

Editorial | EDITORIAL: Our recommendations on national, state and local races for Nov. 3 election

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Byline: Editorial Board, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Calif.

Body

Oct. 30—Our recommendations on national, state and local races in the Nov. 3 election:

President: Joe Biden

Time to end chaos, incompetence and mendacity and send President Trump back to private business. Biden will bring a return to decency and a president who respects the rule of law.

District 1, County Supervisor: John Leopold

There are more issues than just the rail trail. Moreover, the county faces some tough choices over the coming year. Experience counts and Leopold works hard for his district.

Santa Cruz City Council: Martine Watkins, Sandy Brown, Maria Cadenas and Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson

Watkins and Brown will provide experience and leadership, while Cadenas looks to be an independent and diverse voice and Kalantari-Johnson is well prepared to immediately be effective.

State Senate, District 17: John Laird

Laird's long years of local and state leadership will ensure Monterey Bay interests are not overlooked in Sacramento.

Proposition 14: No

This measure would authorize the issuance of \$5.5 billion of bonds to finance stem cell research. The aims are worthy, but, the optimistic forecasts made 16 years ago haven't panned out. The stem cell agency can wait for federal grants and private business to come through with new funding rather than saddle taxpayers with repaying \$260 million a year for 30 years.

Proposition 15: No

Prop. 15 is the most direct threat to Proposition 13 in decades. The measure would split off commercial and industrial properties from Prop. 13's protections to raise billions in new taxes. It's a threat to businesses at a time when the state needs economic recovery, not a tax hike.

Proposition 16: Yes

This measure would essentially repeal 1996's Prop. 209 overturning affirmative action preferences. Although the state's public colleges and civil services increasingly reflect the diversity of residents, systemic racism won't magically disappear.

Proposition 17: Yes

Parolees who have done their time should have their voting rights restored rather than being ostracized.

Proposition 18: No

Lowering the voting age further is a stretch, 17 year olds can wait until they're 18 to vote.

Proposition 19: Yes

Provides needed money for fire fighting while allowing Californians 55 years and older to sell their homes and take their taxes with them. Something has to happen to break up the housing logjam and this could help.

Proposition 20: No

The Legislature must do a better job overseeing criminal justice reform. But that doesn't justify this draconian measure, backed mainly by police unions and the state's prison guard union.

Proposition 21: No

This measure would make it easier for local governments to adopt rent control policies. Amid a housing crisis, this would make matters worse. Voters turned down a similar measure just two years ago.

Proposition 22: Yes

Many app-based drivers with companies like Lyft, DoorDash and Uber who put in full days say they like the flexibility to stop working when they want. It's hard to imagine how the app-based services will be able to provide that same flexibility to drivers if they have to treat them as employees and provide the protections that heavy handed AB 5 requires.

Proposition 23: No

This is a cynical effort by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West to raise costs on the dialysis industry in an effort to pressure companies into letting them unionize workers. It won't improve dialysis clinics. It's another measure voters rejected previously.

Proposition 24: No

This measure is a convoluted privacy law that would authorize a new state agency to enforce the already convoluted data privacy state laws. Let the existing law play out before creating another state bureaucracy.

Proposition 25: Yes

A "yes" vote upholds SB10, a bail reform law, while a "no" vote rejects it. It's unjust for anyone accused of a crime to remain locked behind bars because they're poor. SB10 rightfully moves California's pretrial system to a risk-based algorithm system rather than a cash-based one.

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