

LOCAL MEASURES

AA
HUNTINGTON BEACH

Sunset Beach measure

YES

Huntington Beach annexed Sunset Beach last year. Measure AA proposes that Sunset Beach residents pay the same per rata cost for municipal services as their fellow Huntington Beach residents. If the ballot measure is rejected, it would allow Sunset Beach to be a free rider on municipal services that Huntington Beach provides.

BB
IRVINE

Irvine schools measure

NO

Irvine's Measure BB asks voters whether city funds should be used to supplement local schools. This type of use of city funds is not customary of most cities. Irvine residents value their schools, as they should, and that is why Measure BB will likely pass but we encourage deeper study into the fiscal impacts such as an allocation of funds might have on the city.

CC
LAGUNA BEACH

Open space parcel tax measure

NO

Voters supported acquiring, preserving open space after approving a bond measure to buy land and later OK'd protecting open space already purchased. CC would impose a \$120 tax on every parcel and create an appointed oversight committee, paid from the taxes raised. Creating another government committee opens potential for shenanigans and unanticipated costs.

DD
LOS ALAMITOS

Tax on telecommunications

NO

The measure takes over 300 words to describe all of the technologies subject to its tax power, including text messages, cell-phones and electronic billing. It even taxes technologies not yet invented and prohibits residents from seeking an injunction against those taxes. If federal law allows taxing the Internet, Measure DD lets Los Alamitos tax it, too, without voter approval.

EE
NEWPORT BEACH

Charter amendment

NO

The measure makes 25 modifications to Newport's city charter; opponents find 38 changes. If it wins, all the changes go into effect. If it loses, no changes occur. Some of the changes in this new measure are laudable; others raise concerns. Forcing a vote on so many issues in one measure, instead of giving voters the ability to vet each individually, is problematic.

FF
ORANGE

Orange Park Acres

YES

Orange residents want more parks, open space, but the burden should not fall unfairly upon the developer of the proposed Ridgeline Equestrian Estates. Opponents want to force JMI Real Estate, owner of old Sully-Miller Sand and Gravel Mine, to gift much of the mine's 110-acres to the city. In exchange, the city would allow the company to move forward with its plan to redevelop the 51-acre golf-course site.

GG
SANTA ANA

Charter amendment

NO

There are no term limits for mayor. Mayor Miguel Pulido, first elected in 1994, is running again. Measure GG is clearly aimed at him. The council meeting that put the measure on the ballot was chaired by Councilman David Benavides, who this November is challenging Mr. Pulido for the job. We long have favored term limits but they are not a panacea for political problems.

CITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS

Aliso Viejo

3 should keep seats

Councilman Greg Ficke, Mayor Pro Tem William "Bill" Phillips and Mayor Don Garcia deserve to keep their seats. Aliso Viejo has maintained its fiscal strength by adhering to conservative budgeting practices.



Ficke Phillips Garcia

Anaheim

Kring, Leos stand out

We support Lucille Kring and John Leos, who stand out among the crowd of nine candidates. Ms. Kring, having served on the city council previously, acutely understands the issues facing Anaheim. Mr. Leos impressed us in his candidate interview where he was brimming with ideas on gang violence, pension reform, education and bolstering the local economy. Neither candidate is endorsed by Anaheim's police and fire unions.



Kring



Leos

Brea

Seasoned candidates

The Brea City Council has been somewhat besieged the past year. We endorse Marty Simonoff and Steven Vargas. Both have prior Council experience. They have the kind of seasoning the Council needs as it labors to keep Brea's fiscal house in order.



Simonoff Vargas

Buena Park

Political courage

We endorse Fred Smith's reelection. Mr. Smith has suggested the police union rein in costs or be disbanded. He promises that if they do not, Buena Park will outsource its police protection to the Sheriff's Department. For this fiscal year, the Police Department budget of \$25.3 million, which is nearly half of the city's entire general fund budget is \$54.46 million.



Smith

Costa Mesa

Solid leadership

Costa Mesa has put forth a model of what ought to be done to reform municipal finances and empower city residents - the taxpayers - by reigning in the power of special interests, pushing for a more transparent government and incubating new policy approaches, such as privatizing city services where it makes sense to do so. The city needs continued leadership of the sort we believe Councilmen Steve Mensinger and Gary Monahan, plus candidate Colin McCarthy would provide.



Mesinger Monahan McCarthy

Cypress

No endorsements

The Editorial Board has decided not to endorse in this contest. All four candidates appear sincere and well-intentioned, but we did not find that any candidate clearly surpassed the others in aligning with the Register's preference for small, limited government.

Dana Point

Eminent domain

We endorse Carlos N. Olvera, a retired engineer and former chairman of the Orange County grand jury, and Ed Stevenson, an electronics firm manager. Both men oppose use of the city's power of eminent domain to encourage private development.



Olvera Stevenson

Fountain Valley

Pension reformers

Councilman Steve Nagel's role in getting Fountain Valley's fiscal house in order did not ingratiate him in certain quarters. The city's police and firefighters neglected to endorse him for reelection after backing his council candidacy four years ago. Nagel has earned a second term. We also endorse newcomer Patrick Tucker, who favors pension reform.



Nagel



Tucker

Fullerton

Obvious choices

Of our three endorsements, the most obvious choice is Councilman Bruce Whitaker, first on the council to call for a probe of the death of Kelly Thomas and a champion of reforming pensions for city employees. Council newcomer Travis Kiger kept his campaign promise to overturn a controversial city water tax. Jennifer Fitzgerald, we believe, would be a strong steward of city resources and is committed to private property rights.



Whitaker Fitzgerald Kiger

Garden Grove

No endorsements

The Editorial Board has decided not to endorse in either the race for City Council or mayor.

Huntington Beach

Revenue, no new tax

We urge voters to choose Dave Sullivan, Erik Peterson and Barbara Delgleize. The main challenge for the next city council, says Mr. Peterson, is to find new revenue sources without "further burdening" the city's 190,000 residents though higher taxes and fees.



Sullivan Peterson Delgleize

Irvine

Fiscally sound

Voters should support Christina Shea and Lynn Schott. Ms. Schott was the only candidate that offered an idea to increase the efficiency of services offered to city residents. Ms. Shea is a former Irvine mayor, 1996-2000, and served two previous stints as a councilwoman. She has been a consistent voice for sound fiscal management at City Hall.



Schott



Shea

La Habra

Uncontested race

In La Habra, the Council re-appointed Tom Beamish, Tim Shaw and Rose Espinoza.

La Palma

Carruth, Smith & Kim

Robert Carruth is a 20-year resident and business executive whose background gives him an edge in that he understands La Palma may have to pare down some services to stay afloat without draining reserve funds. We also endorse Sylvia Colannino Smith, who works as a financial analyst and is a newcomer to the political arena, and Peter Kim, who is with the La Palma Traffic Committee.



Carruth Smith Kim

Laguna Beach

Dictorow promising

Voters in Laguna Beach will choose Nov. 6 from among five candidates to fill two seats on the City Council; the two incumbents are seeking reelection. We endorse one of the challengers: business owner and lawyer Steve Dictorow. Mr. Dictorow appears to be the most promising of five candidates.



Dictorow

Laguna Hills

Blount & Mathur

We endorse Andrew Blount and Raghu Mathur. Mr. Blount's top priority, he said, is fiscal responsibility. City Council members are "stewards" he said, "of the collective resources" of Laguna Hills residents. Mr. Mathur had an uneasy relationship with employee unions after tough negotiations over compensation and benefits.



Blount Mathur

MORE ONLINE

For full 2012 Election recommendations and endorsements: www.ocregister.com/opinion

STATE PROPOSITIONS

TAX HIKE

30

YES
 NO

Temporary taxes to fund education. Increases taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for 7 years and sales taxes by 1/4 cent for 4 years to fund schools.

Punishing taxpayers

Prop. 30 would raise high earners' income taxes for 7 years and sales tax by 1/4 cent for four years. Despite increasing spending 5.6 percent this year, Gov. Jerry Brown says the tax increases are necessary. The rate for people earning more than \$250,000 a year, or \$500,000 for joint filers, would increase to make California's top rate the nation's highest. California already has the nation's highest sales-tax rate. State government isn't a victim of catastrophes beyond lawmakers' control. Taxpayers shouldn't be punished for actions by those controlling the purse strings.

2-YEAR BUDGET

31

YES
 NO

Establishes 2-year budget. Sets rules for offsetting new expenditures, and governor budget cuts in fiscal emergencies.

Unwelcome provision

This initiative boasts provisions the Register heartily embraces, including a two-year budget cycle in Sacramento, a "pay-go" requirement that new outlays of \$25 million or more identify a new funding source, empowerment of the governor to cut the budget during a duly declared fiscal emergency if the Legislature fails to act, and a requirement that bills be made public at least three days prior to a vote by the Legislature. But those welcome reforms are outweighed, in our view, by an exceedingly unwelcome provision that would create an entirely new layer of local government.

UNION FUNDS

32

YES
 NO

Prohibits unions, corporations and government contractors from using payroll-deducted funds for political purposes.

A needed reform

Prop. 32 would prohibit union contributions to state and local candidates. It imposes a similar donation ban on corporations. Prop. 32 bans automatic paycheck deductions for political purposes by unions or corporations. Union members already can "opt out" of such deductions, but few choose to do so. Under Prop. 32, union members still would be able to make personal contributions to campaigns. The need for reform is compelling. Any infringements on free speech will be sorted out by inevitable court challenges.

INSURANCE

33

YES
 NO

Changes law to allow insurance companies to set prices based on whether the driver previously carried auto insurance with any insurance company.

Risk and reward

When it comes to pricing insurance, it's best to match risk and reward, and the only way to match risk with reward is by using information about past behavior. Insurance markets fail when that information is not forthcoming, or when it is deliberately withheld, as it currently is in California, thanks to Proposition 103. Under California law, drivers who follow the rules and carry car insurance earn a discount after 5 years of continuous coverage. But if they decide to switch insurance carriers, or drop coverage because of illness or military service, they lose that discount. They ought not to.

DEATH PENALTY

34

YES
 NO

Repeals death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to existing death sentences.

Slippery slope

If voters agree, California no longer would have a death penalty. The 700-plus inmates on death row would have their sentences reduced to prison without parole. If prison without possibility of parole becomes the toughest penalty, then a slippery slope could develop in which lesser penalties could be imposed for heinous crimes. Eventually, we could end up like Norway, where Anders Behring Breivik murdered 69 people last year and was given that country's harshest penalty, 21 years in prison. We remain open to a future initiative; for now we believe it serves a worthwhile purpose.

<p>HH TUSTIN</p> <p>Eliminates Council pay, benefits</p> <p>YES</p> <p>One of the best ways to guarantee that service is as selfless as it ought to be is to make it uncompensated. That's why we endorse this measure, which eliminates City Council pay. While we do endorse, it's not a panacea for local governments. There's nothing in HH to prohibit council members from lobbying city officials once out of office. Still, it's a good start.</p>	<p>M-S MULTIPLE CITIES</p> <p>School bonds (K-12, community college)</p> <p>NO</p> <p>Measures M through S are six new school bonds. If school districts really need these bonds they should seek the former two-thirds supermajority, which they are allowed to do under Prop. 39, rather than 55 percent approval. The measures affect the Coast and Rancho Santiago community college districts and K-12 school districts in Fountain Valley, La Habra and Tustin.</p>	<p>T,U BREA</p> <p>Accountability (T); Open governance (U) measures</p> <p>NO</p> <p>Hardly anyone has been harder on Brea's city government than these pages. Nevertheless, we cannot support Measures T, the Brea Accountability Act, and U, the Brea Open Governance Act. Measure T seems less about accountability than about targeting selected Brea officials by limiting their paychecks. And Measure U duplicates existing state laws.</p>	<p>V COSTA MESA</p> <p>City charter measure</p> <p>YES</p> <p>The Register Ed Board has endorsed many of the council majority's efforts. It would be wrong to deny them the tools - the charter measure - to further much-needed reforms. Under the California Constitution, charter cities make their own rules and are more autonomous. Enacting a city charter in Costa Mesa would allow for more local control.</p>	<p>W FULLERTON</p> <p>West Coyote Hills measure</p> <p>YES</p> <p>Fullerton voters should use this measure to demonstrate the city's commitment to private property rights, where the private owner has taken into account residents' desire for more open space. A city-approved independent environmental impact report addressed earthquake and other concerns, finding that development plans protect the environment and quality of life in Fullerton.</p>	<p>X FULLERTON</p> <p>Fireworks ban measure</p> <p>YES</p> <p>If approved, fireworks deemed "safe and sane" by the Council could be sold, possessed, and exploded in Fullerton each year from June 28 to July 6. In so doing, we endorse with a few caveats. The council would still retain the authority to decide which fireworks are "safe and sane," a standard which is often confusing to busy-bodies and city councils alike.</p>	<p>Y GARDEN GROVE</p> <p>Hotel visitors' tax increase measure</p> <p>NO</p> <p>Measure Y asks voters to increase taxes on tourists, visitors who stay in the city's hotels so they "pay their fair share" for city services. But how fair is the tax? Measure Y rewords city code to include "time-share" projects and "recreational vehicle spaces." For establishments newly added, the tax increase won't be a mere 1.5 percent, but a new tax of 14.5 percent.</p>	<p>Z HUNTINGTON BEACH</p> <p>City charter amendment</p> <p>YES</p> <p>The measure would do away with the portion of the city's annual property tax assessment that goes to some city employee pension costs. Huntington Beach is the only OC city that imposes extra levies on property owners to subsidize public employee retirements. The measure was written to force the city's mayor and council to deal squarely with its pension crisis now rather than later.</p>
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Laguna Niguel

A well-run city

Laguna Niguel is a well-run, financially strong city. All of the candidates profess to be fiscally conservative and pro-business. Our endorsement decisions came down to candidates' experience. We endorse Jerry McCloskey, Laurie Davies, and Brad Barber. "It's a well-run city," Mr. McCloskey told us. "We need to keep it going."



Lake Forest

Limited government

Of seven candidates running for two open seats on the Lake Forest City Council, two rank highest when measured against the Register's long-standing principles of small, limited government: Dwight Robinson, a local business owner; and Jim Gardner, a clinical psychologist. Each has particular strengths we believe can serve the city well.



Los Alamitos

Fresh faces, ideas

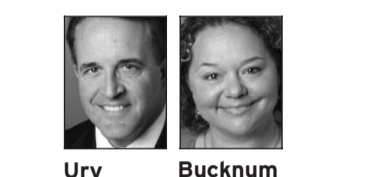
We'd like to see new faces and fresh ideas at City Hall and endorse Richard D. Murphy, whose independence and fiscal probity would be a welcome reprieve from the lock-step behavior of the current council majority. He favors reforming city employee pensions, making them more in line with the private sector.

Mission Viejo

No union money

We chose Councilman Frank Ury and candidate Wendy Bucknum, in part, because they have not

sought endorsements or campaign contributions from public employee unions. Each also opposes the city's use of eminent domain to acquire private property to turn over to developers.



Newport Beach

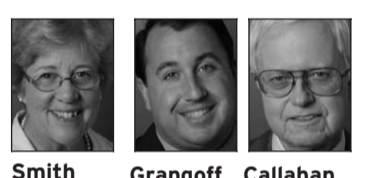
Uncontested race

In Newport Beach, incumbents Keith D. Curry in District 7 and Edward Selich in District 5 will be joined on the Council by businessman Anthony Petros in District 2. The race is uncontested. Candidates who filed for each seat will be deemed elected just as if they had won a landslide.

Orange

Right for now

We choose Tita Smith for mayor. She sees the need for public-employee pension reform and wants to move city employees to plans that mirror those in the private sector, such as a 401(k). For the City Council race, we choose Ray Grangoff and Richard Callahan. Both candidates demonstrate financial prudence.



Placentia

Problem solvers

Incumbent Council members Scott Nelson, Constance "Connie" Underhill and Jeremy Yamaguchi have made progress restoring the city's fiscal health. They have made pragmatic financial decisions and deserve another term.



RSM

Beall, Gamble & McGirr

We endorse Mayor Tony Beall and Councilwoman Carol Gamble in the race in which the top two vote-getters wing four-terms. We also endorse Brad McGirr in a separate race to fulfill the final two years of the council post vacated last year.



San Clemente

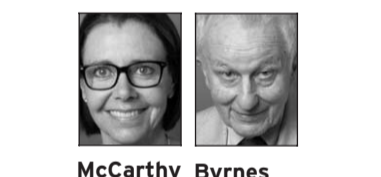
Less rigid on buildings

We endorse candidates Jim Dahl and Mike Mortenson, who are less doctrinaire about building height limits. Mr. Dahl noted that San Clemente boasts some beautiful three-story buildings (and not-so-beautiful two-stories). Mr. Mortenson argues that building projects should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

San Juan Capistrano

Common sense

In our view, the best choices to lead San Juan Capistrano are Kim McCarthy, a political newcomer, and Dr. Roy Byrnes, a former San Juan mayor. Both are members of Capistrano Common Sense, an activist group that has highlighted water, debt and traffic issues facing the city.



Santa Ana

Hart with an edge

We endorse Charles Hart, a contract administrator for the Orange

County Health Care Agency, for the Ward 3 council race. His private-sector experience in the finance and insurance gives him an edge. Besides balancing the budget, he seeks to promote more non-profit organizations that work in gang prevention and rehabilitation. We have chosen not to endorse any candidate for Santa Ana mayor or for the Ward 5 seat.

Seal Beach

Uncontested race

The race is uncontested. Three Seal Beach government offices were up for election in November. Only the incumbents pulled papers to run.

Stanton

Tough decision makers

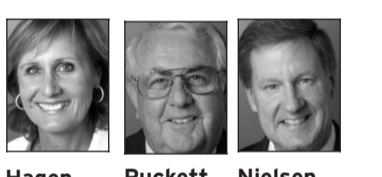
Councilman Al Ethans and Mayor Carol Warren have spent the past several years on the Council making hard - but necessary - decisions to avert insolvency. On their watch, the council reduced the size of every department at City Hall, and even shut the building down Fridays to save tax dollars. They also cut back some police and pared down other services.



Tustin

Hagen, Puckett, Nielsen

We endorse Tracy Worley Hagen, a former mayor and council member. We also choose Chuck Puckett, another former Tustin mayor, who currently leads the Planning Commission. Lastly, we endorse Councilman John Nielsen and feel he has earned another term. We hope they will work to alleviate



Council's trouble with the Tustin Unified School District.

Villa Park

An uncontested race

Villa Park's three open seats will be filled by Diana Fascenelli, Greg Mills and incumbent Richard Barnett. The race is uncontested.

Westminster

Rutkowski, Chi, Mach

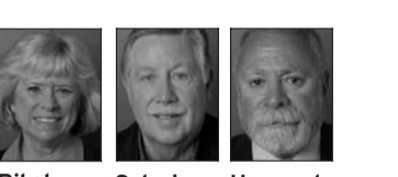
Voters should choose Helena Rutkowski, a retired school board trustee, and Charlie Nguyen Manh Chi, an engineer who brings to the table his leadership in business, to fill the two City Council seats. Ha Minh Mach, running for mayor, has also earned our endorsement. He has not shied away from asking tough questions.



Yorba Linda

Saved city millions

For having the courage to make the tough decision of ending the 42-year contract with the Brea police department and going with the Sheriff's Department, we endorse incumbents Nancy Rikel and Mark Schwing for re-election. In so doing, they made the necessary move and saved their city nearly a million dollars a year. We also endorse former law enforcement officer Gene Hernandez, who is running for city council. To read the full endorsement, see Monday's Opinion section or go to www.ocregister.com/opinion.



SEX TRAFFICKING

35

YES NO

Increases prison sentences and fines for human trafficking convictions. Requires convicted human traffickers to register as sex offenders.

Protect children

Selling humans for the purpose of trafficking them for sex or forced labor has no place in civilized society. Prop. 35 borrows from federal law and applies it to California's existing codes to expand definitions of human trafficking. It empowers the state to increase penalties for perpetrators and protect children from victimization. It requires registered sex offenders to provide names of their Internet service providers and online identifiers to local law enforcement.

3-STRIKES LAW

36

YES NO

Revises law to impose life sentence only when third felony conviction is serious or violent. May authorize re-sentencing if 3rd strike conviction was not serious.

Violent offenses

Prop. 36, the Three-Strikes Reform Act, would revise the state's 18-year-old three-strikes law to impose a life sentence only when an offender's third strike is serious or violent. It would maintain life sentences for felons with non-serious, non-violent third strikes if prior convictions were for rape, murder or child molestation; and for felons convicted of certain non-serious, non-violent sex or drug offenses, or if they involved firearm possession. The Register recommends a yes vote.

FOOD LABELING

37

YES NO

Requires labeling of food sold to consumers made from plants or animals with genetic material changed in specified ways. Prohibits marketing as "natural."

A vague mandate

Prop. 37 would require labeling of foods that have been genetically modified. Backers believe that consumers are entitled to know about what is in their food and as such, government should demand labeling. While we would encourage the utmost disclosure, especially as it pertains to food, we recognize that information comes at a cost and is best parsed in the marketplace, not with a coercive mandate. And in the case of this particular mandate, its vagueness opens the door to far too many unintended consequences.

TAX HIKE

38

YES NO

Increases taxes on earnings using sliding scale, for 12 years. Revenues to K-12 schools, early childhood programs and 4 years to repaying debt.

Spend less first

Prop. 38 would raise income taxes on a sliding scale for 12 years. Although it would increase taxes for nearly all income earners, Prop. 38 would not only mean the more one earns the more he pays but, by ratcheting up the state's progressive tax code, it would mean higher earners pay disproportionately more. If Prop. 30 and Prop. 38 pass, only the one receiving the most votes will be enacted. It is ill-advised to pour more tax money into the system after having spent so much tax revenue so badly. Future tax revenue taxpayers more, substantial reforms in government should be enacted.

TAX HIKE

39

YES NO

Requires out-of-state businesses to pay taxes bases on a percentage of sales in state. Funds go to clean/efficient energy projects for 5 years.

Burdening business

Prop. 39 would eliminate the option for companies with headquarters out of state to choose the least-burdensome formula for paying their California taxes. This \$1 billion tax increase would force out-of-state companies to pay California sales taxes on in-state sales. Companies headquartered out-of-state would lose the option of choosing the lowest of three taxing formulas - using sales, property or payroll. Prop. 39 targets out-of-state businesses with a punitive annual tax increase that would increase customer prices and discourage hiring. It's a bad idea.

REDISTRICTING

40

YES NO

"No" vote rejects new State Senate districts drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Committee. If rejected, districts will be adjusted with court supervision.

Open-and-shut case

Prop. 40 was a product of the California Republican Party, led by Sen. Mimi Walters, R-Laguna Niguel. Now the party and the lawmaker have both dropped their challenge to the new districts. There is no doubt that there were some valid concerns about the new citizens redistricting panel, including that some interests succeeded in packing the panel with their supporters. Still, the citizens panel is preferable to again having lawmakers draw their own districts, in essence, picking their own voters. The process is not perfect, but we hope it will improve. Vote yes.