



September 30, 2018

VOTING GUIDE – NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION

The Board of Directors at the Board Meeting on August 27th reviewed all State-Wide ballot measures as well as Local Measures and makes the following recommendations.

PROPOSITION 1 – Veterans & Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018

This measure borrows \$4 billion for housing measures. The State is grossly in debt and needs to live within its means. If this is a high priority for the State they should cut other items and fund this.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 1

PROPOSITION 2 – No Place Like Home Act of 2018

This measure changes conditions related to expenditure of revenue collected from the one percent income tax on millionaires for mental health services (Proposition 63 of 2004), to further encourage spending and borrowing up to \$2 billion for housing for people with mental health challenges. As in the previous measure we do not feel the State should take on more debt.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 2

PROPOSITION 3 – Water Supply and Other Measure Bonds

This measure borrows \$8.877 billion for various water projects. While many of the measures may be worthwhile, the State is grossly in debt and needs to live within its means. If this is a high priority for the State they should cut other items and fund this.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 3

PROPOSITION 4 – Construction & Equipping Facilities at Children’s Hospitals

This measure borrows \$1.5 billion for constructing and equipping facilities at children’s hospitals. The State is grossly in debt and needs to live within its means. If this is a high priority for the State they should cut other items and fund this.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 4

PROPOSITION 5 – Property Tax Transfer Initiative

This measure would allow homeowners over 55 years old or severely disabled to transfer their property tax base one time to a residence in the same county of equal or lesser value, thus eliminating a tax-based financial disincentive to “downsize”.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A YES VOTE ON PROPOSITION 5

PROPOSITION 6 – Repeal of 2017 Senate Bill 1 – Transportation Tax

The California legislature has repeatedly betrayed Californians by collecting taxes designated for highway and road work but then using that money for other things, most egregiously by diverting money for balancing the general fund budget. In addition, the priorities of the state legislature for transportation are misguided, with California High-Speed Rail as an obvious example.

At the same time, the board of the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association sees how SB1 tax revenue is helping to rehabilitate roads in Monterey County that have been neglected for decades. At the local level, three of our board members serve on the 20-member Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), including the chairman. While we don't agree with every expenditure; we believe TAMC is accountable and thoughtful in spending of SB1 and Measure X funds.

Regrettably, we cannot assess how other counties in California are spending SB1 tax money. In the major metropolitan areas of California there is ineffective or non-existent local oversight. Nor can we trust the California legislature. We were concerned when we heard our own State Senator Bill Monning praise SB1 at the Holman Highway roundabout opening in 2017 and declare “it's never enough.”

Ultimately, the problem is that a majority of California legislators do not subscribe to principles of fiscal responsibility and limited government. We don't see this majority getting replaced; in fact, it seems to get bigger in every election, leaving ballot measures such as this one as the only way for the people to restrain the excesses of the state legislature. For these reasons, we support Proposition 6.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A YES VOTE ON PROPOSITION 6

PROPOSITION 7 – Repeal Daylight Savings Time

This is not a tax measure thus we take no position.

PROPOSITION 8 – Authorize certain state regulations for kidney dialysis clinics.

This is not a tax measure thus we take no position.

PROPOSITION 9 – Divide California into three states.

Removed from ballot.

PROPOSITION 10 – Expands local government’s authority to enact rent control.

Rent Control has been shown to exacerbate the cost of housing by providing disincentives for new construction as well as remodeling of properties.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 10

PROPOSITION 11 – Require private-sector emergency ambulance employees to remain on-call during work breaks.

This is not a tax measure thus we take no position.

PROPOSITION 12 – Establish new standards for confinement of certain farm animals.

This is not a tax measure thus we take no position.

MEASURE J – Monterey Peninsula Water Management District – Authorize feasibility study for government takeover of Water Supply and Distribution

This measure is a repeat of Measure O from four years ago which failed. It calls for spending even more money to study condemning and buying California American Water. Their system has been valued at a **Billion Dollars** which obviously makes it unaffordable. However, this measure empowers the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to determine the feasibility and then if feasible start the process. They have an inherent conflict of interest and would be able to move forward without the taxpayers having a say in the matter.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE J

MEASURE M – City of Pacific Grove – Prohibits short-term rentals in residential districts outside the Coastal Zone

MPTA Takes No Position – Get fully informed and vote your conscience.

MEASURE N – City of Marina – Reauthorize and increase the existing transactions & use (“sales”) tax rate from 1% to 1.5%.

Once again a temporary tax not only gets a new life it grows.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE N

MEASURE N – City of Marina – Increase the existing transient occupancy tax rate (“hotel tax”) from 12% to 14%.

If this increase is enacted Marina will have the highest tax rate on the Peninsula, making lodging properties in Marina uncompetitive in the local market and could actually end up reducing revenue instead of increasing revenue.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE P

MEASURE S – City of Monterey – Continue street and road rehabilitation tax for another eight years to complete projects.

Measure P was approved previously by the voters and was for 4 years to fix streets, storm drains and sidewalks. It was for four years only so that the City could prove they could do the job. They have. This measure keeps the sales tax going for eight more years which will allow them to finish the job of fixing the streets.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A YES VOTE ON MEASURE S

MEASURE T – North Monterey County Fire District – Special fire tax

MPTA Takes No Position – Get fully informed and vote your conscience.

MEASURE U – City of Pacific Grove – Increase the existing transient occupancy tax rate (“hotel tax”) from 10% to 12%.

Taxing tourists more seems to be the go to measure for governments which are in financial distress as is the case here. Very often, all it does is make the City’s lodging properties uncompetitive.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE U

MEASURE V – City of Marina – Establish 5% of gross receipts business license tax for certain cannabis-related businesses

MPTA Takes No Position – Get fully informed and vote your conscience.

Please vote this November!

Rick Heuer
President