



2016

# VOTER GUIDE



**LOS ANGELES AREA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





## Letter From Gary

In a democracy, voting is both a right and a responsibility. I encourage you, your family, your friends and your business associates to cast your vote by mail or in person in the upcoming Nov. 8 election.

For new voters, the registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 24. For information on how to register, please visit the California Secretary of State website at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov).

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in L.A. County, with 1,650 members that employ 650,000 people. The Chamber champions economic prosperity and quality of life for the L.A. region by being the voice of business, promoting collaboration and helping members grow.

# Positions Summary

<b>CITY OF L.A.</b>	
MEASURE HHH - Homelessness & Housing	SUPPORT
MEASURE JJJ - Affordable Housing	OPPOSE
MEASURE RRR - DWP Charter Amendment	SUPPORT
MEASURE SSS - L.A. Fire & Police Pensions	NO POSITION
<b>L.A. COUNTY</b>	
MEASURE A - Neighborhood Parks & Beaches	OPPOSE
MEASURE M - Traffic Improvement	SUPPORT
MEASURE CC - Education, Job Training & Safety	SUPPORT
<b>STATE</b>	
PROP 51 - Public Education Facilities	SUPPORT
PROP 52 - Medi-Cal Funding	SUPPORT
PROP 53 - No Blank Checks	OPPOSE
PROP 54 - Legislative Transparency	SUPPORT
PROP 55 - Education & Health Care	NEUTRAL
PROP 56 - Cigarette Tax	SUPPORT
PROP 57 - Parole & Juvenile Trial	SUPPORT
PROP 58 - Multilingual Education	SUPPORT
PROP 60 - Condoms in Pornographic Films	NO POSITION
PROP 61 - Drug Pricing	OPPOSE
PROP 62 - Repeal of the Death Penalty	NO POSITION
PROP 63 - Background Checks for Ammunition Purchases	NO POSITION
PROP 64 - Marijuana Legalization	OPPOSE
PROP 65 - Carry-out Bags	OPPOSE
PROP 66 - Death Penalty Procedures	NO POSITION
PROP 67 - Overturn Ban on Plastic Bags	SUPPORT

# L.A. Jobs PAC Endorsements



**STEVE NAPOLITANO**  
**Candidate for L.A. County**  
**Supervisor (4th District)**

With more than 25 years of experience serving County residents in local government, Steve Napolitano believes that government has to be responsive to the voters and taxpayers it serves. He will put the citizens and communities in the 4th District first by focusing on solving problems, supporting non-profits and protecting the vulnerable. Steve puts jobs and the economy among his top issues, which also include public safety, homelessness, traffic and infrastructure. Steve is a fiscally responsible leader with common sense. He will hit the ground running.



**KATHRYN BARGER**  
**Candidate for L.A. County**  
**Supervisor (5th District)**

Born and raised in the 5th District, Kathryn Barger began her career working in the private sector. For the past 15 years, Kathryn has served as Chief Deputy Supervisor to Supervisor Michael Antonovich, where she manages the Supervisor's office and serves as the official liaison with community and local business groups. Kathryn is also an expert on health care, mental health and children's issues. Committed to making government more efficient by reducing burdensome bureaucracy and regulation, she is recognized as a thoughtful problem-solver. Kathryn has a record of outstanding service and is uniquely prepared to serve the 5th District.

# City of L.A. Measures

## MEASURE HHH -

## SUPPORT

### HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION AND PREVENTION, HOUSING AND FACILITIES BOND SUPPORT

This \$1.2 billion bond measure would allow for the construction of 8,000-10,000 units of safe, clean affordable housing for the homeless and for those in danger of becoming homeless, such as battered women and their children, veterans, seniors, foster youth and the disabled. It would also provide facilities to increase access to mental health care, drug and alcohol treatment and other services. Property owners would be required to pay an average of \$9.64 per assessed \$100,000 value. The bond would have citizen oversight and annual financial audits. Two-thirds support is required for passage.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this measure because homelessness is a crisis in L.A. and we have a seven-year history of working with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles to find a revenue stream for the building of permanent supportive housing.

## MEASURE JJJ -

## OPPOSE

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LABOR STANDARDS RELATIONS TO CITY PLANNING

This ordinance would add new wage and affordable housing mandates for any residential project in the City of L.A. over 10 units that would need a general plan amendment or zone change. Studies by the University of California, Berkeley, the California Institute and Habitat for Humanity/San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley estimate that these requirements could add as much as 23-30 percent to the cost of constructing new housing. The end result being higher rental costs, and higher prices for first-time homebuyers and anyone considering a home purchase in L.A.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **OPPOSES** this measure due to the negative impact costly labor and inclusionary zoning mandates would have on the ability to build residential units, which is counterproductive to solving our housing crisis.

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER & POWER CHARTER AMENDMENT

This charter amendment will make a number of changes to the management and oversight of the DWP, specifically:

- Increase the size of the Board of Commissioners from five to seven members and adds certain qualifications.
- Require the DWP to prepare four-year strategic plans with the Mayor and City Council, then set rates as appropriate to meet those policies.
- Permit discussions of alternatives to existing civil service standards.
- Modify the DWP General Manager's contracting and procurement authority.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber pushed for more reforms, but we **SUPPORT** this measure as a step in the right direction. The procurement and contracting changes will have a considerable impact on efficiency and productivity.

# L.A. County Ballot Measures

## THE SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND BEACHES MEASURE

This measure is a property tax that would impose a 1.5 cents per square foot of property on all County residents and businesses. The approximately \$94 million annually would replace two other parks funding measures, one which has expired, another that expires in 2018. Of the funds, 35 percent would go back to community of origin, the rest would be based on need. This property tax has no sunset. Two-thirds support is required for passage.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **OPPOSES** this parks proposal because transportation and solving our homelessness crisis

are the Chamber's priorities for this election. Additionally, this square footage formula impacts business more than residential properties while there is little nexus between commercial and industrial property size and the demand for parks.

## MEASURE M -

## SUPPORT

### METRO TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This measure will authorize the L.A. County Traffic Improvement plan through a ½ cent sales tax and continue the existing Measure R ½ cent sales tax. Metro spent nearly two years putting together an expenditure plan with input from all stakeholders in every corner of the County. The final plan would devote more than 50 percent of funds to new transportation projects and send 16 percent back to municipalities for investment in local streets, roads and sidewalks. The measure will have independent audits/oversight and funds will be controlled locally. Two-thirds support is required for passage.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this measure because it is a balanced, equitable approach to improving and maintaining our transportation system. The Chamber supported prior measures and has a history of championing infrastructure investments that create jobs and improve congestion.

## MEASURE CC -

## SUPPORT

### LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT AFFORDABLE EDUCATION/JOB TRAINING/ CLASSROOM SAFETY

This measure will authorize LACCD to issue \$3.3 billion in general obligation bonds to modernize, renovate, and build additional facilities. It will cost property owners \$15 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation a year. The measure includes mandatory taxpayer protections, including an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and annual financial audits to ensure funds are spent as authorized. The District would be prohibited from using any bond funds for administrator salaries or other operating expenses. The bond measure requires 55-percent voter approval across the LACCD service area.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this measure because student enrollment is growing and more than 40-percent of the District's buildings, on its nine campuses, will reach 50 years of age within the next five years. For many high school graduates, a community college education is their first step into higher education. It is vital to invest in our community college students.

## State Propositions

**PROP 51 -**

**SUPPORT**

### CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES BOND INITIATIVE

This proposition will authorize \$9 billion in general obligation bonds to be used as follows:

- \$3 billion for new construction of new K-12 school facilities
- \$3 billion for modernization of K-12 public school facilities
- \$1 billion for charter schools and vocational education facilities
- \$2 billion for California Community Colleges facilities

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this proposition because of the importance of construction and modernization of educational facilities for our California students.

**PROP 52 -**

**SUPPORT**

### MEDI-CAL FUNDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

This act amends the hospital fee program established by the state legislature to ensure hospitals can unlock billions annually in federal matching funds for supplemental Medi-Cal payments. Existing law imposes fees on hospitals (for purpose of obtaining federal Medi-Cal matching funds) and directs those fees and federal matching funds to hospital-provided Medi-Cal health care services for uncompensated care provided by hospitals to uninsured patients and for children's health coverage.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this proposition because it will establish permanent protections for the hospital fee program and ensure accountability in the state budget so that the funds are used for their intended purpose and not redirected to the general fund.

**PROP 53 -**

**OPPOSE**

## NO BLANK CHECKS INITIATIVE

This initiative would require any state revenue bond of \$2 billion or more to appear on a statewide ballot. Revenue bonds currently are approved by the Legislature or state agencies without going to the ballot. They are repaid through revenue generated by a project – like tolls on a bridge. Currently, state law requires voter approval for general obligation bonds only, which are secured through regular payments out of the state general fund.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **OPPOSES** this proposition because it was initiated by a single individual for the express purpose of halting Gov. Brown’s CA WaterFix plan that would provide water reliability and security for the State. Prop 53 would also allow for statewide votes on regional projects that are not funded by taxpayers, thereby slowing down or endangering infrastructure projects.

**PROP 54 -**

**SUPPORT**

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY ACT

This is a good government act to prohibit the Legislature from passing any bill unless it has been in print and published on the Internet for at least 72 hours before the vote, except in cases of public emergency. It would also require the Legislature to make and post audiovisual recordings of all open proceedings, except closed session proceedings, and allows any person to record legislative proceedings by audio or video means to use for a legitimate purpose.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this proposition because these changes will increase transparency in our state government and give the public more time to weigh in on last minute changes to legislation.

## PROP 55 -

**NEUTRAL**

### TAX EXTENSION TO FUND EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

This would extend by 12 years the Prop 30 temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000 for single filers and over \$500,000 for joint filers. Prop 55 allocates 89 percent to K-12 schools and 11 percent to California Community Colleges plus funding up to \$2 billion per year for health care programs. The Legislative Analyst estimates revenue could be in the \$5 billion to \$11 billion range annually, with amounts varying based on stock market and economic trends.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber is **NEUTRAL** on this proposition. We have long been committed to investing in education; on the other hand these taxes were proposed as temporary solution during a crisis. Our Board could not reach the 60 percent threshold for a support or oppose position.

## PROP 56 -

**SUPPORT**

### CIGARETTE TAX TO FUND HEALTHCARE, TOBACCO USE PREVENTION, RESEARCH, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE

This would Increase the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Revenues would go primarily to increase funding for existing healthcare programs and to tobacco use prevention/control programs, tobacco-related disease research and law enforcement.

**Bottomline:** While the Chamber generally does not support industry-specific taxes, we **SUPPORT** this proposition because

of the ballooning health care costs on all employers from cancer-related illnesses.

**PROP 57 -**

**SUPPORT**

### CALIFORNIA PAROLE AND JUVENILE TRIAL OPPORTUNITY MODIFICATION INITIATIVE

This initiative will allow parole consideration for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies upon completion of full prison term for primary offense and would authorize the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to award sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior, or educational achievements. Would also allow juvenile court judges, not prosecutors, to make the determination whether juveniles age 14 and older should be prosecuted and sentenced as adults.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this proposition because of our work in the smart justice arena. With a court-imposed prison cap mandate, it makes sense to establish a procedure for those eligible for parole.

**PROP 58 -**

**SUPPORT**

### CALIFORNIA MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION ACT

In 1998, voters passed Proposition 227, which mandated that all children in California public schools be taught English by being taught in English. This proposition would allow for bilingual education and authorize parents to choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this proposition because it will help many students learn English sooner and also encourage proficiency in more than one language.

**PROP 61 -**

**OPPOSE**

### DRUG PRICING RELIEF ACT

This act would prohibit state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid for the same drug

by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Applies to any program where the state is the ultimate payer for a drug, even if the State does not purchase the drug directly.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **OPPOSES** this proposition because it is poorly written and doesn't consider the reasons why the USDVA is able to negotiate lower drug prices. It could increase health care costs to all Californians by shifting costs of prescriptions to private payers, including employers.

## PROP 64 -

**OPPOSE**

### MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION. INITIATIVE STATUTE

This initiative legalizes marijuana and hemp under state law for adult usage. The proposition lays out a regulatory plan for the industry and would impose a state tax on retail sales of marijuana equal to 15 percent of sales price. It also authorizes resentencing and destruction of records for prior marijuana convictions.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **OPPOSES** this proposition because to date, there are no reliable, established protocols to determine levels of "under the influence." This would create tremendous liability and uncertainty for employers in hiring and supervision.

## PROP 65 -

**OPPOSE**

### CALIFORNIA CARRY-OUT BAG REVENUE INITIATIVE

This initiative would redirect money collected by grocery and retail stores through the sale of carry-out bags into a special fund administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board to support specified categories of environmental projects. Would only apply if it passed in conjunction with Prop 67.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **OPPOSES** this proposition because it was initiated in an effort to reverse support for the plastic bag ban. This initiative does not outline how the funds would be spent, nor does it provide for any oversight.

## REFERENDUM TO OVERTURN BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

This initiative would to allow SB 270, the ban on single-use plastic bags approved by the Legislature in 2014, to go into effect. It still allows for single-use plastic bags for meat, bread, produce, bulk food and perishable items; and exempts consumers using a payment card or voucher issued by the California Special Supplemental Food Program from being charged for bags. It also provides \$2 million to state plastic bag manufacturers for the purpose of retaining jobs and transitioning to thicker, multi-use, recycled plastic bags.

**Bottomline:** The Chamber **SUPPORTS** this proposition. If it does not pass, individual municipalities will still have their own bans in place, and we will have a lack of uniformity statewide for retailers and grocers.





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350 S. Bixel St., Los Angeles, California 90017  
213.580.7500 | Fax 213.580.7511  
[lachamber.com](http://lachamber.com)