptive, misleading and frivolous. SOS limits worker freedom in choosing a secret ballot or majority sign up [without intimidation](#), and is looking to get on many states' 2010 ballots.

[With recent reports](#) of taxpayer dollars going to corporate lobbying efforts, are taxpayer bailouts providing secret funding for SOS? Voters deserve to know.