

Kacer's Korner

"My Proposition Picks"

The genius of the initiative and referendum process in California is that with every election there's an opportunity to directly impact State laws. As citizens, the amount of time we spend analyzing Propositions reflects the amount of real concern we have for our families, neighbors and the State. I would encourage us all to think through each ballot decision using a Biblical worldview as much as possible. For what it's worth, below are my abbreviated bottom lines on each Proposition, being aware that sincere believers may have valid reasons to differ on any particular one. A word of caution: don't just rely on me, we're all accountable to God for our decisions – even our votes. Along that line, I'd like to suggest some you follow some guidelines.

First, make sure you read each Proposition's summary, then the analysis, then the actual legal text. After that, read and judge whether the arguments for and against pass the common-sense test (Prov 18:17). Next, critically think about whether the proposal is the proper role of government (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14), whether government should go into debt (No!), and who actually benefits from the decision. Be careful, don't depend solely on the name of an endorsing organization unless you're familiar with it – titles can be very deceptive and misleading. Also, don't wait until the evening before voting to do your analysis – being responsible will take time, and some of these Propositions are very complex. Finally, don't let unusual or rare circumstances influence your vote – historically, laws that address rare cases make for bad law.

Proposition 1A: High Speed Passenger Train – Bond (No). I am opposed to any Bond (government presumption (Prov 6:6-8) and indebtedness (Prov 22:7)), except for very unusual circumstances. This train is costly, of limited benefit to anyone and will never be self-supporting

Proposition 2: Farm Animal Standards (No). Needless government intrusive regulation will only increase costs. Animal cruelty laws are already on the books, the industry has best practices now, and some animals are meant to be only eaten (2 Peter 2:12)

Proposition 3: Children's Hospital – Bond (No). Though this tugs at our heart, it is a backdoor way to build more infrastructure instead of: trading off current State budget priorities and addressing the impact of illegal aliens (the indigent). Also, this measure would not stop the use of current allocated budgets for other purposes

Proposition 4: Sarah's Law (Leaning towards Yes). This is one of the most difficult Propositions for me. Saving babies is paramount, and pushes me towards support. However, the unintended consequences of placing "emotional abuse" and an expanded definition of "family" in the Constitution gives me pause concerning future application to other than the scared, pregnant girl situation this

Proposition is intended to address. Government hostility towards parents and its willingness to use vague terms wrongly cannot be ignored

Proposition 5: Nonviolent Drug Offenses (No). By ignoring the destructive impact of drug abuse on society and individual lives, this measure would decrease punishment for illegal drug use and allow for shorter prison time. Basically, the question is what constitutes proper punishment for destroying lives? (Lev 24:91-20)

Proposition 6: Police and Law Enforcement (Yes). With irresponsible federal and state government unwilling to curtail illegal aliens (and resulting gangs), local law enforcement must be given the necessary resources. Local control of funds will be more effective, though this will limit State discretionary use of revenues

Proposition 7: Renewable Energy (No). Mandating all utility providers to convert to renewable energy based upon a fear of global warming (with unproven causes) and not on what is technically feasible or economically reasonable is irresponsible

Proposition 8: Eliminates Same-Sex Marriage (Yes). Restores the definition of marriage that has been true throughout human history and in every culture. Corrects the current special recognition of perverse relationships by calling them marriages. Protects our school children. Does not affect existing domestic partnership laws Gen 2:28; Mark 10:6-9)

Proposition 9: Victims' Rights, Parole (Yes). Positively expands existing victims' rights legislation and enforces court restitution decisions (Ex 22:9; Lev 24:19-20, Num 5:5-7)

Proposition 10: Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy – Bond (No). Attempt to provide government subsidy (through increased debt) to major alternative energy providers instead of allowing market forces to drive technology and consumer choices.

Proposition 11: Redistricting (Leaning towards Yes). Any method used to redistrict will be partisan and difficult. This may be worth a try since it allows reasonable representation by the major political parties and “other” parties in California.

Proposition 12: Veteran's Bond Act of 2008 – Bond (Yes). A rare example of a bond that I'm willing to support. Since 1922, all 26 Cal-Vet Bond Acts have been paid back through veteran loans without using government tax moneys. Serving our country (whether in combat or not) is a high calling worth supporting, though I would still prefer it be done out of current revenues.

Bottom lines: I'm voting **for** Prop's 6, 8, 9 and 12, **against** 1A, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 10, and **leaning towards support** of Prop's 4 and 11.

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