



Fresno Chamber– 2008 Easy Voter Guide



Measure L– NO **Fresno County Library Tax**

Measure L is a proposed ¼ cent sales tax for 16 years for library operations and facilities, taking affect April 1, 2009. It is recommended that service and facility improvements be addressed first, while the construction of new libraries will take longer due to the collection of the tax revenue, but will still be in the Master Plan.

Why Vote No?

Fresno County already has a library sales tax on the books that does not expire for another 4 years. The current tax generates \$12,500,000 per year for Fresno County Libraries. In light of the current economic situation, we need to prioritize where our tax dollars are being spent.

Proposition 1A– YES **High Speed Rail Bond Act**

The High Speed Rail Bond Act will provide for the issuance of \$9.95 billion of general obligation bonds for the planning and construction of a high-speed train system consistent with the Authority's adopted business plan. The bond monies will be available in conjunction with federal and private funds for the planning and construction.

Why Vote Yes?

The advancement of the high-speed train in California is critical for the future of the Central Valley. Not only will this add 450,000 sustainable jobs to our economy, but will lower transportation costs and encourage new business' to locate in the Central Valley where favorable costs and public policies can encourage business development.

Proposition 2– NO **Treatment of Farm Animals**

Beginning January 1, 2015, this measure prohibits the confinement on a farm of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs. Under the measure, any person who violates this law would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Why Vote No?

This proposition runs the risk of banning almost all modern egg production in California and jeopardizes food safety and public health by wiping out Californians' access to locally grown fresh eggs. In addition, it would harm consumers by driving up prices at grocery stores and restaurants.

Proposition 3–YES **Children's Hospital Bond Act**

This measure authorizes the state to sell \$980 million in general obligation bonds for capital improvement projects at children's hospitals. The money raised from the bond sales could be used for the construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, equipping or financing of children's hospitals in the state.

Why Vote Yes?

This would provide a fair share for the Central California. Children's Hospital at a time when California is expecting a 66% increase in the population of young children over the next 25 years.

Proposition 5– NO **Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act**

This measure makes a number of changes to the state's current parole system, including new rules regarding parole terms, the return to custody of parole violators, and rehabilitation programs for offenders.

Why Vote No?

Prop 5 could provide a "get-out-of-jail-free" card to defendants charged with crimes e.g. domestic violence, child abuse, identity theft, vehicular manslaughter, and auto theft, letting them effectively escape criminal prosecution altogether. Also, someone who commits felonies – and claims "the drugs made me do it" will be referred to drug centers, costing taxpayers millions.

Proposition 7– NO **New Standards for Renewable Energy**

Proposition 7 would require all utilities to generate 20 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2010, making a number of changes regarding RPS and the permitting of electricity generating facilities and puts small energy providing companies at risk.

Why Vote No?

Proposition 7 has a huge potential to substantially drive up energy prices in the state and its unworkable mandate would eliminate competition from small renewable companies. This will lead to price manipulation and significant increases in electric bills and may cost of thousands of green-collar jobs.

Proposition 10– NO **Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy**

Prop 10 is \$5 billion in GO bonds for various renewable energy and air emissions reduction purposes. The bond money would provide \$3.4 billion for financial incentives to reduce the cost to purchase high fuel economy and \$1.6 billion to fund research.

Why Vote No?

Taking \$10 billion out of the state's general fund over a 30 year period to underwrite the cost for individuals and businesses to purchase low-emission vehicles is not a smart use of money and does not help increase the use of renewable energy sources.

Proposition 11– YES **Voters FIRST Act**

Prop 11 proposes that an independent 14-person commission draw the California Legislative District boundaries beginning in 2011. The Legislature will be responsible for coordinating with the Commission, providing access to redistricting data and software, and ensuring full public participation in the redistricting process.

Why Vote Yes?

This would identify a neutral commission to draw the districts in California, and takes the power away from legislators who are currently protected by their boundary lines.