



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
**RECOMMENDS**  
NOVEMBER 4, 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

**LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES AND STATE PROPOSITIONS**

**YES MEASURE A - Special Assessment for Educational Programs and Services --**

**Mill Valley School District** *(2/3 Approval Required)*

To protect educational quality; attract and keep high-quality teachers; maintain library services and P.E. programs; preserve small neighborhood schools and class sizes; and prevent significant budget cuts due to reductions in State education funding; shall the Mill Valley School District amend its existing parcel tax for local elementary and middle schools, increasing it by \$193 and extending it for four years, while continuing existing accountability measures and with all revenues spent in Mill Valley schools?

**YES MEASURE B – Fiscal Management Consolidation Act -- County of Marin** *(Majority*

*Approval Required)*

Shall the County of Marin establish an appointed director of finance consolidating the offices of auditor, controller, tax collector and treasurer, and create an appointed public administrator, with the provision that an annual independent audit be conducted and that the director of finance can only be removed with a public hearing and 4/5 vote of the Board of Supervisors?

**YES MEASURE E – Twin Cities Public Safety Building/911 Response Improvement**

**Measure -- Twin Cities Police Authority** *(Bond Measure - 2/3 Approval Required)*

To improve 911 emergency response, ensure disaster preparedness, and maintain school/community policing, shall Twin Cities Police Authority Community Facilities District No. 2008-1 be authorized to finance/ equip an energy efficient earthquake safe police/emergency operations center and upgrade emergency communications systems by issuing \$20,000,000 in bonds, be authorized to levy special taxes to pay bonds and District costs, and initial annual \$2,100,000 appropriations limit; requiring citizen's oversight, annual audits and allowing low-income exemptions?

**YES MEASURE Q – 1/4-Cent Sales Tax for SMART Passenger Rail Train -- County of**

**Marin** *(2/3 Approval Required)*

To relieve traffic, fight global warming and increase transportation options, shall Sonoma- Marin Area Rail Transit District be authorized to provide two-way passenger train service every 30 minutes during weekday rush hours, weekend service, a bicycle/pedestrian pathway linking the stations, and connections to ferry/bus service, by levying a 1/4-cent sales tax for 20 years, with an annual spending cap, independent audits/oversight, and all funds supporting these environmentally responsible transportation alternatives in Marin and Sonoma Counties?



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## **RECOMMENDS**

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**PROP 1A      Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act      SUPPORT**

This \$9.95 billion bond act would partially fund a high-speed train project between Los Angeles/Anaheim and San Francisco, and possible extensions to Sacramento and to San Diego, at a total project cost of \$45 billion, including the additional segments. Federal grants and public-private partnerships would be needed to fund at least half of each segment. Proposition 1A would provide a transportation option that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and lessens the need to expand highways and airports. This revised proposition addresses concerns about cost and financial uncertainties by requiring a new business plan, peer review, and other accountability provisions, and it allows bond funds to be used for the other segments if there is no negative impact on the first phase.

**PROP 3      Children's Hospital Bond Act      SUPPORT**

Proposition 3 authorizes \$980 million in bonds to fund children's hospitals. These regional centers provide specialized care for children with serious illnesses or injuries without regard to a family's ability to pay. They treat the majority of California's low-income children. Eighty percent of the proceeds would go to eight nonprofit children's hospitals and 20 percent to University of California children's hospitals. Prop 3 will address escalating construction costs and improve health care access for children who are indigent, uninsured, underinsured or eligible for government health programs.

**PROP 4      Waiting Period and Parental Notification before      OPPOSE**  
**Termination of Minor's Pregnancy**

Prop 4 requires a physician to notify the parent of a pregnant minor before performing an abortion. Mandatory notification laws may sound good but, in the real world, they put the health and safety of teens in danger. A frightened, pregnant teen who can't go to her parents may choose an unsafe, illegal abortion, or even contemplate suicide, instead of seeking the counseling and safe medical care she needs. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, but good family communication can't be imposed by government. California voters have rejected this proposal twice, but proponents have put it on the ballot again, adding more unreasonable provisions.

**PROP 5      Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and      SUPPORT**  
**Rehabilitation**

Proposition 5 would require the state to expand treatment and rehabilitation for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees, and reduce the criminal consequences of nonviolent offenses. Additional costs of treatment would be offset by reductions in prison and parole operating costs, as well as in the need for capital outlay for prison facilities. The League's study of juvenile justice affirmed the need to give funding priority to prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

**PROP 6      Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties      OPPOSE**  
**and Laws (Runner Initiative)**

This measure requires that nearly \$1 billion annually in state general funds be used for designated local law enforcement and probation programs. This will mean an increase of \$500 million a year for these programs and for operating prison and parole systems, and a \$500 million capital outlay for prison facilities. The League opposes the further restriction on the ongoing use of general funds. Harmful policy changes in this initiative include prosecuting more 14-year-olds as adults and giving counties less flexibility in the use of drug and mental health funds for juveniles.

**PROP 7 Renewable Energy Generation**

**OPPOSE**

Proposition 7 requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 50 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2025. While the League supports a renewable energy target, we feel this is too optimistic to be achieved, and well beyond the targets for implementing the landmark greenhouse-gas emissions reduction law, AB 32. Moreover, Prop 7 is poorly drafted. Experts say it will not achieve its stated goals and will actually disrupt the development of renewable power. It may force small renewable energy companies out of California's market and cause higher energy bills.

**PROP 8 Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry**

**OPPOSE**

This proposed limitation of marriage as only between a man and a woman infringes on the equal rights that should be available to all people. The California Supreme Court has concluded that there is a "fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship." The League opposed Proposition 22 in 2000 and continues to oppose such limits on the basic civil rights that should be guaranteed to all Californians.

**PROP 9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole**

**OPPOSE**

Proposition 9 would expand the legal rights of crime victims in various ways and could undo many of the rights of prisoners and parolees to due process and speedy parole revocation hearings. This initiative asks voters to support victims' rights that are already protected under state law and is unnecessary.

**PROP 10 Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds**

**OPPOSE**

This measure would authorize the sale of \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to provide rebates to purchasers of certain high fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles, and to fund grants and other incentives for technology development. The League favors the use of bonds to finance capital expenditures or the purchase of property for public purposes. The purposes of this bond are not an appropriate use for state-issued, bond-generated revenues.

**PROP 11 Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act**

**STRONG SUPPORT**

It is an inherent conflict of interest for legislators to draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection. Proposition 11 removes from the legislature the power to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization after each census. Instead, it provides for the appointment of a 14-member independent citizens commission to perform this process, establishes clear criteria for how the boundaries shall be drawn, and requires an open and transparent process with due notice, public hearings, and no communications outside of the hearings. This measure will hold politicians accountable and help stop the gridlock in Sacramento that keeps pressing issues from being addressed.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and Proposition 12, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

9/1/08

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4!**