



SBCTA's Official Positions on the November 6th Election

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES:

Measure Y-2018 – Hancock College Bond – **Support**

The Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association recommends a Yes vote on Measure Y. It will benefit North County and our students in many ways that will be an advantage to our students for their entire lives. Allan Hancock is our leading local educational institution. Measure Y is an investment in the future of North County.

Measure U-2018 – Public Safety Sales Tax Renewal - **Neutral**

Measure D-2018 – Lompoc Cannabis Tax – **Neutral**

Measure F-2018 – Buellton Cannabis Tax – **Neutral**

Measure Z-2018 – Lompoc Cannabis Tax – **Neutral**

We are typically opposed to all general sales tax measures. We believe all tax measures should be special taxes requiring a two-thirds voter approval threshold. We are making an exception by being neutral on all three of the local Cannabis Business Tax measures on this November's ballot. Measures D, F & Z.

There is extremely wide support for these cannabis taxes regardless of your position on cannabis use in general. And there's no question this new industry places significant public safety stress on local jurisdictions that permit these operations.

We aren't opposed to these taxes specifically, even though we believe the level of taxation imposed can and probably will have unintended consequences. Indeed, some of these unintended consequences include an obvious incentive to either remain underground, or in some cases to go underground in order to avoid the new tax regime being created.

Still, we believe the revenues generated will help to offset pressures on general fund budgets, particularly for public safety, assuming the new revenues are used for that purpose.

Unfortunately, because these Cannabis Business Tax measures are all general taxes, there is no guarantee the dollars generated will be spent as wisely as they would have had the taxing agency submitted the new tax to voters as a special tax. But that is a fight for another day.

Measure X-2018 – Carpinteria ½ Cent “General” Sales Tax: **Oppose**

Measure W-2018 – Goleta City Council/Mayor Salary Increase – **Oppose**

We do not believe the taxpayers of Goleta will receive an increase in value for the dollars spent paying their City Council and Mayor more money. The most important work of the city is performed by a full-time staff for the city including the city manager, planning director, city attorney, etc.

These individuals are already compensated well...in many instances higher than their private-sector equivalents. And their level of experience and education is commensurate, in most cases, with their compensation level.

Members of the City Council and the Mayor do not typically bring any relevant training, skills, government experience, or special expertise to their roles on the City Council. They are essentially public-service volunteers. And their compensation should accurately reflect this reality.

Measure G-2018 – Citizens Independent Redistricting Committee (County Ordinance) – **Oppose**

Measure H-2018 – Independent Redistricting Commission (Initiative) – **Support**

Measure H is superior to Measure G even though both H and G are far superior to the status quo. We support Measure H but we oppose Measure G. Voters should reject Measure G. It's been a long-held view by reasonable people of all political persuasions that voters should choose their elected officials. The current system, however, allows elected officials to choose their voters via a hyper-partisan process which results in politically safe, gerrymandered districts. Measure H will end this political travesty.

STATE BALLOT MEASURES:

Prop-5 - Property Tax Transfer Initiative – **Support**

We agree with our friends at the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. They state correctly that Prop-5 will help homeowners in California who want to either downsize or move, but who can't because of the high property taxes on a replacement property. This measure will very likely result in more single-family homes coming on the market which will increase the supply, and hopefully stabilize prices in a state that is already plagued with the highest homes prices and cost of living in the nation.

Prop-6 - Future Gas and Vehicle Taxes and 2017 Tax Repeal – **Support**

There are more reasons to support this initiative than there is space here to articulate it. Suffice it to say this is perhaps one of the more economically unjust taxes there is. Gas taxes are highly regressive...hitting the poor hardest. Low income families don't use the roads more than wealthy families do...however by forcing them to pay a significantly higher percentage of their after tax income to maintain our roads is the exact opposite of social or economic justice.

The tax and spend lobby would have you believe that without this new tax being allowed to remain in place, our roads and highways and bridges will fall into disrepair. But let's be clear, if that happens because of voters voting yes on Prop-6, it will be because the politicians at the state and local level chose to divert gas tax dollars intended for roads, highways, and bridges to be used on other pet projects and non-transportation uses.

If 100% of the gas taxes and fees already paid by California motorists were to be set aside and used exclusively for transportation, there would be \$5.6 billion in annual

revenues for transportation needs. Already, California drivers are taxed 95.5 cents on every gallon of gas they purchase. That comes out to roughly \$18 every time we fill up our tank. Prop-6 will not only reverse this to a modest extent, we will still be paying some of the highest gas taxes in the country, but it would also require future gas tax increases be voted on by the public. Prop-6 means social, economic, and taxpayer justice.

Prop-10 - Local Rent Control Initiative (2018) – **Oppose**

Very simply, Proposition 10 would discourage investment in rental housing, leading to less new home construction and more tightening of our already squeezed housing market in California. Proposition 10 would accomplish the opposite of what is needed...and what's needed is more construction, not less construction.

Prop-11 - Ambulance Employees Paid On-Call Breaks, Training, and Mental Health Services - **Support**

This initiative establishes into law the longstanding industry practice of requiring EMTs, paramedics, life flight helicopter crews and 911 dispatchers to remain reachable during their breaks – just like police officers and other essential public safety personnel – and pays them to do so.

Prop-2 - Use Millionaire's Tax Revenue for Homelessness Prevention Housing Bonds Measure - **Oppose**

We were opposed to the so-called millionaire tax when it was placed on the ballot. But we also agree with those who argue it is senseless to spend billions of dollars in interest and other expenses to borrow money that may just end up unspent due to local opposition to housing projects for severely mentally ill tenants. Local opposition to housing projects has become a science for many communities in California. CEQA and other legal maneuvers can delay or stop even those beneficial or well-intentioned projects.

Prop-12 - Farm Animal Confinement Initiative - **Oppose**

California voters took the lead in protecting egg-laying hens ten years ago. Farmers responded by investing money in new infrastructure to comply with the new law. They are also responding to consumers preferences and demands by increasing the production of cage-free eggs. There's no need for another new law or set of rules.

Prop-1 - Housing Programs and Veterans' Loans Bond – **Oppose**

The way to make California a more affordable place to live is by eliminating onerous regulations and abusive and restrictive land-use policies and that would make it easier for homebuilders to build homes. California is already carrying too much debt, Prop-1 makes an already bad deal for taxpayers even worse.

Prop-3 - Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond - **Oppose**

We agree with the Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business (COLAB) who are recommending voters say no to another multi-billion water bond until the state starts using the bond money previously approved to build dams, reservoirs and desalination plants. COLAB points out, correctly, that it isn't more water the state wants, it's simply more of the taxpayer's money they want.

Prop-4 – Children's Hospital Bond – **Oppose**

Proposition 4 is the third bond measure sponsored by the California Children's Hospital Association, which represents the eight private hospitals that will receive 72 percent of the money if this measure passes. California has a \$16 billion surplus. What justification exists for the Legislature to not prioritize and program the needed dollars to make sure that our children have the care they deserve. The fact is, bonds are not free money. Bonds must be paid back and with interest. The Legislature should set aside the necessary dollars from its supposed surplus to make sure sick children are properly cared for.

Prop-8 - Limits on Dialysis Clinics' Revenue and Required Refunds – **Oppose**

Both the California Medical Association and National Kidney Foundation oppose Prop-8. Our view is aligned with several Newspaper editorial pages across California. We are all too aware of the fact that California has a long history of propositions gone awry. Proposition 8 provides another classic example of a ballot measure that has no business being on the ballot. The initiative is overly complex and is in fact designed to regulate the kidney dialysis industry which is something far better suited for the State Legislature.