

Welcome to Voter Information Night!

**Hosted by the Science Policy Group at Berkeley
Thursday, 10/18/2019 | 5:30 – 8:30 PM**

Find out more at:

- sciencepolicy.berkeley.edu
- stemvotes.org



The Science Policy Group at Berkeley



Our Mission:

- Increase campus engagement with science policy issues
- Enable students to advocate for evidence-based policymaking
- Offer professional development opportunities for students
- Support and advocate for strong federal funding for STEM
- Serve as campus' member organization of the National Science Policy Network



The Science Policy Group at Berkeley

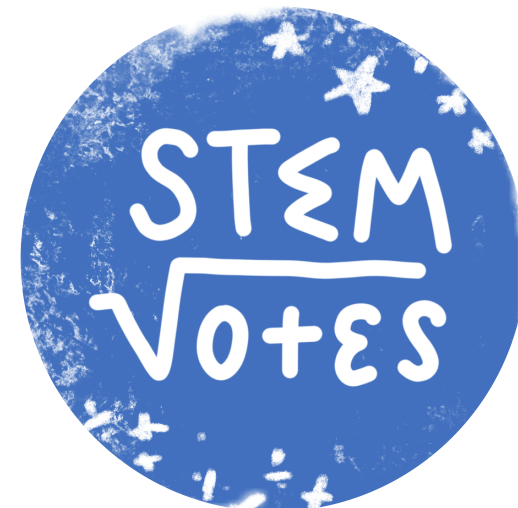
Our Mission in Action



Regular meetings
Tuesdays 5:30-7pm



Communicate Research
#STEMvotes



Recurring projects
and initiatives

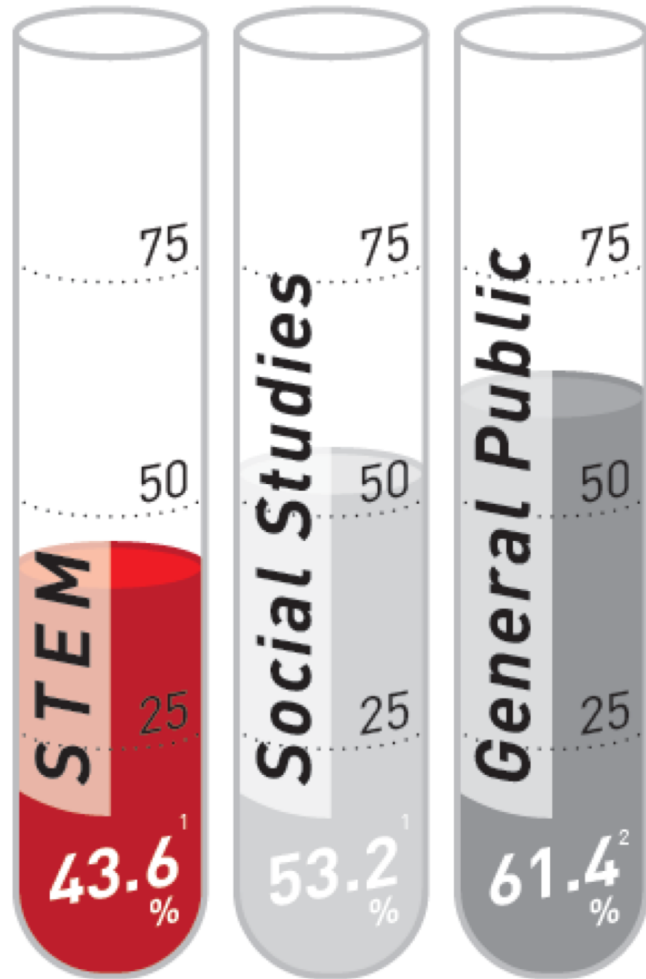
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Engage with
Policymakers



Why Voter Information Night?



- Fewer than half of students voted in 2016 (48.3%) and 2012 (45.1%).
- 2014 student voter turnout: **18.1%**
- Of all area of studies, STEM students consistently vote at the lowest rates.

Source: National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement. Based on 9.5 million+ student voter records
Learn more at: <https://idhe.tufts.edu/nsive>

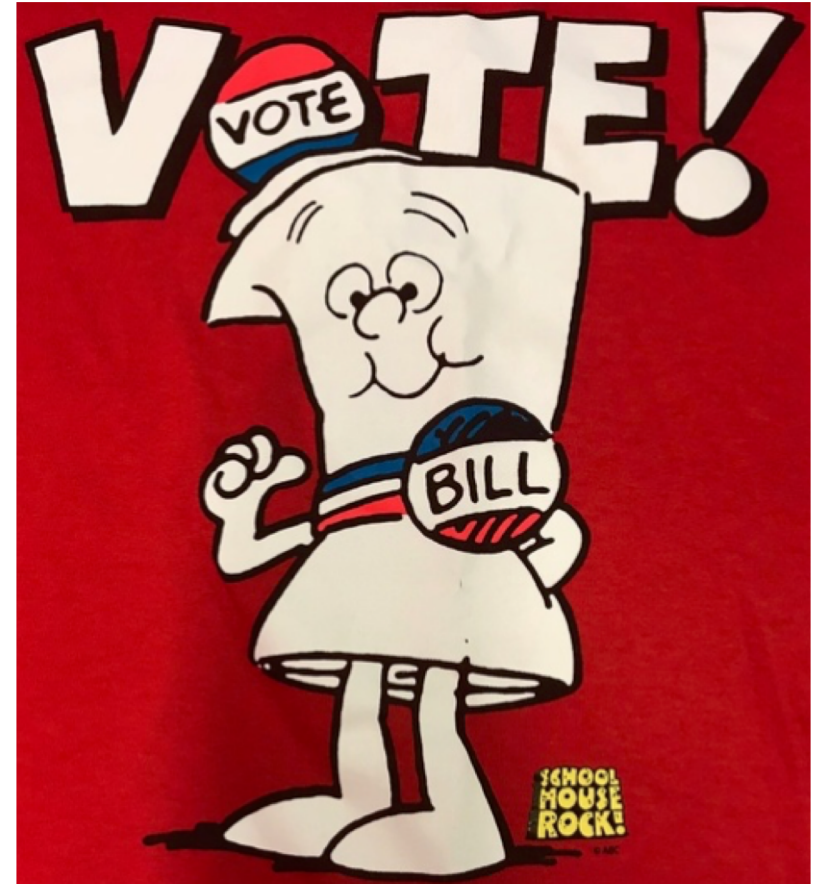


Why Vote?

- Hold elected officials accountable
 - Ensure they respond to priorities of students as a voting bloc.
- Close elections (Your vote matters!)
 - Ballot measures & city council
- Local Policy Issues

Tonight's presentation: Primers on local & state ballot measures.

Stick around after for more in-depth consideration of measures



Register to Vote

- **Deadline:** Monday, October 22nd
- **Register online:** registertovote.ca.gov



Get out the Vote

- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 6th
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 - Didn't get your ballot? You can pick one up from the Alameda county registrar in Oakland
- **Vote in person** – *get a sticker!!* Find your polling place: sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place
 - On campus: MLK union; Residence Halls Unit 1 & 3



State Propositions

- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 6th
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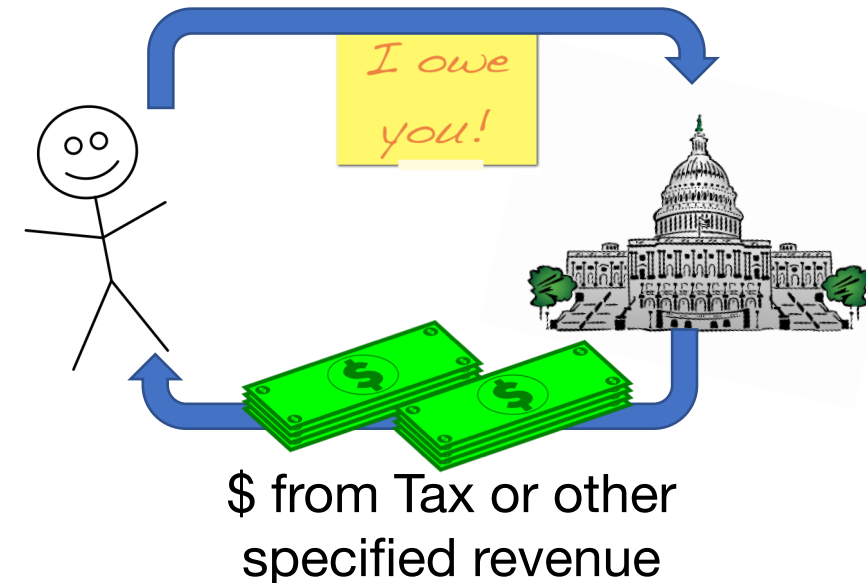
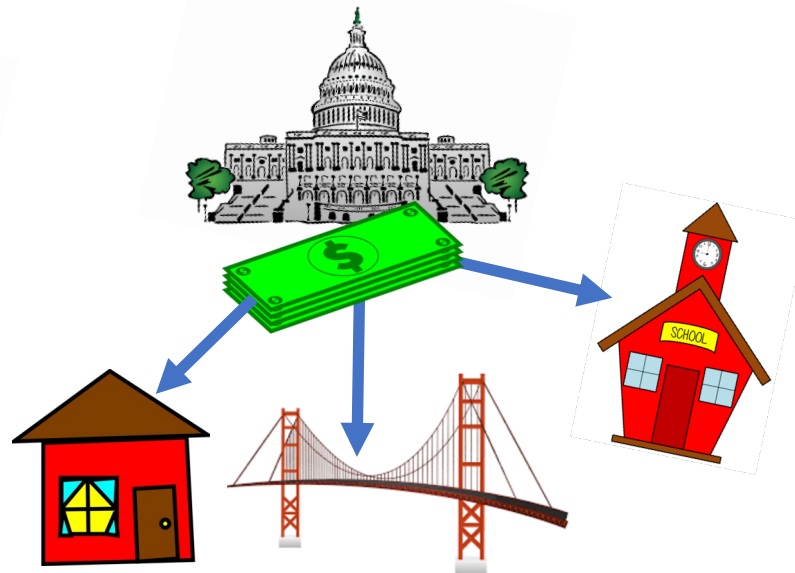
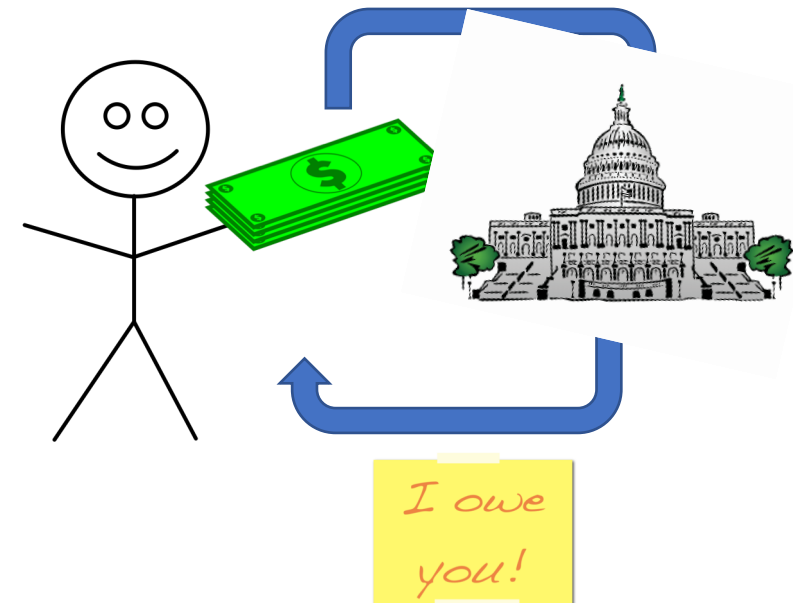
Proposition 1: Housing Programs and Veterans' Loans Bond

Bonds are like a type of “I Owe You” debt. If passed, the government acquires capital (\$) to fund the projects in the ballot measure. The government then repays these debts, plus interest, over a specified period of time, typically using tax revenue specified in the measure.

1. Government receives \$

2. Government uses \$
on specified projects

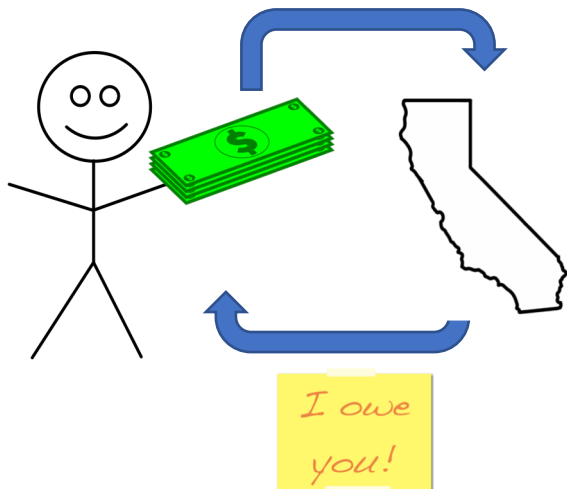
3. Government pays back \$
plus interest over time



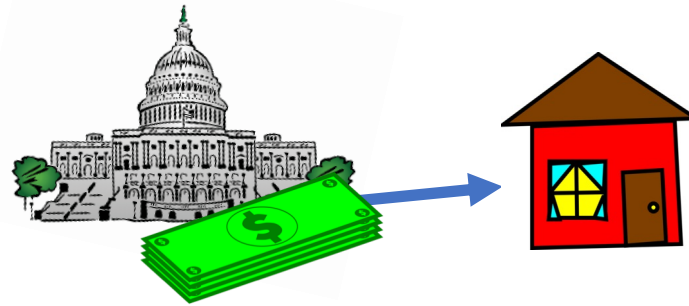
Proposition 1: Housing Programs and Veterans' Loans Bond

What it does: Proposition 1 authorizes the state of California to issue **\$4 billion in bonds** to fund existing housing programs. California then repays these bonds, plus interest, over a 35-year period through general tax revenue, projected to average \$170 million annually.

1. California receives \$4 billion in investments

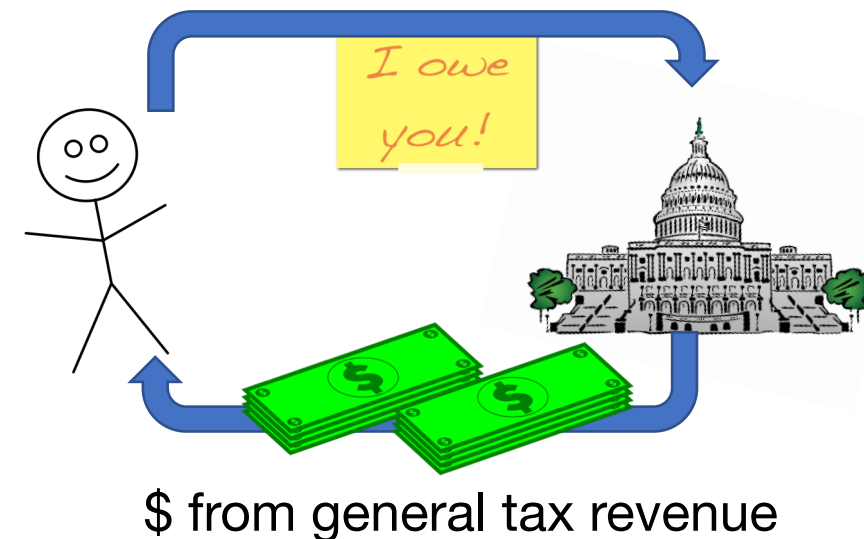


2. \$ used on housing projects.



- Low-income multifamily resident programs
- Loans to veterans to buy farms & homes
- “Infill” and transit-oriented projects
- Farmworker housing
- Manufactured & mobile homes

3. California pays back \$170 million for 35 years



Proposition 1: Housing Programs and Veterans' Loans Bond

Contributions: \$3.4 million

Contributions: \$0

Supported by:

- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- Habitat for Humanity
- Various seniors, veterans, realtor, and housing groups

Opposed by:

- Gary Wesley (CA resident)



Proposition 2: Authorizes Bonds to Funds Existing Housing Program for Individuals with Mental Illness. (Legislative Statute)

History:

- 2004: CA voters pass Mental Health Services Act, create a pool of money by increasing taxes on earners of >\$1 million
- 2016: No Place Like Home Program passes to use MHSA money for housing for mentally ill homeless over 30 years.
- Now under court review.

What it does: Ratifies the No Place Like Home Program (passed CA legislature in 2016) – allows **\$140 million/year** of appropriated county mental health funding for housing



Proposition 2: Authorizes Bonds to Funds Existing Housing Program for Individuals with Mental Illness. (Legislative Statute)

Contributions: \$3.4 million

- Chan-Zuckerberg Advocacy
- CA Association of Realtors
- Essex Property Trust

Supported by:

- CA Labor Federation
- CA Police Chiefs Association
- CA Firefighters
- National Alliance on Mental Illness CA

Contributions: \$0

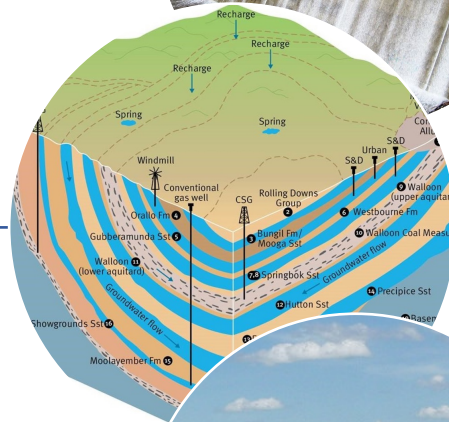
Opposed by:

- National Alliance on Mental Illness
Contra Costa County



Proposition 3: Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond Initiative

\$8.9 billion



What it does: Authorizes ~**\$8.9 billion** for water infrastructure, surface water and groundwater storage, and habitat protection and restoration.



Proposition 3: Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond Initiative

Argument: Will make California's water supply more resilient to long-term drought, provide safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities, repair dams to keep people safe

Contributions: \$4.03 million

Supported by:

- US Sen Dianne Feinstein, US Rep Jim Costa, US Rep John Garamendi, Sen Toni Atkins, Rep Tony Thurmond
- California Labor Federation

Argument: Similar bond measures amounted to \$29 billion, none of which was used to build a new dam. Criticism of pay-to-play

Opposed by:

- Rep Anthony Rendon
- *San Francisco Chronicle, The Mercury News, The Sacramento Bee*
- Sierra Club, Friends of the River, League of Women Voters of California



Proposition 4: Children's Hospital Bonds Initiative

- *History:* This is the third bond measure for children's hospitals in California. Bond measures for \$750 million (2004) and \$980 million (2008) both passed.
- *What it does:* Authorizes **\$1.5 billion in bonds** for grants to children's hospitals, including 75% for eight nonprofit hospitals, 15% for five UC hospitals, and 10% to public and private hospitals. Interest on bond would be \$1.4 billion over 35 years, bringing total cost to \$2.9 billion.



Proposition 4: Children's Hospital Bonds Initiative

Argument: Increasing demand of children's hospitals and pediatric research centers, and the increasing complexities of medicine demand additional funding.

Contributions: \$10.9 million
(California Children's Hospital Association)

Supported by:

- California Teachers Association

Argument: Funds from the bond measure must be paid back with interest, which puts the government more in debt, and is something that should be considered seriously.

Opposed by:

- Elizabeth Wall Ralston (former League of Women Voters president of LA)
- Gary Wesley (CA resident)



Proposition 5: Property Tax Transfer Initiative

Prop 13 (1978) capped property taxes at $\leq 1\%$ of a home's assessed value. The taxable value of a home (and amount of taxes paid) is limited to an annual increase = inflation rate OR 2% of the home value.



2000 taxable value: \$300,000 **(\$3,000)**
2020 taxable value: \$445,000 **(\$4,450)**



New home taxable value:
\$445,000 **(\$4,450)**

Currently, homeowners age 55 or older can transfer their tax assessment to a new home once, if it is worth less than their prior home and they move within the same county.*



Proposition 5: Property Tax Transfer Initiative

Prop 5 removes all restrictions on tax transfers. Tax-assessed values for more homes will adjust relative to the previous home regardless of price, and will not reset at 1% of the present value of the home.



- 2000 taxable value: \$300,000 (**\$3,000**)
- 2020 market value: \$950,000
- 2020 taxable value: \$445,000 (**\$4,450**)
- Market value: \$1,300,000 (**\$13,000**)
- Taxable value based on Prop 5 formula: \$795,000 (**\$7,950**)



Proposition 5: Property Tax Transfer Initiative

Argument: Prop 5 will give older people more freedom to move and will free up more housing.

Contributions: \$13.2 million

Supported by:

- CA Association of Realtors PAC
- National Association of Realtors

Argument: Prop 5 does not create any more housing and will remove \$150 million/year (short-term) to \$1 billion/year (long-term) in property taxes for schools and local government.

Contributions: \$1.8 million

Opposed by:

- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) CA State Council
- CA Teachers Assn, County Supervisors Assn of CA, CA Federation of Teachers

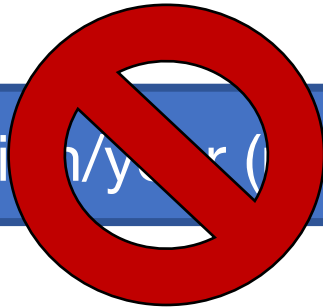


Proposition 6: Voter Approval for Future Gas and Vehicle Taxes and 2017 Tax Repeal Initiative

- The Road Repair and Accountability Act (**RRAA**) of 2017 increased taxes on gas/diesel and added new fees for vehicles. It is expected to raise ~**\$52 billion** over 10 years, with funds allocated to road maintenance and improving transportation.
- **Prop 6** repeals the **RRAA** and does not add any new taxes. It also changes the law so any future fuel taxes or vehicle fees must be approved by voters (via ballot proposition) after approval by the state legislature and governor.

Now

\$5.2 billion/year (until 2027)



Proposition 6: Voter Approval for Future Gas and Vehicle Taxes and 2017 Tax Repeal Initiative

Argument: Approval will reduce gas prices, lower the cost of living, and prevent legislators from raising taxes in the future

Contributions: \$4.3 million

Supported by:

- Paul Ryan, Kevin McCarthy, Steve Scalise, Doug LaMalfa, Devin Nunes
- John Cox
- CA Republican Party

Argument: Defeat preserves \$54 billion in funding to improve transportation infrastructure and saves tens-of-thousands of jobs that will be created by the RRAA

Contributions: \$30.6 million

Opposed by:

- Gov Jerry Brown, Mayor Eric Garcetti
- CA Democratic Party
- CA Chamber of Commerce



Proposition 7: Permanent Daylight Saving Time Measure

- *History:* The federal Uniform Time Act allows states to either adopt DST as we currently know it, or remain on standard time all year. In 2016, the California State Legislature asked to pass an act that would allow California to adopt year-round DST.
- *What it does:* Supports the California State Legislature to establish permanent, year-round daylight saving time (DST) in California by a two-thirds vote if federal law is changed to allow for permanent DST.



Proposition 7: Permanent Daylight Saving Time Measure

Argument: DST is outdated and no longer saves energy. Switching time alters sleep schedules and increases health risks (e.g. heart attacks, traffic accidents)

Argument: CA would be out of sync with other states, the state should focus on more substantive measures

No registered committees in opposition

No registered committees in opposition

Supported by:

- Rep Kansen Chu
- Rep Lorena Gonzalez

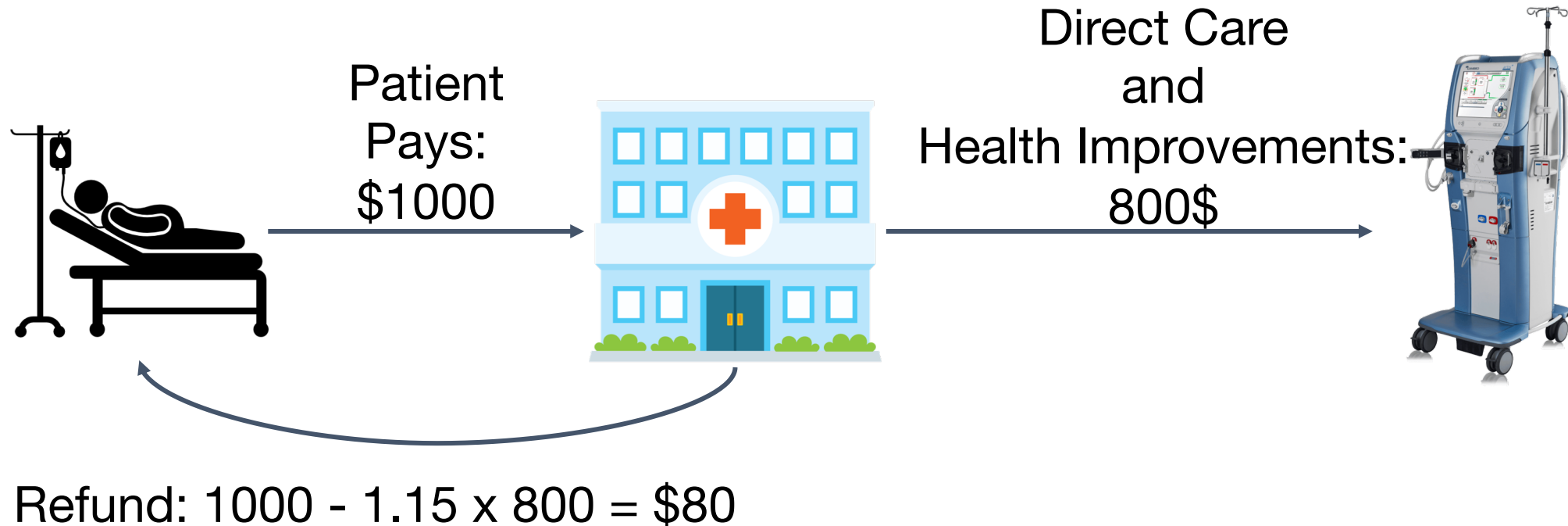
Opposed by:

- Sen Jim Nielsen, Sen Hannah-Beth Jackson, Rep Phillip Chen
- *San Francisco Chronicle, The Sacramento Bee*



Proposition 8: Limits on Dialysis Clinics' Revenue and Required Refunds Initiative

What it does: Requires dialysis clinics to issue refunds for revenue greater than 115% of the cost of direct patient care and healthcare improvements



Proposition 8: Limits on Dialysis Clinics' Revenue and Required Refunds Initiative

Argument: Prop 8 incentivizes clinics to prioritize spending on patient care over spending on extraneous expenses. Healthcare improvement costs factor into the 115% of revenue cap.

Argument: Clinics will be forced to operate at a loss and many will be driven out of business. “Direct patient care and healthcare improvements” does not include vital costs, such as clinic coordinators and security.

Supported by:

- Unions (SEIU-UHW, SEIU California, IBEW 617)
- Presidents of the Congress of California Seniors and the California Alliance for Retired Americans

Opposed by:

- Dialysis industry (DaVita, Fresenius Medical Care North America, US Renal Care)
- Presidents of the American Nurses Association/CA, CA Medical Association



Proposition 10: Local Rent Control Initiative

YES: repeal Costa-Hawkins, allow cities to implement rent control on new (1995+) buildings

NO: leave Costa-Hawkins in place

Costa-Hawkins:

- Passed by state legislature, 1995
- No rent control allowed if first occupied after 2/1/95
- No rent control if physically connected units owned separately (condos, townhouses)
- Prevents all “vacancy control,” ie limits on rent increases from old to new tenant
- Bill to repeal introduced in CA Assembly 2017, failed in committee

Rent control (general):

- Can be passed by cities/counties
- Limits annual rent increases
- Protections for tenants (just cause evictions only)
- Evidence suggests it decreases total housing supply



Proposition 10: Local Rent Control Initiative

Supported by:

- CA Democratic Party
- Several unions (eg AFSCME CA, CA Fed. of Teachers, SEIU CA)
- Local officials (eg LA mayor, SF Board of supervisors)
- Newspapers (*LA Times*, *Sac Bee*)

Total contributions: \$23 million

Opposed by:

- CA Republican Party
- Business associations (CA Chamber of Commerce, CA Small Business Assoc., California Rental Housing Assoc., CA Apartment Assoc.)
- Both gubernatorial candidates (Newsom, Cox)
- Newspapers (*SF Chronicle*, *Fresno Bee*, *SJ Mercury*)

Total contributions: \$59 million



Proposition 11: Ambulance Employees Paid On-Call Breaks, Training, and Mental Health Services Initiative

History:

- December 2016 - CA supreme court ruled that private security guards would not remain on call during breaks (Augustus v. ABM)
- 2017 - former EMS worker, Assemblymember Rodriguez (D-Pomona) introduced AB 263 which would require breaks only be interrupted by serious emergencies

What it does:

- Currently, ambulance workers **do** remain on call during breaks
- Workers will be compensated if interrupted on breaks
- Mandates mental health training for workers (already typical)



Proposition 11: Ambulance Employees Paid On-Call Breaks, Training, and Mental Health Services Initiative

Supported by:

- Californians for Emergency Preparedness and Safety
- American Medical Response (AMR) **private ambulance company** (\$22m, sole donor) - would protect from liability lawsuits
- Daily Californian

Opposed by:

- American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) **labor union**
- State Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
- *SF Chronicle*



Proposition 12: Farm Animal Confinement Initiative

- *History:* A similar proposition was passed in 2008 but did not specify square footage when defining prohibited confinement. Size restrictions were based on animal behavior.
- *What it does:* Supports banning the sale of meat and eggs from calves raised for veal, breeding pigs, and egg-laying hens confined in areas below a specific number of square feet



Proposition 12: Farm Animal Confinement Initiative

Argument: Reduces animal suffering, reduces health risk of food poisoning and downstream pollution, helps family farmers

Contributions: \$6 million

Supported by:

- Sen Henry Stern
- The Humane Society of the United States
- *Los Angeles Times, The Mercury News*

Argument: Continues the practice of egg-factory cages

Contributions: \$550,000

Opposed by:

- Californians Against Cruelty, Cages, and Fraud
- Association of California Egg Farmers
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
- *San Francisco Chronicle, The Sacramento Bee*



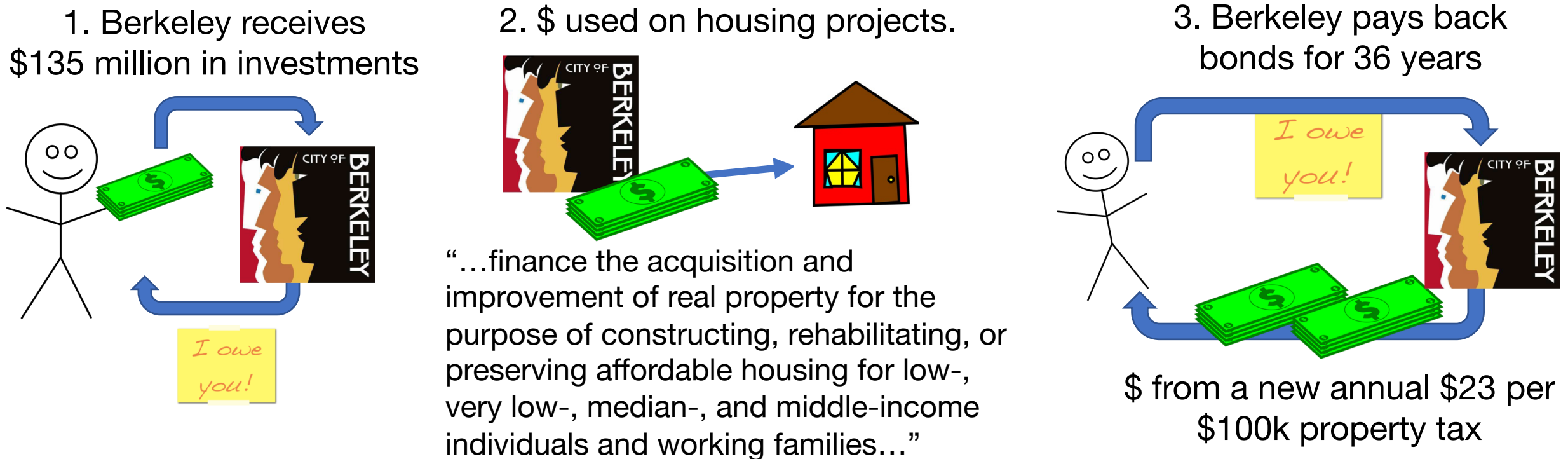
Local Measures

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 - On campus: MLK union; Residence Halls Unit 1 & 3



Measure O: Berkeley Housing Bond Measure

- *What it does:* Measure O authorizes the City of Berkeley to issue **\$135 million in bonds** to “create and preserve affordable housing.” Berkeley repays these bonds + interest over 36 years through a property tax projected to average \$23 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.



Measure O: Berkeley Housing Bond Measure

Supported by:

- State Senator Nancy Skinner
- Mayor Jesse Arreguin
- Sierra Club Chair (Nor. Alameda Cty)
Luis Amezcua

Opposed by:

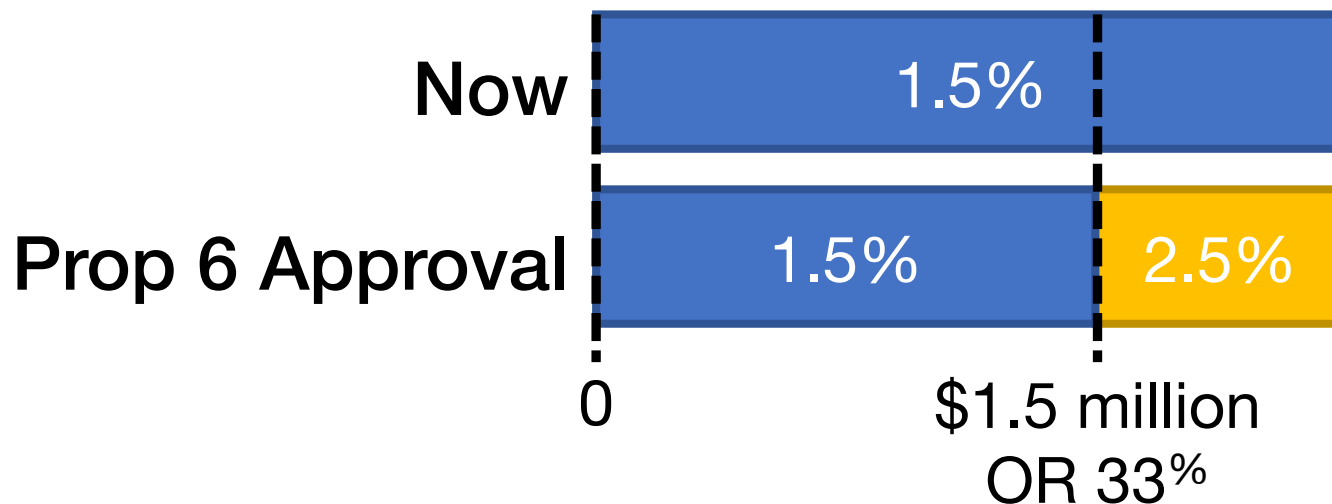
- Dan Walden (Alameda County
Taxpayers Association Executive
Director)



Measure P: Real Property Transfer Tax Increase

- Transfer taxes are paid when ownership or a title of property is transferred between entities. Berkeley currently has a 1.5% tax (split equally between buyer and seller) on property transfers.

What it does: For 10 years, increases the transfer tax to 2.5% for properties valued above \$1.5 million. The limit adjusts every year to capture the top 33% of transfers. Money could be used for homeless services, but will be placed into a general fund.



Measure P: Real Property Transfer Tax Increase

Argument: Measure P will raise \$6-8 million/year in taxes that can be spent on homeless programs. Even though it is a general tax, Berkeley has spent funds from Measure D (“soda tax”) as promised.

Argument: Measure P is a general tax and not a special tax. That means funds can be spent on anything, and they are not required to be spent on programs addressing homelessness.

Supported by:

- Mayor Jesse Arreguin
- Patricia Wall (Homeless Action Center)
- Tom Bates (county supervisor)
- CA Senator Nancy Skinner

Opposed by:

- Dan Walden (Alameda County Taxpayers Association)
- Marcus Crawley (concerned taxpayer)



Measure Q: Rent Control Ordinance Amendments

YES: Modify Berkeley's rent control ordinance due to Prop 10

NO: Do not change Berkeley's rent control ordinance

If Prop 10 passes:

- No rent control for first 20 years of new unit (currently, no rent control if built after 1980)
- Preserve rent increases made when Costa-Hawkins was in effect

Regardless of Prop 10:

- No rent control for single unit on owner-occupied property

Supported by:

- Jesse Arreguin (mayor)
- Berkeley City Council
- League of Women Voters

Opposed by:

- None



Measure R: Berkeley Vision 2050 Advisory Measure

What it does:

- Advises the mayor to **work with citizens and experts** to develop a 30-year plan for establishing infrastructure designed to **address climate and safety risks** and present this plan to the City Council
- ↓ greenhouse gas emissions by 33% of 2000 levels by 2020, 80% by 2050
- Prepares Berkeley waterfront (built 70 years ago) and infrastructure for impacts of global warming (erosion, inundated freeway sections, habitat destruction, etc.)

Supported by:

- Berkeley City Council

Opposed by:

- None



Measure E: Peralta Community College District, California, Parcel Tax Renewal

What it does:

- Extends the existing parcel tax (\$48 per parcel per year) to provide funds for the area community colleges
- The money is dedicated to core classes, career training, and transitioning students to 4-year colleges.

Supported by:

- Rep Barbara Lee (US Representative)
- 2 student trustees, retired Peralta instructor

Opposed by:

- Former chairperson of the Citizens' Oversight Committee for the Parcel Tax



Measure G: Peralta Community College District, Bond Issue

What it does:

- Authorizes the district to sell \$800 million in bonds at legal interest rates
- Projected \$44.2 million raised annually in taxes

Supported by:

- Rep Barbara Lee (US Representative)
- Andreas Clover (Peralta Colleges Foundation board member)

Opposed by: None



Measure FF: East Bay Regional Park District, Parcel Tax Renewal

- *History:* Measure CC is a \$12/year parcel tax approved in 2004 to maintain local parks, and will expire in 2020. A parcel tax is a kind of property tax based on units of property rather than assessed value.
- *What it does:* Renews the Measure CC parcel tax for 20 years at the existing rate of \$12/year for single-family residences and \$69/month for multi-family units. Funds will go toward parks, open space, and wildfire prevention.



Measure FF: East Bay Regional Park District, Parcel Tax Renewal

Argument: The tax rate stays the same, and the measure ensures investment in local East Bay regional parks, reduces risk of wildfires, saves redwoods, preserves water quality, and increases park safety for all.

Supported by:

- Rep Barbara Lee
- The Sierra Club, League of Women Voters (Bay Area)
- Alameda County Fire, Oakland Chamber of Commerce

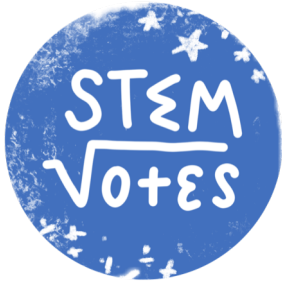
Argument: The East Bay Regional Parks District has used Measure CC to destroy thousands of healthy trees under pretexts of them being “hazardous tree” and “protection against wildfires”, and has used pesticides in its restoration and tree-cutting projects.

Opposed by:

- Forest Action Brigade
- Marg Hall, Teri Smith, Tanya Smith, Jean Stewart



HOW TO REGISTER (10/22) & VOTE (11/6)



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