



2026 VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

STATEWIDE PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1

VOTE NO

VETERANS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND – \$11.25 BILLION

Bonds are not free money. Prop 1 puts \$11.25 billion of general-obligation debt on the state's credit card – on the order of \$17 billion with interest – while only \$1.25 billion is dedicated to veterans. Ordinary taxpayers service that debt for decades with no reform of CEQA, labor mandates, or local barriers that make California units so expensive. Borrowing more for subsidized housing does not fix the cost of building.

PROPOSITION 2

VOTE NO

RAINY-DAY CAP & GANN LIMIT CHANGES

Prop 2 raises the Budget Stabilization Account cap from 10% to 20% of General Fund revenue and excludes those deposits from the Gann spending-limit calculation. That rewrites the 1979 Gann Limit and the 2014 rainy-day rules so Sacramento can keep more surplus when capital-gains revenue spikes, instead of returning it to taxpayers or making harder spending choices. That is not fiscal restraint.

PROPOSITION 3

VOTE NO

PERMANENT HIGH-EARNER INCOME-TAX RATES FOR EDUCATION

Temporary taxes that never expire are tax increases by another name. Prop 3 would make permanent the Prop 30/55 high-bracket personal income tax rates now set to expire in 2031. That locks in the nation's highest top rates, weakens competitiveness, and does nothing to force K-12 or community-college spending reform.

CalTax is sponsoring the No on 3 campaign.

PROPOSITION 4

VOTE NO

PUBLIC FINANCING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

Prop 4 would let state and local governments fund candidates' campaigns with public money. Campaigns should be funded voluntarily by supporters – not by taxpayers who disagree with the candidate. Public financing is a direct transfer of tax dollars into political speech.

PROPOSITION 5

VOTE NO

ELIMINATE SUCCESSOR ELECTION AT STATEWIDE RECALLS

Prop 5 ends the concurrent successor election when voters recall a statewide officer, leaving the office vacant until filled under succession law. That weakens voter control over who holds the office after a recall. Statewide officers set tax and spending policy.

HJTA: this measure "makes a mockery of the recall process."

PROPOSITION 37

VOTE NO

\$25 BILLION SECOND-MORTGAGE / HOMEBUYER PROGRAM

Prop 37 would make California a \$25 billion second-mortgage lender on new homes. Proponents say borrowers repay the bonds. If values fall or borrowers default, taxpayers carry the credit risk – the same lesson as the 2007-2008 housing crash, when leveraged mortgages and the bailouts that followed put the public on the hook for private losses. Combined with Prop 1, this is massive housing debt without reforming the rules that drive unit costs. Do not socialize mortgage risk again.

PROPOSITION 38

VOTE NO

IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH – \$8.4 BILLION GO BONDS

Research is worthy; putting it on the taxpayers' credit card is not. Another \$8.4 billion general-obligation bond remains taxpayer-backed state debt if the promised repayment from treatment proceeds underperforms. HJTA: there is no reason this cost should be borne by California taxpayers.

PROPOSITION 39

VOTE YES

VOTER ID, CITIZENSHIP VERIFICATION & VOTER-ROLL MAINTENANCE

Tax, bond, and parcel-tax measures are decided at the ballot. Who is on the rolls – and whose ballot counts – decides what Ventura County residents pay for decades, including local measures on this same ballot. Requiring government-issued ID for in-person voting, the last four digits on mail-ballot envelopes, and stronger citizenship verification is how most of the country already protects that vote.

HJTA: "It's especially important to California taxpayers to secure our elections from the potential for fraud, because billions of dollars of tax measures are on the ballot in nearly every election."

PROPOSITION 40**VOTE NO****ONE-TIME 5% WEALTH TAX ON BILLIONAIRES**

A 5% tax on net wealth over \$1 billion is a new tax base on unrealized asset values. Despite “one-time” and “billionaire” branding, it sets a constitutional precedent for taxing balance sheets, invites valuation fights and capital flight, and threatens the income-tax revenue the rest of the budget depends on.

PROPOSITION 41**VOTE YES****SPENDING-LIMIT RULES & AUDITS FOR NEW SPECIAL TAXES**

New special-tax revenue after January 1, 2026, should count toward the constitutional spending limit, with pre-election and recurring audits of the programs those taxes would fund. If Prop 41 receives more votes than Prop 40, it also constrains the wealth tax. Stronger audit trails are a feature, not a bug.

PROPOSITION 42**VOTE YES****BAN NEW TAXES ON RETIREMENT, ASSETS & SAVINGS**

Prop 42 is the clearest constitutional firewall against wealth and savings taxes. It would bar new taxes on retirement holdings, personally owned assets, and savings, and limit retroactive taxes. A YES on 42 is a second NO on 40: if both pass, the measure with more votes prevails.

PROPOSITION 43**VOTE YES****TWO-THIRDS VOTE FOR LOCAL SPECIAL-TAX INITIATIVES**

Restores the two-thirds electorate requirement for local special taxes placed by citizen initiative, closing the court-created Upland loophole that allowed simple-majority special taxes. Special taxes should be hard to pass, not easy. This is HJTA's centerpiece on the ballot – the modern Save Prop 13 fight, including in Ventura County. General taxes remain majority vote.

PROPOSITION 44**VOTE NO****90% SPENDING MANDATE FOR COMMUNITY CLINICS**

A 90% spending mandate with penalties does not reduce the taxpayer cost of care, and it risks disrupting safety-net clinics Ventura County residents use. Accountability for public and tax-exempt dollars matters; this is the wrong tool.

PROPOSITION 45**VOTE YES****CEQA TIMELINES FOR ESSENTIAL PROJECTS**

Delay is a hidden tax. Setting timelines for environmental review of housing, water, transportation, and other essential projects can lower costs that taxpayers and ratepayers ultimately fund.

CalTax signed the official argument in favor.

The **Ventura County Taxpayers Association** is a non-partisan 501(c)(4) whose exclusive focus is government tax and spending policy at the city, county, school, and special-district level. We do not endorse candidates.

SIMI VALLEY MEASURE A**VOTE YES****LODGING TAX 10% → 12% · VISITORS ONLY · SIMI VOTERS**

Raises the City's transient occupancy tax from 10% to 12%. Paid only by overnight guests – not by residents as a property or sales tax. Unchanged more than 30 years; about \$400,000 a year. Simple majority; Simi Valley voters only.

RIO ELEMENTARY MEASURE B**VOTE NO****\$78 MILLION K-12 GO BOND · \$28.21 / \$100K AV · 55%**

Stacks \$78 million on 2022's \$72 million Measure H, still being issued. Generic roofs and “facility equity,” not a defined capital crisis – about \$4.5 million a year (~\$113 on a \$400,000 home). El Rio / north Oxnard only; not Rio Mesa High.

SANTA PAULA MEASURE C**VOTE NO****\$48.6 MILLION GO BOND · GYM & COMMUNITY POOL · 55%**

Voters already rejected this gym-and-pool package in 2024 (M 52%, N 52.6%). Insurance should rebuild Bryden Gym; a community pool is a parks function, not a classroom. \$27.98 per \$100,000 AV. Santa Paula Unified voters only.

UNITED WATER MEASURE D**VOTE YES****\$350 MILLION WATER GO BOND · 2/3 VOTE · DISTRICT VOTERS**

Up to \$350 million for Santa Felicia Dam seismic and spillway work, Freeman Diversion fish screens, and seawater-intrusion protection. \$24 per \$100,000 AV (~\$121 a year average homeowner), about 30 years. A defined capital investment; two-thirds required.

OXNARD MEASURE E**VOTE NO****½¢ MEASURE O SALES-TAX EXTENSION · NO SUNSET · OXNARD VOTERS**

“No rate increase” is not the same as “no tax.” An indefinite ½¢ Measure O extension locks in about \$20 million a year with no sunset and no proof of outcomes from two decades of spending. Demand a sunset – not a permanent general-fund pipeline. Simple majority; Oxnard voters only.

QUICK REFERENCE**VOTE NO**

- ✗ Prop 1 housing bond
- ✗ Prop 2 Gann / rainy-day
- ✗ Prop 3 income-tax lock
- ✗ Prop 4 campaign public \$
- ✗ Prop 5 recall change
- ✗ Prop 37 \$25B mortgages
- ✗ Prop 38 research bonds
- ✗ Prop 40 wealth tax
- ✗ Prop 44 clinic mandate
- ✗ Rio B \$78M school bond
- ✗ Santa Paula C gym/pool
- ✗ Oxnard E ½¢, no sunset

VOTE YES

- ✓ Prop 39 voter ID
- ✓ Prop 41 tax audits
- ✓ Prop 42 ban wealth taxes
- ✓ Prop 43 2/3 special taxes
- ✓ Prop 45 CEQA timelines
- ✓ Simi A TOT 10%→12%
- ✓ UWCD D \$350M water