



September 6, 2024

Voter's Guide

Special Message from the President: As is usual with November general elections in even-numbered years, this election on November 5 brings numerous state and local tax measures - some reasonable, but many unreasonable. The Board of Directors met and have taken positions on all tax related measures. Below is a voting guide to help you decide how to vote.

MEASURE A – Monterey Peninsula Unified School District

As far back as September 2023, the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association warned MPUSD in writing that it would oppose any ballot measure that authorized the district to borrow money to build or acquire housing for its employees. As stated in the letter, "Our membership feels strongly that the most important role of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District is to provide a quality education for our students; it is not to become a real estate developer and landlord."

In addition to our objection to rental housing that's owned and managed by school districts, we believe it's too much too soon to ask MPUSD taxpayers to let the district borrow another \$340 million. The district obtained approval from voters in 2018 to borrow \$213 million (Measure I) and in 2010 to borrow \$110 million (Measure P).

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE A

MEASURE B – Pacific Grove Unified School District

It's too soon to ask voters to borrow another \$78 million after receiving their approval in 2020 to borrow \$30 million (Measure D) and their approval in 2014 to borrow \$18 million (Measure A). We object to serial taxers.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE B

MEASURE AA – County of Monterey Sales Tax Increase

The Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association monitored the Monterey County Board of Supervisors extensive debate in 2024 over what kind of new taxes they should impose - and on whom. We honestly feel the Board of Supervisors needs more consideration of spending cuts and spending restraints before it asks voters to impose another tax on businesses. Spending cuts are politically difficult, but a necessary part of figuring out how to balance a budget.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE AA

MEASURE R - City of Del Rey Oaks - TOT Tax Increase

This measure would immediately increase the transient occupancy tax (hotel tax) by 2 percentage points and would allow for a further increase of 2 points in the future with a vote of the City Council.

The Board recognizes that Del Rey Oaks has budget issues and that any new hotels that would be built would know what the tax rate was at that time and we would have supported a 2 point increase. However, allowing for a further increase with a simple Council vote is a non-starter and would put the tax well above every other jurisdiction on the Peninsula.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE R

MEASURE U - City Marina - \$50,000,000 in Bonds

Had this measure stuck with public safety and emergency response we may have supported it, however, it also includes other items including potentially a community pool. We feel it is written in a way to deceive the public.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON MEASURE U

MEASURE DD - Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District

This measure repeals the cannabis tax passed in 2018. This as well as other Cannabis taxes were badly conceived taxes which across the board have failed to produce anywhere close to the revenues they were projected to raise. In general, MPTA opposes taxes which are aimed at single industries.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A YES VOTE ON MEASURE DD

PROPOSITION 2 - Bonds for Public School & Community College Facilities

The language of this bond measure has been infected by special interest lobbyists who use the California legislature to impose their agenda on local school districts, including through costly conditions that districts must adopt against their will in order to obtain state funding. In addition, we want to protect our Monterey Peninsula taxpayers from sending their money to massive school districts out of our purview (such as Los Angeles Unified School District) that are notorious for fiscal irresponsibility and mismanagement.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 2

PROPOSITION 4 - Bonds for Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands from Climate Risks

This measure authorizes \$10 billion in bonds. The measure includes a laundry list of where the money would go. Had it been focused on wildfire prevention or safe drinking water we might have supported it. Instead, we are referring to it as the Consultant Full Employment and Retirement Act which would cost \$400 million a year for 40 years.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 4

PROPOSITION 5 - Allow Local Bonds for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure to Pass with 55% Voter Approval

The Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association appreciates the system of checks and balances in our constitutional republic, including supermajority votes for tax increases. A two-thirds threshold for voter approval compels communities to develop broad coalitions of support that ensure the tax and expenditures are reasonable and proper.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 5

PROPOSITION 32 - Increase in the Minimum Wage

This measure increases the minimum wage twice in the next two years. Minimum wage increases reduce the number of entry level jobs and have a ripple effect on all other jobs leading to inflation as businesses need to increase their prices to offset the increase in cost. In addition, as cost of labor goes up, automation becomes cheaper and the number of jobs decrease.

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 32

PROPOSITION 33 - Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property

Interfering with the housing market and trying to negate the market forces of supply and demand with price controls never ends up working for the common good. The California Legislative Analyst report for Proposition 33 asserts that "a decline in the value of rental properties would reduce the amount of property taxes paid by landlords. This would reduce property tax revenues for cities, counties, special districts, and schools." In turn, local governments will have to raise taxes on someone else to make up for the loss - probably you. Private property rights are paramount!

MPTA RECOMMENDS A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 33

PROPOSITION 35 – Provides Permanent Funding for Medi-Cal Health Care Services

No one submitted an argument against this state ballot proposition. The California Legislative Analyst notes that "since 2009, California typically has charged a specific tax on certain health plans, such as Kaiser Permanente." No other taxpayer is specifically identified.

MPTA RECOMMENDS VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE ON PROPOSITION 35

Please vote, together we can make a difference!



Rick Heuer, President

If you would like to put up a No On A or No on Prop 33 sign, please email me at rick@wearehma.com and I will get you one.