

9/29/2024

**Kathy Young Voter Guidance Nov 5, 2024. – Contra Costa County
Federal, State, City. Feel free to share this guidance in full or in part.**

Dear Gentle Voter: The Nov 5 General Election ballot materials are enormous. Hence, my voter guidance is correspondingly lengthy. It includes guidance on candidates, state-wide propositions, local measures, and educational, utility, and fire protection board races. If you wonder how I approach my research and guidance, please read immediately below **“What Guides My Recommendations.”** I hope you find this guidance of help. I thank you for your efforts to be a well-informed voter, as I try very hard to be myself. Sincerely, ~Kathy Young

What Guides My Recommendations:

1. No candidate is perfect. The candidates I recommend come with flaws – some glaring, some hidden.
2. For candidates, I give weight to their own words about what they would support/do if elected.
3. I do my own original research both pro and con. I find the guidance of trusted sources helpful, but I don't rely solely on them.
4. My principles:
 - a. A Biblical Judeo-Christian worldview.
 - b. Recognition of God-given authorities: The family, the local church, government.
 - c. The sanctity of life created by God.
 - d. Limited, decentralized government. God is all-present and all-knowing. Government isn't meant to be, shouldn't try to be, nor should we encourage it to be.
 - e. Personal freedom and responsibility.
 - f. Charity is to be a quintessential characteristic of the local church, not government.
5. Who endorses and who opposes a candidate or ballot measure is informative.
6. Whether a candidate or proposition supports law and order or has the endorsement of police associations is informative.
7. Voting the approval of a tax/bond should be understood as placing a responsibility on future generations to repay without them having a say in it. It's serious.
8. If I offer **“no guidance,”** it should not be interpreted as a recommendation not to vote for a candidate. I state “no guidance” if my research indicates that all the candidates are similarly minded – for better or worse, or if I haven't been able to obtain enough information to make a recommendation, or if it is impossible to recommend a candidate.
9. In several cases I have been able to speak to candidates by phone in addition to researching them online. I'm thankful to these gracious candidates for giving me their time. KY

Federal

Executive: President:

Donald J. Trump

Legislative, Us Senator:

Steve Garvey

US District 8
Rudy Recile

US District 10
Katherine Piccinini

State Senate, District 9
Tim Grayson

Member of the State Assembly District 15
Sonia Ledo

Member of the State Assembly District 16
Joseph A. Rubay

County Supervisor 5th District – Non Partisan.
Mike Barbanica

Mayor City of Antioch
Ron Bernal.

City Treasurer, Antioch
Jim Davis

Antioch Council District 2
Louie Rocha

City of Brentwood Mayor
Susannah Meyer

City of Brentwood Council District 1
Faye Maloney

City of Brentwood Council District 3
Brian J. Oftedal

City of Concord, Council District 2
Carlyn Obringer

City of Concord, Council District 4 Vote for 1
Edi Birsan

City of Clayton, Councilmember Vote for 3
No guidance

Town of Danville, Council Member Vote for 3

Renee S. Morgan

Newell Arnerich

Mark Belotz

El Cerrito, Council Member Vote for 3

William Ktsanes

City of Hercules, Council Member Vote for 3

No guidance

City of Lafayette Council Member Vote for 3

No guidance

City of Martinez Council District 2 Vote for 1

Dylan Radke

City of Martinez Council District 3

No guidance. Unopposed: Satinder S. Malhi

City of Oakley Council District

No guidance

City of Orinda, Councilmember Vote for 2

No guidance

City of Pinole, Councilmember Vote for 1

Maureen Toms

City of Pinole, Treasurer Vote for 1

Roy V. Swearingen

City of Pittsburg, Councilmember Vote for 2

Juan Antonio Banales

City of Pleasant Hill City Council Dist 1 Vote for 1

Marshall Lewis

City of Pleasant Hill City Council Dist 5 Vote for 1

Oliver Greenwood

City of Richmond, Council Dist 1 Vote for 1

Jamelia Brown

City of Richmond Council Dist 5 Vote for 1

Ahmad Anderson

City of Richmond Council Dist 6 Vote for 1
Shawn Dunning

San Pablo Council Member Vote for 3
Arturo Cruz
Patricia R. Ponce

City of San Ramon Mayor Vote for 1
Mark H. Armstrong

City of San Ramon Council Dist 1
Vasanth Shetty

City of Walnut Creek Council Member Vote for 1
Craig DeVinney

10 Statewide Ballot Initiatives

My reasons for recommending NO on Propositions 2, 4, 5 which propose \$billions of new taxes:

- I believe voter approval should be a 2/3 super majority – not just 55% when obligating taxpayers to repay \$billions
- CA is already in debt with a \$27.6 billion shortfall for the 2024-25 budget.
- Misleading titles, unclear objectives, which may lead to honest/dishonest mistakes/misuses.
- The proposed level of tax debt will be a crippling weight from the present into the future to even our grandchildren. It will harm both homeowners and renters.
- Taxation is government control. The more it controls, the less citizens are free to make their own decisions.

NO: Proposition 2: “Authorizes Bonds for Public School and Community College Facilities.”
Why? See My reasons (Above) for recommending NO on Prop 2, 4, 5

NO: Proposition 3: “Constitutional Right to Marriage.”

Why? Seeks to change our state constitution wording defining marriage. *But it does not disclose what the exact wording will be.* If marriage isn’t defined as between a man and a woman – adult human beings – the door is open to child marriage, polygamy, and other bizarre possibilities.

NO: Proposition 4: “Authorizes Bonds for Safe Drinking Water, etc.”

Why? See My reasons (Above) for recommending NO on Prop 2, 4, 5

NO: Proposition 5: “Allows Local Bonds for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure with 55% Voter Approval.”

Why? See My reasons (Above) for voting NO on Prop 2, 4, 5, PLUS: This is one of the few situations left that still requires 2/3 majority vote to approve local bonds. Seeks to lower the

majority to only 55% approval to more easily tax people. Vote no to prevent a bad change.

NO: Proposition 6: “Eliminates Constitutional Provision Allowing Involuntary Servitude for Incarcerated Persons.” Sponsored by the ACLU

Why? This is a very misleading title. Currently prisoners have the option to perform jobs and/or to take educational development classes – or not – in exchange for either reducing the time they must serve or earning a very low wage. The current prison system of work and reward is consistent with real life. Vote NO. There is no need for change.

NO: Proposition 32: “Raises Minimum Wage.”

Why? This is massive government intrusion in its details. This will result in layoffs and less productivity. It usurps rights of business owners and will harm the employer and employee. It increases the minimum wage for employers with more than 25 employees from the current \$16 an hour to a \$17 hourly wage for 2024 and \$18 hourly wage in 2025. For employers with 25 or fewer employees, the minimum wage would increase to \$17 an hour in 2025 and \$18 an hour in 2026. Minimum wages would thereafter be increased annually by an inflation adjustment—the equivalent of the consumer price index (CPI), but no greater than 3.5% a year. It may make use of robots instead of humans more common.

NO: Proposition 33: “Expands Local Governments’ Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property.”

Why? At face value, when I read “Expands local government’s authority to...” on just about anything, it’s a red flag of concern. Rent control is not the answer. According to Pacific Legal Foundation, “All economists who study rent control conclude it is counterproductive....outside of wars and natural disasters, rent control is the single most effective destroyer of property and property rights... there is no legal, economic, or moral case for this insidious policy.” Prop 33 is sponsored by democrat Bernie Sanders and over 100 state and federal democrats.

YES: Proposition 34: “Restricts Spending of Prescription Drug Revenues by Certain Health Care Providers.”

Why? This proposition would require AIDS Healthcare Foundation of LA, to spend 98% of its millions of revenues from the Federal government on **direct patient care** – something it is not currently doing nor is required to do. They have spent more than \$100 million in a ten-year period on things other than patient care. They have had many complaints about squalid conditions of the low-cost housing they provide. They keep pouring money into ballot initiatives to get rent control in California.

NO: Proposition 35: Provides Permanent Funding for Medi-Cal Health Care Services. Initiative Statute.

Why? Requires insurers to pay permanent tax payments that will increase healthcare costs for all.

YES: Proposition 36: Allows Felony Charges and Increases Sentences for Certain Drug and Theft Crimes.

Why? Seeks to reform Prop 47 which softened drug and retail theft crime. A vote for Prop 36 is a vote for enforcement of law and order. It has the overwhelming support of law enforcement

across the state.

Local Ballot Measures:

NO: Measure G: City of El Cerrito to increase sales tax by 1 cent

El Cerrito currently has the highest rate of tax at 10.25% in the county. Local government must find ways to reduce costs.

YES: Measure H City of Lafayette

CITY OF LAFAYETTE SALES TAX MEASURE. This is a temporary tax which is raised for a specific purpose for a limited period of 7 years. This is a model for how to structure and clearly define a limited scope, purpose, and duration.

NO Measure I: City of Pinole

CITY OF PINOLE. To raise sales tax. This is a permanent sales tax to be raised to a rate of 10.25% to tie with El Cerrito. Local government must find ways to reduce costs.

NO Measure J City of Richmond

Both this measure and Measure L which follows are to amend the Charter of the City of Richmond. In my opinion, it would not achieve its aims and would add unnecessary burdens of time and expense to the election process.

NO Measure L City of Richmond

Both this and Measure J seek to change the current way that candidates win elections – which is by simply getting the most votes. Vote NO to keep the status quo which, in my opinion, is superior to this measure.

NO Measure M City of San Pablo

This measure seeks to garner tax money from cannabis sales under certain conditions to increase funds for Police services and youth recreational services. The irony is amazing, and heartbreaking.

NO Measure N City of San Ramon 1% Sales Tax Increase

Unlike the measure that the City of Lafayette put forward which has a definite end date, this measure only states that after 10 years it is subject to review. Remember the adage: *“There is nothing so permanent as a temporary tax.”* In 1936, a temporary tax in the form of a toll for users of the newly completed Bay Bridge was imposed and was supposed to end as soon as the bridge was paid for. That was 88 years ago.

NO Measure O Martinez Unified School District 1% Sales Tax Increase

This measure is to raise funds to improve school facilities. This only impacts the city of Martinez. However, California voters approved, and we are still paying for, a \$9 billion bond for this purpose across the state approved just 8 years ago. **NO Measure P Raise \$140 million Bond** Pittsburg Unified School District wants to repair and improve their school facilities via a

Classroom Repair/ Safety Measure. There are still bonds outstanding. School population is declining by 6%.

NO Measure Q San Ramon Valley Parcel Tax

This measure seeks to extend an existing parcel tax.

NO Measure R \$24 million in bonds for Byron Union School District

This seeks to add another \$24 million to the \$20 million already outstanding.

NO Measure S Pleasant Hill Recreation and Parks District

Seeks to add another \$77 million in debt to the existing \$27 million.

**School Districts Board Members, County Boards of Ed, Community College Boards,
Community Service Districts, Fire Protection Districts, EBMUD, E Bay Park District
Wards**

Mt Diablo Unified School District Board Member Area 5 Vote for 1

Thomas McDougall

Martinez Unified School District Area 1 Vote for 1

Carlos M. Melendez

County Board of Education Contra Costa Board Area 1 Board Member Vote for 1

Antony Edward Caro

County Board of Education Contra Costa Board Area 3 Board Member Vote for 1

Vicki Gordon

Contra Costa Community College District Ward 2 Board Member Vote for 1

Diana J Honig

Contra Costa Community College District Ward 5 Board Member Vote for 1

No guidance

Acalanes Union HS District Board Member Vote for 2

Stacy Schweppe

Peter Catalano

Moraga School District Board Member Vote for 2

No guidance

San Ramon Valley Unified District Trustee Area 2 Vote for 1

Karin Shumway

San Ramon Valley Unified District Trustee Area 3 Vote for 1

No guidance

West Contra Costa Trustee Area 2 Vote for 1

No guidance

Antioch Unified School District Board Member Area 3 Vote for 1

No guidance

Antioch Unified School District Board Member Area 4

Olga Cobos-Smith

Crockett Community Services Director Short-term Vote for 1

No guidance

Town of Discovery Bay Community Services District Director Vote for 2

No guidance

Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Director Vote for 2

No guidance

EBMUD Ward 1 Director Vote for 1

No guidance

EBMUD Ward 2 Director Short-term Vote for 1

No guidance

E Bay Regional District Ward 2 Director Vote for 1

No guidance

~END~