



# CAIB Newsbrief

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## POLITICIANS OR STATESMEN WHO DO YOU WANT?

Editorial by Amy Mittino

The goal and job of a **POLITICIAN** is to get elected and stay elected. The goal and job of a **STATESMAN** is to serve the people through an elected position.

Many politicians use divisiveness, anger and superiority as a ploy to get us to vote for their agenda. Their goal is to make us believe that they (and their “side” alone) hold the truth and nothing but the truth, and therefore we must rely on them and follow their guidance.

They also use fear, anger and indignation to foster in us an instinctive desire to protect ourselves from the dangers of the “other side”. Creating anxiety and anger, triggers us to vote for the lesser of two evils, rather than choosing the best person for the job. This maneuver also implies a sense of “emergency”, causing people to unconsciously react quickly and assume lesser authority and lesser responsibility. When we buy into the “urgency” presented, they manipulate us to follow them.

Too many politicians have a tendency to:

- Make promises they know they can’t keep.
- Mislead the public through omissions of information.
- Out and out lie to get out of trouble or to claim they have the solutions that resolve their constituent concerns.

The divisiveness this creates is used to motivate us to take one side or the other. We are manipulated into focusing on urgent extreme issues. This in turn makes us side with the party, politician or situation that is less threatening to us.

We all know this. We’ve all witnessed this, and we’re all disgusted by a system that allows this type of behavior. It makes us feel powerless and lose trust and hope in our government. We think our political system is too big, controlled by rich and powerful people that cannot relate to us and that we don’t know and we don’t trust.

## THE SOLUTION

The solution is to vote for policy makers who are committed to working with the opposing parties. Their actions and speeches should prove to us that they are **STATESMEN**. We don’t need to fight the manipulation of those who are not acting and speaking like statesmen. All we have to do is vote for statesmen...those who wish to serve the American People; and we will know them by their intent to address the needs of the People.

## THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

The needs of People of this great country are clearly stated and promised in our beloved Constitution:

We, the People of the United States of America, want to form, maintain and improve a more perfect national union.

We want our government to:

- Establish justice and a balanced law abiding system
- Insure domestic tranquility to guarantee that we can walk around any part of this country in peace
- Provide for the common defense to be prepared to protect our domestic tranquility
- Promote the general welfare by addressing concerns for the general good of the People
- Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity for now and for future generations.

We want a government to protect us and guarantee our constitutional rights to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, freedom of speech and religious freedom.

We want a safe country, where we insist on a grave respect for our rights and our freedoms so that we can pursue our happiness. We want a government that serves the People, not its own agenda, nor the political agendas of the parties.

We hire (elect) and pay (through our hard earned tax dollars) our representatives to do the work of statesmen because we don’t have the time, money, education or energy to do their job. We are counting on them to do the right thing. Our lives depend on it.

## THE PROPOSITIONS

**PROP 1** authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for existing affordable housing programs for low-income residents, veterans, farmworkers, manufactured and mobile homes, infill, and transit-oriented housing. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds averaging about \$170 million annually over the next 35 years.

A **YES** vote allows the state to sell \$4 billion in bonds to fund affordable housing.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; does not allow the state to sell bonds for affordable housing.

**PROP 2** amends Mental Health Services Act to fund the No Place Like Home Program, which finances housing for individuals with mental illness. It ratifies the existing No Place Like Home Program. Fiscal Impact: Allows the state to use up to \$140 million per year of county mental health funds to repay up to \$2 billion in bonds. These bonds would fund housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

A **YES** vote allows the state to use existing county mental health funds to pay for housing for those with mental illness that are homeless.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; does not allow the state to use existing mental health funds to pay for housing.

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**PROP 3** authorizes \$8.877 billion in state general obligation bonds for various infrastructure projects. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds averaging \$430 million per year over 40 years. Local government savings for water-related projects, likely averaging a couple hundred million dollars annually over the next few decades.

A **YES** vote allows the state could sell \$8.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund various water and environmental projects.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; does not allow the state to sell \$8.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund various water and environmental projects.

**PROP 4** authorizes \$1.5 billion in bonds, (repaid from state's General Fund) to fund grants for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipping of qualifying children's hospitals. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds averaging about \$80 million annually over the next 35 years.

A **YES** vote allows the state to sell \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds for the construction, expansion, renovation, and equipping of certain hospitals that treat children.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; the state could not sell the \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds proposed for these purposes.

**PROP 5** removes certain transfer requirements for homeowners over 55, severely disabled homeowners, and contaminated or disaster-destroyed property. Fiscal Impact: Schools and local governments each would lose over \$100 million in annual property taxes early on, growing to about \$1 billion per year. Similar increase in state costs to backfill school property tax losses.

A **YES** vote makes all homeowners, over 55 (or who meet other qualifications), eligible for property tax savings when they move to a different home.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; homeowners who are over 55 (or who meet other current qualifications) would continue to be eligible for property tax savings when they move to a different home.

**PROP 6** repeals a 2017 transportation law's taxes and fees designated for road repairs and public transportation. Fiscal Impact: Reduced ongoing revenues of \$5.1 billion from state fuel and vehicle taxes that mainly would have paid for highway and road maintenance and repairs, as well as transit programs.

A **YES** vote eliminates fuel and vehicle taxes recently passed by the Legislature, reducing funding for highway and road maintenance and repairs, as well as transit programs. The Legislature would be required to get a majority of voters to approve new or increased state fuel and vehicle taxes in the future.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; fuel and vehicle taxes recently passed by the Legislature would continue to be in effect and pay for highway and road maintenance and repairs, as well as transit programs. The Legislature would not need voter approval for new or increased state fuel and vehicle taxes.

**PROP 7** gives the Legislature the ability to change daylight saving time period by two-thirds vote, if changes are consistent with federal law. Fiscal Impact: This measure has no direct fiscal effect.

A **YES** vote allows the Legislature, with a two-thirds vote, to change daylight saving time if the change is allowed by the federal government.

Absent any legislative change, California would maintain its current daylight saving time period (early March to early November).

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; California would maintain its current daylight saving time period.

**PROP 8** regulates amounts outpatient kidney dialysis clinics charge for dialysis treatment. Requires rebates and penalties if charges exceed limit. Requires annual reporting to the state. Prohibits clinics from refusing to treat patients based on payment source. Fiscal Impact: Overall annual effect on state and local governments ranging from net positive impact in the low tens of millions of dollars to net negative impact in the tens of millions of dollars.

A **YES** vote limits revenues currently allotted to Kidney dialysis clinics, and could require these clinics to pay rebates to certain parties (primarily health insurance companies) that pay for dialysis treatment.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; Kidney dialysis clinics would not have their revenues limited by a formula and would not be required to pay rebates.

**PROP 9 REMOVED FROM BALLOT**

**PROP 10** repeals state law that currently restricts the scope of rent control policies that cities and other local jurisdictions may impose on residential property. Fiscal Impact: Potential net reduction in state and local revenues of tens of millions of dollars per year in the long term. Depending on actions by local communities, revenue losses could be less or considerably more.

A **YES** vote makes it so that State law would not limit the kinds of rent control laws cities and counties could have.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; State law would continue to limit the kinds of rent control laws cities and counties could have.

**PROP 11** requires private-sector emergency ambulance employees to remain on-call during work breaks. Eliminates certain employer liability. The law entitling hourly employees to breaks without being on-call would not apply to private-sector ambulance employees. Fiscal Impact: Likely fiscal benefit to local governments (in the form of lower costs and higher revenues), potentially in the tens of millions of dollars each year.

A **YES** vote: Allows private ambulance companies to continue their current practice of having emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics stay on-duty during their meal and rest breaks in order to respond to 911 calls. Private ambulance companies would attempt to reschedule meal and rest breaks that are interrupted by a 911 call.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; Private ambulance companies would be subject to labor laws for this industry. Based on a recent court decision, these laws likely would require ambulance companies to provide EMTs and paramedics with off-duty meal and rest breaks that cannot be interrupted by a 911 call.

**PROP 12** establishes minimum requirements for confining certain farm animals. It prohibits sales of meat and egg products from animals confined in noncomplying manner. Fiscal Impact: Potential decrease in state income tax revenues. State costs up to \$10 million annually to enforce the measure.

A **YES** vote establishes new minimum requirements on farmers to provide more space for egg-laying hens, breeding pigs, and calves raised for veal. California businesses would be banned from selling eggs or uncooked pork or veal that came from animals housed in non-compliant ways.

A **NO** vote keeps the status quo; current minimum space requirements for confining egg-laying hens, pregnant pigs, and calves raised for veal would continue to apply.

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