

President's Report - March, 2018

We're ramping up for the June election, and will be prepared to file ballot arguments in Martinez on-time. Please contact me if you hear of any measures of which we're not already aware; many government agencies wait until the last possible minute to file the required ballot resolution.

RM3

This regional measure proposes to increase Bay Area bridge tolls by a total of \$3 over seven years. It is highly regressive, in that it will add substantially to the commute costs of those commuters who cannot take advantage of public transit. Further, it will provide new revenues to the MTC, which has failed miserably in managing recent major projects. First on that list is the Bay Bridge, which came in years late, and four times over budget. (A comparable bridge was built in South Carolina on-time and on budget.) We are partnering with a variety of Bay Area and state-wide taxpayer groups on the campaign to defeat the measure.

Measure A

This was a special election measure to change the governing board of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District from nine appointed members to five members elected directly in the district. We supported this measure, and it passed overwhelmingly.

WCCUSD Parcel Tax

The school district board polled for a new parcel tax to extend the existing tax, ostensibly to increase pay for teachers. Because of our previous concerns over the manner in which the board has failed to adequately address the findings of the school bond forensic audit, we advised the board we would oppose any new tax at this time. Latest word is that the board has postponed consideration until the November election. We will continue to push for competent fiscal management by the district.

State Measures

We are studying seven state ballot measures, and will share our evaluation shortly. So far, there is only one we will probably oppose, but will not have an opportunity to file an opposing ballot argument.

Various State Bills

We have weighed in on a basket of new proposals in the Assembly and Senate, including stack-and-pack housing, new transit developments, and union-favoring Project Labor Agreements in the Department of Corrections. More to follow.

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