California and Local Ballot Measures

What Do They Mean?

Primary Election March 3, 2020
A little bit about the League

• The League was formed in 1920 when 19th amendment (votes for women) was added to the constitution.

• The League does not support or oppose or endorse candidates or political parties; and does not take a position on ballot measures unless a thorough study has been done and approved.

• National League policies happen at the annual National Conference where all state and local Leagues vote. Once approved, they become official policy for all Leagues.

• State League Policies happen at the LWVCalifornia annual conference. They must be compliant with National and, when approved, are official State Policy.

• Local Leagues operate within the policies and procedures for State and National.
A Little bit (more) about the League

The League has two separate arms that never shake hands and are completely separate organizationally.

- The Advocacy arm includes efforts to influence policy by studying and making recommendations about issues or legislation. These are clearly presented as League positions on issues such as education, water quality and the like. The League only makes recommendations on ballot measures that have been vetted and approved by the State League.

- The Education side’s efforts include: candidate forums, how to register to vote, balloting procedures, how elections work, and information on ballot propositions. Pros & Cons is an education function.
Election Information resources


• Pros & Cons: [https://cavotes.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures](https://cavotes.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures)

• Voter’s Edge: State and Local Ballot information: [http://votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org)

• EZ Voter: [http://easyvoterguide.org/](http://easyvoterguide.org/)

What is Pros & Cons

Pros & Cons informs voters about state and local ballot measures.

This presentation explains the measures, gives the pro and con arguments, who supports or opposes each measure and the top contributors for each side.

We are here to explain what the propositions will do, and tell you what the people supporting and opposing them say. We are not judging the merits or accuracy of those arguments. Pros & Cons is for information, not persuasion.

We appreciate that people have strong opinions; but Pros & Cons is not the place for them.
Definitions of Measures

Bonds

• **Revenue Bonds** are backed by a revenue stream. Example: Bridge tolls repay a bridge building bond. Because they are not repaid with state funds, voters do not vote on revenue bonds.

• **General obligation bonds** are issued by the state and add to state debt. They are repaid with interest by the state until the bond is retired. Voter’s must approve General Obligation bonds.

A **Referendum** is a vote on an act passed by the Legislature. Seeks to overturn the law.

An **Initiative** means that the measure was placed on the ballot by petition; requires signatures of 5% of voters that voted for governor in the last election.

A **Constitutional Amendment** adds the measure to the state constitution, and it can only be removed by another vote.

An approved **Statute** adds it to the California Code but does not amend the Constitution.
Yes or No: Evaluating Ballot Measures:

• Does the question make sense?
• Is it clear? Do you understand it?
• Does it seem more complex than a simple yes or no? Putting more than one thing into a measure does happen.
• Who are the sponsors and opponents of the measure? Try to look beyond the names like “Committee for a Better California.” Could be anything. Could be anyone.
• Does the proposition create a new program? How will it be funded? What impact will this have on the budget or the bond debt of the state?
• Beware of meaningless words, example “allows legitimate uses” – do you know what those are?
March 2020 Measures

State Proposition 13: Bonds for Schools and Colleges

General Obligation Bond

Measure A: Increase Support for
The Chico Area Parks and Recreation Department

Parcel Tax

Measure C: Construction and updating of facilities
for Yuba Community College District

General Obligation Bond
Proposition 13: Bonds for Schools and Colleges
Measure A: Parcel Tax to Support Chico Area Parks and Recreation Department
Who does what?
The Chico Parks Department

Manages

• Manages:
  • Bidwell Park
  • Caper Acres
  • Annie’s Glen
  • Comanche Creek Greenway
  • Teichert Ponds.

Funded in City Budget

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Who does what?
Chico Recreation and Park District (CARD)

Manages:

**Community Centers**
- CARD Community Center
- Chico Creek Nature Center
- Dorothy F. Johnson Center
- Pleasant Valley Rec. Center
- Lakeside Pavilion

**Community Parks**
- Community Park
- DeGarmo Park
- Hooker Oak Park
- Humboldt Ave. Skate Park
- Wildwood Park

**Pools**
- Pleasant Valley Pool
- Shapiro Pool

**Neighborhood Parks**
- Baroni Park
- Hancock Park
- Oak Way Park
- Peterson Park
- Rotary Park

CARD an independent entity established in 1948. Managed by elected 5 person board.

CARD’s total annual budget is $8.9 million
one-half from property tax
one-half from program and rental fees
Measure C: Construction and updating of facilities for Yuba Community College District [YCCD]

• There is a sliver of very southern Butte County that is in the YCCD

• About 250 voters living in the sliver will see Measure C on their ballots. No one else will.
Have you heard... everyone votes by mail

• As of July 2019, Butte County had 118,465 registered voters. Of those voters, 71% requested a mail-in ballot.

• In the November 2018 General Election, about 79% of the by-mail voters voted, but only 62% of polling place voters voted. Long story short, vote by mail is the clear choice of the vast majority of Butte County voters.

• Over 19,000 voters were misplaced by the Camp Fire. Those that have moved but plan to return to Butte County can with vote by mail and do not have to return to a polling place. Or they can vote in the new location. But not both.
And . . .

• This plan eliminates “polling place deserts.”
  For example, Chapman Town had no in-person polling place. Now, all registered voters there get a ballot and can return it (no stamp required) conveniently.

• There will be several Voter Assistance Centers and ballot drop box locations. The Voter Assistance Centers will be open for several days so that any voter encountering difficulty can call or visit a Vote Center for help.

• You can visit the most convenient Vote Assistance Center, you are no longer required to go to your polling place.
First Look at November Election
Qualified so far

Referendum: To overturn a 2018 law that replaced money bail system with a system based on public safety risk.

Initiative Constitutional Amendment: Requires certain commercial and industrial real property to be taxed based on fair-market value. Dedicates portion of any increased revenue to education and local services.

Initiative Statute: Restricts parole for non-violent offenders. Authorizes felony sentences for certain offenses currently treated only as misdemeanors.

Sales Tax: Increase sales tax in Chico by 1%. 
Thank you for coming and . . .

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE