

Endorsement Committee
Primary Election - June 5, 2018 - Recommendations

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68

RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

- A. Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.** “California Proposition 68, Parks, Environment, and Water Bond (June 2018)” Authorizes Bonds Funding Parks, Natural Resources Protection, Climate Adaptation, Water Quality and Supply, and Flood Protection.
- B. Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.**
Possible support for Benicia State Recreation Area and other county parks.
Possible improvement for water supply system.
Possible protection for sea level rise.
- C. Description of candidate’s past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.**
Progressives support parks and water quality, flood protection.
- D. Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.**

Supporters

Officials

- [Gov. Jerry Brown \(D\)](#)^[7]
- [Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom \(D\)](#)^[7]
- [Sen. Kevin de León \(D-24\)](#)^[11]
- [Sen. Anthony Portantino \(D-25\)](#)^[8]
- [Rep. Eduardo Garcia \(D-56\)](#)^[8]
- [Rep. Anthony Rendon \(D-63\)](#)^[7]

Former officials

- [Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa \(D\), Los Angeles](#)^[7]

Parties

- [California Democratic Party](#)^[9]

Organizations

- [American Heart Association](#)^[7]
- [American Lung Association](#)^[7]
- [Association of California Water Agencies](#)^[10]
- [Audubon California](#)^[7]
- [Big Sur Land Trust](#)^[7]
- [California Association of Local Conservation Corps](#)^[7]
- [California Council of Land Trusts](#)^[7]
- [California Chamber of Commerce](#)^[11]
- [California State Parks Foundation](#)^[7]
- [Environmental Defense Fund](#)^[7]
- [Heal the Bay](#)^[7]
- [Humane Society of the United States](#)^[7]
- [League of California Cities](#)^[7]

- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce^[7]
- Peninsula Open Space Trust^[7]
- Save the Redwoods League^[7]
- Sempervirens Fund^[7]
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group^[7]
- Sierra Club California^[12]
- Sonoma Land Trust^[7]
- The Nature Conservancy^[7]
- The Trust for Public Land^[13]
- The Wildlands Conservancy^[7]
- TreePeople^[7]

Unions

- [State Building and Construction Trades Council of California](#)^[7]

Opponents

- [Sen. John Moorlach \(R-37\)](#)^[4]

Arguments

Official arguments

Andrea Seastrand, president of the Central Coast Taxpayers Association, and Jon Coupal, president of the [Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association](#), wrote an official argument against Proposition 68. State [Sen. John Moorlach \(R-37\)](#) also wrote an official argument against the measure found in the state's voter guide:^[4]

E. Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.

- Neither PDB mission statement nor bylaws mention water/parks, but our FAQ on the website says “The Environment. We assert that “climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children’s health and futures.” [Democratic Party Platform 2016] We strive to protect the invaluable resources of air, water, and fertile soil from pollution and contamination, and to keep them available to the public.”

F. Recommendation and brief statement.

The Committee finds this to be a no-brainer. One can raise questions of allocation, but we can't find anything that addresses this. **Recommend support, vote YES.**

Endorsement Committee
Primary Election - June 5, 2018 - Recommendations

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 69

RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

- A. **Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.** “Transportation Taxes and Fees Lockbox and Appropriations Limit Exemption Amendment.” Requires that certain revenues generated by a 2017 transportation funding law be used only for transportation purposes and generally prohibits Legislature from diverting funds to other purposes. Fiscal Impact: No direct effect on the amount of state and local revenues or costs but could affect how some monies are spent. Considered an amendment to SB 1 by its supporters.
- B. **Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.**
- Solano Transportation Authority (STA) says SB 1 in its first year will bring \$10 million to Solano County. SB 1 also includes revenues for new statewide competitive programs, including trade corridor and congested corridor projects which are priorities for STA and eligible for SB 1 funds.
 - STA estimates for additional “local streets & road” funds to Benicia: from \$568K for FY 2016/2017, to \$824K for 2017/2018 and \$1.1 million in FY 2018/2019.
 - Proponents argue the measure prevents the Legislature from diverting transportation funds, adds constitutional protections to new revenues generated by SB 1, and ensures that these funds can be used only for transportation improvement purposes. It prevents the legislature from redirecting these funds for non-transportation purposes, protects taxpayers, and does not raise taxes.
 - Opponents say the measure only protects transportation money that is not directly related to fixing or building any new roads, and does not address California’s rundown, outdated, and congested transportation system. The measure also does not protect more than \$1 billion in gas tax revenues.
- C. **Description of candidate’s past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.** Impact on progressive policies/programs is unclear.
- D. **Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.**
- All Solano County state representatives voted for SB 1.
 - For the measure: CA Democratic Party; County Supervisors Assoc. of CA; CA League of Cities; League of Women Voters CA; CA Chamber of Commerce; CA NAACP; Congress of CA Seniors; and, among other, the Coalition of Protect Local

Transportation Improvements (lots of contractors, economic development, and civic-related groups).

- Opposed: Assemblyman Frank Bigelow; Senator Frank Moorlach. Both legislators are supporters of the effort to repeal SB 1.

- E. **Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.** Supports Local focus on activities and environmental policies that ensure health and safety of all members of our communities by providing additional funding to Solano County for existing transportation programs and new competitive programs.
- F. **Recommendation and brief statement.** **Recommend support, vote YES** for the measure since supports SB 1 intent and protects diversion of these transportation revenues for other purposes. STA estimates that SB 1 includes an additional \$16.1 million/year for local streets and roads maintenance, and \$6 million/year to restore the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Endorsement Committee
Primary Election - June 5, 2018 - Recommendations

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 70

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

- A. **Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.** Proposition 70 “Vote Requirement to Use Cap-and-Trade Revenue Amendment.” Requires legislative supermajority vote approving use of cap-and-trade reserve fund. Legislative constitutional amendment.
- B. **Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.**
- AB 32/cap-and-trade programs and revenues help support climate action plans adopted by Solano County the City of Benicia.
 - Climate risks include those to certain populations who are most susceptible to health risks from current and future climate change exposures. Some changes due to climate change will occur over the long term, but broad shifts in CA/Solano County weather can be seen now and will result in many direct and indirect health risks.
 - Coping with a changing climate presents opportunities to consider policies, actions, and infrastructure design that will not just protect the public from climate change threats, but also establish health equity, resiliency, and sustainability.
- C. **Description of candidate’s past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.**
- Beginning in 2024, requires that cap-and-trade revenues accumulate in a reserve fund until the Legislature, by a two-thirds majority, authorizes use of the revenues. Fiscal Impact: Beginning in 2024, potential temporary increase in state sales tax revenue, ranging from none to a few hundred million dollars annually, and possible changes in how revenue from sale of greenhouse gas emission permits is spent.
 - Revenue collected from the sale of state greenhouse gas emission permits would be deposited into a new special fund. These deposits would continue until the effective date of a bill that spends money from that fund, passed with a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature.
- D. **Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.**
- For the measure: Proponents say measure is supported by democrats and republicans, labor, business, and farmers who want to protect the environment and grow the economy. And, that by forcing a two-thirds legislative vote, the measure ensures money is spent wisely for high priority programs that benefit

all Californians, rather than being diverted for pet projects. The current state sales tax exemption for manufacturing and certain other equipment would be suspended during the same period that auction revenue is deposited into the special fund.

- Supporters include: Governor Brown; CA Chamber of Commerce; and, Assembly Member Chad Mayes.
- Opposed: Opponents to the measure support allowing the Legislature to continue to authorize spending state revenue collected from the sale of greenhouse gas emission permits with a majority vote.
Opponents also characterize the measure as last-minute deal-making to extend AB 32 (cap-and-trade), a gift Governor Brown gave Republicans in exchange for their critical votes. Proposition 70 would set up a 2024 showdown in which the allocation of cap-and-trade money would be put to a two-thirds vote of Legislature, thus giving the minority party more control over the program. Also, a no vote on this measure would keep the current state sales tax exemption for manufacturing and certain other equipment in effect until July 1, 2030.
- Opposed: CA Democratic Party; Tom Steyer, President, NextGen California; and, 35 CA environmental organizations, including the CA League of Conservation Voters, the Coalition for Clean Air, and the Natural Resources Defense Council

E. Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.

- Support for this measure would be inconsistent with core principles for social and environmental justice. As the opponents point out, the measure is undemocratic since it would allow a legislative minority of politicians who have opposed California’s clean air strategies through AB 32 to derail progress on climate change and pollution reduction.
- Passage of this measure would allow those entities subject to cap-and-trade, including big oil and other industries that cause California’s worst pollution to sideline pollution reduction programs and keep poisoning California’s air and water. These special interest groups have opposed progressive measures to address air pollution and climate change in California for many years.

F. Recommendation and brief statement. Recommend a NO vote for this measure since it does not support our Core Principles, passage of the measure would seriously jeopardize future progress on pollution reduction and climate change mitigation in Solano County and the City of Benicia.

Endorsement Committee
Primary Election - June 5, 2018 - Recommendations

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 71

RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

A. **Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.** "California Proposition 71, Effective Date of Ballot Measures Amendment." Sets Effective Date for Ballot Measures. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Provides that a ballot measure approved by a majority of voters shall take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the results of the election. Allows a ballot measure to provide that it will become operative at a date later than its effective date.

B. **Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.**
??

C. **Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.**
N/A

D. **Description of the candidate's or ballot measure's sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers' network.**

Supporters

Officials

Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-22)

Rep. Marc Berman (D-24)

Sen. Henry Stern (D-27)

Parties

California Democratic Party

The Mercury News said, "Proposition 71 would clarify when a ballot initiative goes into effect in California and prevent a situation that could turn into an ugly legal fight. Voters should give it overwhelming support on June 5." [7]

The Sacramento Bee said, "Yes. Of all the initiatives, this is probably the most needed. Right now under the state constitution, all propositions that appear likely to pass on election night automatically become law the next day. That may have been fine when the state was young, but absentee and provisional ballots and voting by mail can now add weeks to the time it takes to determine an election's outcome. The result is a real potential for ballot measures to take effect, and then turn out to be defeated and have to be rolled back." [8]

E. **Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.**
N/A

F. **Recommendation and brief statement.** **Support – no reason why not.**

Endorsement Committee
Primary Election - June 5, 2018 - Recommendations

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 72

RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

- A. **Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.** “Rainwater Capture Systems Excluded from Property Tax Assessments Amendment”
- B. **Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.** A "yes" vote supports this amendment to allow the state legislature to exclude rainwater capture systems added after January 1, 2019, from property tax reassessments, which includes Solano County
- C. **Description of candidate’s past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.** A yes vote would put water conservation in the California Residents’ own realm without being penalized for doing the right thing. Presently, a lot rainwater literally goes down the drain, when rainwater capture systems would ease the effects of the drought, and also reduce the reliance on potable water for many non-potable water needs i.e.: gardening, cleaning etc. It goes along with our progressive democratic ideals about promoting renewables.
- D. **Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.** California Democratic Party...
- E. **Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.** As stated previously it promotes the use of renewables
- F. **Recommendation and brief statement.** **Support, vote YES** on endorsing this proposition... As stated previously, this would allow each individual the ability to install their own rainwater capture system, without being penalized by additional property taxes. With Global climate change effecting California adversely with severe droughts, the potential for this proposition to encourage Rainwater capture systems to reduce potable water consumption can ease some of the severe water consumption issues cities face. It may also result in helping prevent and or control wildfires.

Endorsement Committee
Primary Election - June 5, 2018 - Recommendations

REGIONAL (BAY AREA) MEASURE 3

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

- A. **Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.** Regional Measure 3 (RM 3), “Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan” is a measure on the ballot in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The measure is a plan to build major roadway and public transit improvements via an increase in bridge tolls on all Bay Area toll bridges except the Golden Gate Bridge. RM 3 proposes a toll increase of \$1 in 2019, \$1 in 2022 and \$1 in 2025
- B. **Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.** This Regional Measure 3 will increase tolls over the Benicia bridge and Carquinez Bridges up to \$3.00 by 2025, which will make the toll \$8.00. Although there will be money towards Solano county road repairs there is no plan for a Bart extension to Vallejo or Benicia or any other public transit systems for these two bridges. The residents of Solano county would have to shoulder the burden of paying this tax without any relief of a public transit solution. With the close proximity of Contra Costa and Alameda County cities and jobs to areas of Benicia, American Canyon, and Vallejo, the burden of paying for road repairs and public transit systems would be relegated unfairly to these residents, with no potential end in sight.
- C. **Description of candidate’s past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.** The measure has its merits in promoting public transit improvements, but these merits do not mitigate the burden that many of the residents of Solano County will face with the added tolls on a daily basis without much reward. There is also, the issue of subsidizing wealthier areas that have turned down ballot measures to raise their tax to pay for a Bart expansion, but they will be getting the expansion with this measure.
- D. **Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.** Monica Brown voted against the measure for the following reason as quoted in an article titled ‘*Solano supervisors place toll-hike measure in the June ballot*’ in the *Daily Republic*, “the bigger picture does not benefit Solano County residents, who pay more in gas taxes, vehicle license fees and now bridge tolls without getting equal benefits that as the other bay area regions”. Other arguments in this article state that it will be voted on by much larger urban areas where

the benefits are much greater. It should have been a much more local vote with less counties involved.

- E. **Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.** It doesn't support PDB Core Principles because it doesn't have a public transit system solution for the residents in Solano County who have to cross the Carquinez and/or the Benicia Bridges.
- F. **Recommendation and brief statement.** **Recommend oppose, vote NO.** It is an unfair measure for Solano County residents who will have the increased burden of a \$8.00 toll by 2025. The residents of Solano county would have to shoulder the burden of paying this toll without any relief of a public transit solution.