



ELECTION EXTRA

GENERAL ELECTION—NOVEMBER 2, 2010

LWV RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOCAL PROPOSITIONS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Proposition A: Requires 50%

Proposed San Diego County Charter Amendment To Ensure Fair and Open Competition For County Construction Contracts. Shall the San Diego County Charter be amended to prohibit the County from requiring the use of project labor agreements on County construction projects except where required by State or federal law?

The League of Women Voters advises against State Constitution or Charter Amendments which serve only to inhibit flexibility of governable action to meet changing conditions. Amending the County Charter to insert highly detailed provisions and administrative detail already contained in County Ordinances is not only unnecessary, it “locks in”-- to use the words of the Board of Supervisors--practices which can only be changed by re-amending the Charter, a costly and cumbersome task. Facing term limits, our present Supervisors would appear to want to restrict the governing ability of their successors. In the interest of good government, vote NO on Proposition A.

LWV Position: OPPOSE

Proposition B: Requires 50%

Amends City Charter To Add Good Cause Requirement For Certain Terminations or Suspensions of Deputy City Attorneys. Shall the charter be amended to establish a good cause requirement for the termination or suspension of Deputy City Attorneys who have served continuously for two years or more, except that any Deputy City Attorney may be subject to layoff due to lack of work or insufficient appropriations?

LWVSD Position: NO POSITION

Proposition C: Requires 50%

Amending Ordinance Number O-18568 (Proposition M of 1998) Relating to Development of Pacific Highlands Ranch. Shall Proposition M be amended, allowing completion of parks, library, trails, recreation and transportation facilities for Pacific Highlands Ranch by removing a

development timing restriction based on completion of the SR-56/I-5 Interchange, only after City Council approves a program of phased development ensuring facilities are constructed before or concurrent with new development, paid for by developers at no cost to taxpayers?

LWVSD Position: NEUTRAL

Proposition D: Requires 50%

If Financial Reform Conditions Are Met, Authorizes Temporary One-Half Cent Sales Tax. To help offset severe state cuts and help restore essential services, including police, fire and street resurfacing, shall the City of San Diego enact a temporary one-half cent sales tax for up to five years, only if the independent City Auditor certifies conditions have been met, including pension reforms and managed competition?

LWVSD Position: NEUTRAL

Proposition J: Requires 2/3%

To prevent Math, Science and English teacher layoffs, protect neighborhood schools from state budget cuts, prevent cuts to essential academic programs, job/college preparation, and preserve small classes, shall San Diego Unified School District levy a Temporary 5 Year Emergency annual tax that Sacramento can not take away of \$98/single family home, and taxes on other types of parcels, exempting low income seniors, with independent audits and no money for administrators' salaries?

LWVSD Position: SUPPORT

Proposition J, an emergency temporary measure, would generate approximately \$50 million in local funds that could only be used for specific educational purposes outlined in the ballot measure. It would be a temporary tax on all real estate parcels in the district to raise funds urgently needed to protect classroom education from past and future state budget cuts. The tax has a sunset clause and will end in five years. The district is proposing Proposition J, the Emergency Temporary Parcel Tax measure, because of the nearly \$400 million in budget cuts that have been imposed on the district over the last three years. Class size has been increased above that required by state law. In order to maintain educational programs and reasonable class sizes, it is critical that the district explore all available revenue sources. In addition, Proposition J would generate local money to be used only in the City of San Diego, and the state and federal government would have absolutely no say in how this money is to be used.

The ballot measure specifies the following uses for the parcel tax funding:

- Category 1: Direct Per-Pupil Budget Allocation for Academics and Art: \$150 per pupil (total of \$20 million) would be sent to each school for academics and art, teachers, librarians, counselors, educational supplies, career technical and vocational education, and enhancements to the academic program.

- Category 2: Class Size Reduction: Approximately \$17 million annually would be used at the District level.
- Category 3: Math and Science Education; English Proficiency: Approximately \$10 million annually would be dedicated solely for enhancing curriculum and providing professional development to improve teacher skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and English Proficiency in District middle schools and high schools.
- Category 4: Classroom Instructional Technology: About \$3 million annually would be allocated to maintain and upgrade classroom instructional technology and associated professional development.

The Temporary Five Year Emergency Educational Tax will be applied to each parcel of taxable real property within the following property classifications as follows:

- Single Family Residential: \$98 per parcel annual tax
- Multi-family Residential: \$60 per unit annual tax
- Commercial/Industrial:

\$450 per parcel annual tax (25,000 sq. ft. or less)
 \$2,500 per parcel annual tax (25,001-50,000 sq. ft.)
 \$5,000 per parcel annual tax (50,001-150,000 sq. ft.)
 \$15,000 per parcel annual tax (150,001-250,000 sq. ft.)
 \$25,000 per parcel annual tax (more than 250,000 sq. ft.)

All Vacant, Unimproved Parcels: \$98 per parcel annual tax

To ensure that all parcel tax funds are spent as directed by the voters in this measure, the district will be required to arrange for an annual, independent audit of all revenues and expenditures of funds generated by this measure and publish the audit on the district’s website.

In addition to the accountability measures required by law, the Board of Education will also be required to establish an Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee (“ICOC”) comprised of parents, teachers, community members and taxpayer representatives, to ensure that proceeds of the ballot measure are spent only for the purposes approved by the voters.

The League of Women Voters of San Diego (LWVSD) supports **Proposition J**, the Emergency Temporary Parcel Tax measure, first because the League supports a system of public education funding that is adequate. Public education funding for our local schools is currently extremely inadequate. Second, the League of Women Voters supports improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Proposition J would create public education improvements in four categories described above. Third, the League of Women Voters prefers tax expenditures that provide social benefits that significantly outweigh the increased tax burden to others. The social benefits of our community’s students receiving a good education are immeasurable. Finally, the League of Women Voters seeks to ensure property tax equity by separation of residential from commercial/industrial properties for taxing or assessment purposes in order to achieve fair sharing of the tax burden and a provision for property tax relief for those on low or fixed incomes, especially the elderly. Proposition J does separate residential from

commercial/industrial properties for taxing purposes, and it taxes commercial/industrial properties more progressively. Low-income seniors are exempt from the tax.