

MarinaTimes

Special Election Section

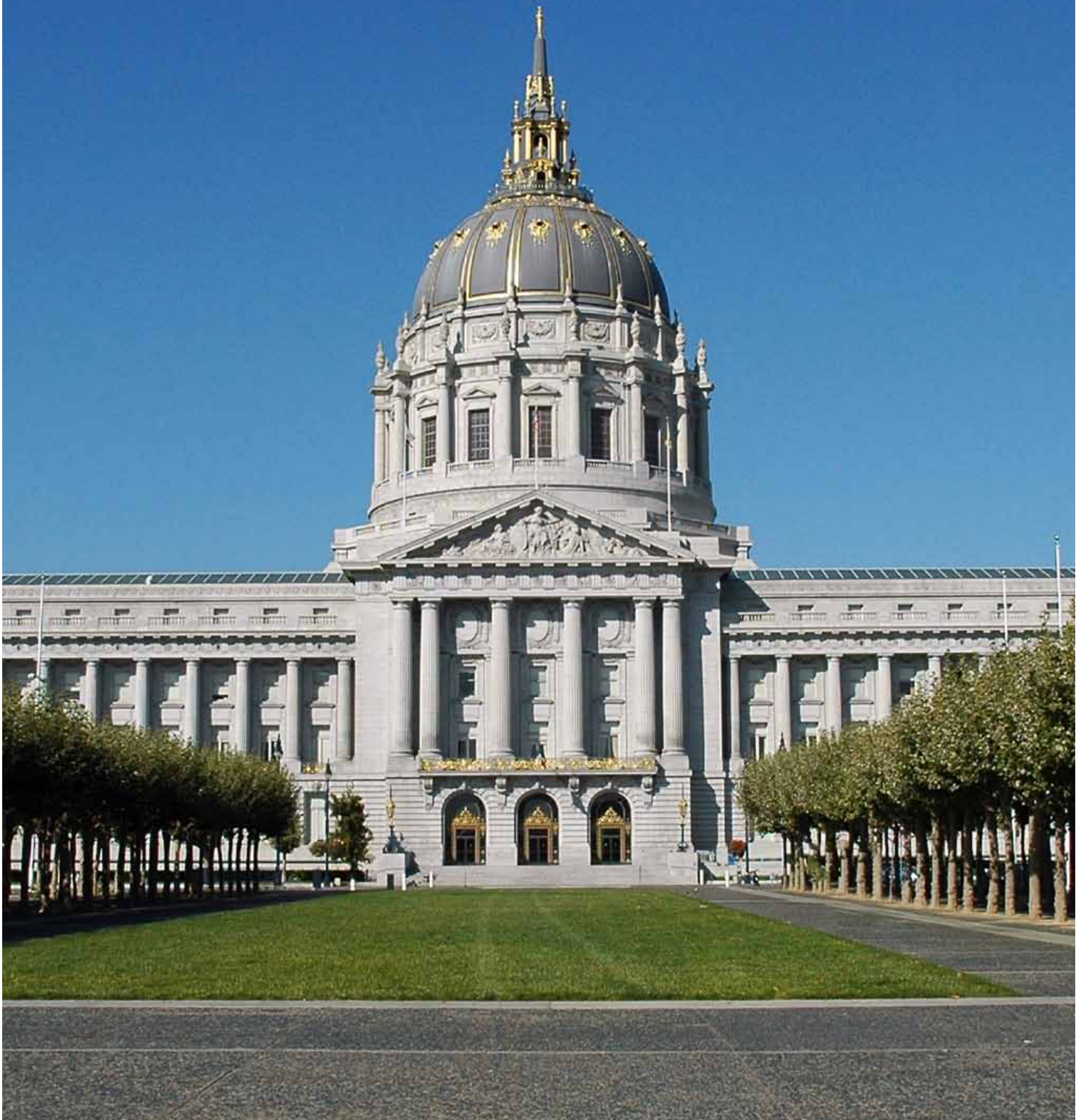


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Election roundtable

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Left to right: Dr. Larry Gerston, Josh Richman, and Carla Marinucci discuss the November election with moderator John Zipperer. PHOTO: VALERIE CASTRO

Election 2014 hot topics

A lively political roundtable looks at the issues and people on this November's ballot

by john zipperer

AS CALIFORNIA VOTERS PREPARE to fill out their ballots in person at the polling booth or by mail, one of the biggest challenges is making sense of all of the different candidates, offices and propositions on the ballot. The Commonwealth Club's Week to Week political roundtable brought together three of the Bay Area's top political analysts to give their input.

The panelists include San Jose State University political science professor Dr. Larry Gerston, who is also a political analyst with NBC Bay Area; Bay Area News Group state and national politics reporter Josh Richman; and *San Francisco Chronicle* senior political writer Carla Marinucci.

JOHN ZIPPERER: A new poll has come out showing what Californians think about Congress. What do they think and does it matter?

LARRY GERSTON: Thirteen percent approve of Congress; 75 percent don't, and the other 12 percent probably want to wring

their necks anyway. It is unbelievable. It is not an all-time low; the all-time low is 9 percent. But the last several years, it's hovered between 9 and 13 percent. It's very, very unfortunate. That was from a Field Poll.

Then you ask Californians, "What do you think of *your* member of Congress?" It's slightly better; 36 percent say they are doing a great job, which is down by 8 just from April.

So here we are rushing toward election time and more than ever people are perplexed, they're upset. This economy seems to be improving in name only and for everybody but me — that type of thing. We've got all kinds of data out there that shows our standard of living is going down, while corporate profits are soaring. A lot of people are not too happy. They think something ought to be done, and of course we have nothing being done.

JOSH RICHMAN: Everybody says

"Throw the bums out, but maybe not my bum." Historically that's been what the polls find. But now we start to find this reversal, where actually more people are disapproving of their own members than approving. Is that a problem for the contested incumbents here in California?

GERSTON: I think it's going to be a problem for four or five races, where they were extremely close to begin with. You know, a couple of races like the Palm Springs seat — Paul Ruiz. There are a couple Republicans just hanging on in the Orange County area.

But I think it could be one of those times where there are some seats that change hands. Though in an off-year, the turnout is lower; the predictability goes wacko. So things we might normally expect during a presidential year don't occur. I think we can expect to be surprised.

CARLA MARINUCCI: This is where I think Democrats are nervous this year. Because, being that it's an off-year, Democrats don't turn out as much. Republicans are much more motivated. They're still upset about Obamacare, they are still more motivated to vote against Obama, particularly in Senate races, not here, but obviously across the country. This is where Democrats are nervous.

ZIPPERER: What do you think about Tim Draper's failed Six Californias proposal?

MARINUCCI: [Draper raised his] name recognition for whatever [he wants] to do in the future. We're seeing this more and more, with these wealthy candidates or people who want to play in the political arena.

GERSTON: That's the real upside of the [GOP gubernatorial candidate Neel] Kashkari campaign; not that he wins this time, but go four years out and there's no incumbent, people are tired of the one party that's been ruling. Kashkari says, "Look, I've been telling you this for four years. Now

ELECTION, continued on B4

"In an off-year, turnout is lower; predictability goes wacko."

VOTER INFORMATION :: What, when, where, how

THE NOV. 4, 2014, election actually starts well in advance of that date, with in many places a majority of voters casting their ballots early. We have compiled some information to help you this voting season.

TO REGISTER

To be able to vote in this election, your registration card must be received by the Department of Elections by Oct. 20.

If you want to vote by mail, your request needs to be received by Oct. 28; you can either apply online to vote by mail only for this election, or you can fill out a paper form and send that in to request mail voting for all elections. Go to sfelections.org/tools/voterkit/index.html.

WHERE TO VOTE

If you don't already know where to vote, you can look up your nearest polling place

in an online directory. The Department of Elections will post this feature in early Oct., and it will be found at sfelections.org/tools/pollsite/.

You can also vote early at City Hall beginning Oct. 6. The hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday, Oct. 6–Nov. 4; 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, Oct. 25–26 and Nov. 1–2 (use the *Grove Street entrance*); and 7 a.m.–8 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

WHEN TO VOTE

Early voting — whether by mail or at City Hall — begins on Oct. 6.

On election day, Nov. 4, polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

Offices

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- U.S. Representative in Congress: Districts 12 and 14
- Secretary of State
- Controller

- State Assembly: Districts 17 and 19
- State Treasurer
- Attorney General
- Insurance Commissioner
- Member, State Board of Equalization: District 2
- Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Justices of the California Supreme Court
- Justices of the California Courts of Appeal
- Superior Court Judge: Office Number 20
- BART Board of Directors: District 8
- Board of Education
- Community College Board
- Assessor-Recorder
- Public Defender
- Board of Supervisors: Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10

State Measures

- Proposition 1: Water Bond; Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment and Storage Projects
- Proposition 2: State Budget; Budget Stabilization Account

- Proposition 45: Health Insurance; Rate Changes
- Proposition 46: Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors; Medical Negligence Lawsuits
- Proposition 47: Criminal Sentences; Misdemeanor Penalties
- Proposition 48: Indian Gaming Compacts

Local Measures

- Proposition A: San Francisco Transportation and Road Improvement Bond
- Proposition B: Adjusting Transportation Funding for Population Growth
- Proposition C: Children's Fund; Public Education Enrichment Fund; Children and Families Council; Rainy Day Reserve
- Proposition D: Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees
- Proposition E: Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages
- Proposition F: Pier 70
- Proposition G: Additional Transfer Tax on Residential

Property Sold Within 5 Years of Purchase

- Proposition H: Requiring Certain Golden Gate Park Athletic Fields to Be Kept As Grass With No Artificial Lighting
- Proposition I: Renovation of Playgrounds, Walking Trails, and Athletic Fields
- Proposition J: Minimum Wage Increase
- Proposition K: Affordable Housing
- Proposition L: Policy Regarding Transportation Priorities

POLITICS IN ACTION

You can complete your participation in this democratic exercise by watching streaming video of the processing of the mail votes. It will be available on the Department of Elections website at sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=4080.

Sources: City and County of San Francisco Department of Elections; Ballotpedia; California Secretary of State

On Tuesday, November 4th,
Vote to Re-elect Supervisor

MARK FARRELL

Making A Difference for Our Neighborhoods



Mark is working to help small businesses like Poetica on Sacramento Street, start up and succeed. Mark authored legislation creating a tax credit so small businesses can hire more employees and create more local jobs.



Mark is working with neighborhood residents to renovate Mountain Lake Park, including cleaning up the Lake and replacing outdated play structures with safer, modern equipment for kids to enjoy.



Mark worked with neighborhood groups to develop a plan for the Francisco Reservoir on Russian Hill. Over the next three years, the reservoir will be turned into a 4.5 acre park, one of the largest pieces of open space in the area.



www.markfarrell.com

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**He'll clean up the mess left by
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Gerston says Neel Kashkari's really playing for the future. PHOTO: VALERIE CASTRO

ELECTION

CONTINUED from page B2

listen to me. Let's do something." To me, this is the time that he's just sowing seeds. Whether they sprout the way he wants is another story. But I think it's a really inexpensive way for him to get an awful lot of press.

MARINUCCI: Yeah. No one knew who Neel Kashkari was on the West Coast. He was a darling of Wall Street for a while; he was under the lights there as the administrator of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP. I think he kinda got hooked on that spotlight and came out here and didn't realize what a big lift it was going to be to become known. After spending \$2 million of his own money, which is really nothing in California, he's still unknown by 75 percent of the voters, and Jerry Brown is still 21 points ahead and \$22 million richer in the campaign.

RICHMAN: True, but I think I agree a little bit more with what Larry said, in that [Kashkari] did manage to beat out the Tea Party darling in the primary. Ultimately Neel Kashkari is too smart of an individual to think that he was gonna beat a governor who has this breadth and depth of experience in office, who has these kind of popularity numbers, who's had this kind of success by some standards during his third term in office. I think he's laying a foundation for a future career. If he manages to get through this final month and a half of campaigning without seeming overly rude or aggressive or burning any sort of bridges, if he comes out looking like he fought the good fight, he's in a great position to run again somewhere down the line.

MARINUCCI: It seems like it's just going to be a total rout. I kind of wonder what his future would be in elective office in California.

What we're looking at right now on the governor's race is one of the most unusual campaigns we've ever seen in California. There is no campaign; Jerry Brown hasn't appeared in a single ad. He's not even on the web

— and that doesn't even cost anything. He is so cheap; he's spending nothing. And he is 21 points ahead. The guy is a master. It's insane to watch him out there. He was just in San Francisco this last week swearing in a thousand members of AmeriCorps, the volunteer group. They had "This is the man who basically [is] the modern founder of public service, he founded the California Conservation Corps, before most of you were born." Then they went back to his resume, back to '71 when he was first elected. He doesn't need to spend money; as somebody I talked to today said, he's been governing here since the earth cooled.

RICHMAN: He doesn't need to spend money. It hurts his soul to spend money he doesn't have to spend.

MARINUCCI: This is the place that we've seen these orgies of spending and mudslinging and craziness. More than a decade ago, Gray Davis was killing Bill Simon, a \$100 million campaign. You saw the last one, with Meg Whitman and Jerry Brown. This is just nothing, and to watch Jerry Brown really kind of sail toward it without lifting a finger ...

RICHMAN: Because half of the Republicans I saw at the [GOP party] convention in March were saying, "Well, we don't trust *this* guy, we are not sure of his Republican bona fides. We are more comfortable with the other Republican in the race, Tim Donnelly." The other half are saying "Four more years of Jerry Brown? Eh, could be worse."

ZIPPERER: Let's talk about some propositions. What are some of the big ones voters will be facing?

MARINUCCI: I think voters are going to probably be most interested in the water bond. It's really historic. Jerry Brown got both sides together on it — that's another thing he's touting. Look, we haven't constructed dams or water storage in this state for decades. Finally some of this can get done in the drought. A lot of newspapers are already arguing for this. I think you're going to see the governor come out on it as

well, as well as the rainy day fund, which is another thing where the idea is to protect California in times of economic downturn, get more money into these funds, to protect California with its pension liability. These are the kind of big-picture items that Jerry Brown loves.

RICHMAN: But what you're going to see the most TV ads for are props 45 and 46. Prop 45 is a measure to give the state insurance commissioner authority to essentially reject health insurance rate hikes that he finds are excessive. He already has this authority for property and auto insurance, and this authority exists in certain other states. They want to extend it to health insurance rate hikes. The insurance industry is going bananas over this. They are putting tens of millions of dollars into the campaign against it. It is supported by the current insurance commissioner, unsurprisingly, as well as by consumer advocates and consumer attorneys.

Prop 46 is a measure that would raise the cap on non-economic medical malpractice damages. It's been set at \$250,000 for the past 39 years. This would index it to inflation, which would immediately boost it up over \$1 million. The measure also would require random drug testing for doctors, and it would require doctors to start consulting an already existing database used to weed out drug abusers who go doctor-shopping, trying to get narcotics. Again you've got the lawyers and the consumer advocates on one side, and you've got the doctors and the health insurers on the other side. Put together, with those two initiatives you're probably looking at at least \$80, \$90 million getting spent.

GERSTON: Over \$100 million; \$58 million on one and \$30 on the other.

RICHMAN: The radio ads have begun, the TV ads have begun. You've probably seen some already. The mail will start hitting your mailbox around the same time as your vote by mail ballots.

MARINUCCI: A lot of people are going to be watching this malpractice

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CITY AT LARGE :: The props people are talking about

What the propositions mean

by John Zipperer

HERE IS A BRIEF OVERVIEW of some propositions.

Prop A: San Francisco Transportation and Road Improvement Bond. If passed, this proposition would issue general obligation bonds to borrow up to \$500 million for infrastructure work, including bike lanes, upgraded Muni/BART stops, traffic and pedestrian signals, improved Muni

maintenance facilities, and changes to curb bulbouts, crosswalks, bike parking, and median islands.

Prop B: Adjusting Transportation Funding for Population Growth. As reported in last month's *Marina Times*, this prop created significant controversy between its supporters on the Board of Supervisors (six supported it; four — including District 2's Mark Farrell — opposed it) and Mayor Ed Lee. Prop B would tie increases to Muni's budget to

increases in San Francisco's population, which is projected to top 1 million in the next couple decades. Opponents have expressed concern it would restrict the flexibility of city department heads in budgeting.

Proposition E: The City of San Francisco Sugary Drink Tax. Proposed by District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, Prop E would impose a tax of two cents per ounce on sugary drinks, defined as beverages with added sugar and 25 or more

calories per 12 ounces. That would cover many soft drinks (hence the term "soda tax"), but it would exclude beverages such as natural fruit and vegetable juices, diet sodas, infant formulas, and more.

Proposition J: The City of San Francisco Minimum Wage Act of 2014 Initiative. Backed by Mayor Ed Lee, the Board of Supervisors, and an unlikely coalition of business and labor organizations, Prop J would raise the hourly minimum wage on a schedule: \$12.25 by May 1, 2015; \$13 by July 2016; \$14 by July 2017; \$15 by July 2018. The Golden Gate Restaurant Association has criticized the plan, arguing that tipped

employees should be exempted and the group had sought a longer implementation calendar.

Prop L: The "Restore Transportation Balance" parking meter and traffic laws initiative. Prop L would prohibit the city from charging parking meter fees on Sundays and holidays, and other days beyond the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; prohibit the installation of new parking meters without the consent of affected neighborhood residents and businesses; and prevent the city for at least five years from increasing rates for parking garages, meters and tickets, and tying increases after five years to the Consumer Price Index.



A MASSIVE NEW HOUSING TAX

will only make the housing crisis worse and hurt **Marina residents** — vote no on Prop. G.

Paid for by Stop the Housing Tax, No on G, a coalition of homeowners, renters and real estate organizations. Major funding by National Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization PAC Committee and San Francisco Association of Realtors, 425 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, FPPC #1869949

Prop. G imposes a massive new tax on many homes, including single-family homes with in-law units, sold in San Francisco. This new tax of up to 24% of the total sales price of a home is one of the highest taxes ever levied in San Francisco or any city.¹ Worse, not one cent is obligated to go towards creating more housing — it can all be diverted to other uses.

Take a closer look at exactly who gets hurt if Prop. G becomes law:

New Homebuyers and Renters Lose: There are zero protections against passing on all the costs to new owners or new tenants.

Owners Forced to Sell Homes Lose: Owners forced to sell because they face an illness, job loss or job transfer are not protected from Prop. G.

Seniors Lose: Their retirement nest eggs could be scrambled by this massive new tax.

People Looking for Affordable Rentals Lose: Prop. G creates an incentive for homeowners to take secondary rentals, known as in-law units, off the market — leading to even higher rents.

San Franciscans deserve thoughtful solutions to address our housing crisis, not Prop. G.

Find out why Supervisor Mark Farrell, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Alliance for Jobs and Sustainable Growth, City Democratic Club, the *Bay Area Reporter* and many others say no on Prop. G.

VOTE NO on PROP. G

ON NOVEMBER 4 OR WITH YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT.

To learn more, go to: www.StoptheHousingTax.com

¹Read the full text of Prop. G on the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors' website at www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/committees/materials/rls071014_140695.pdf



Don't Shred City College

By Dr. Anita Grier, City College Board of Trustees

Saving City College is our number 1 priority. ACCJC, the Accrediting Commission that's supposed to "ensure the quality of education" at City College has recklessly and seriously endangered the hard-earned reputation of our 79 year-old college. We have nothing to apologize for. City College offers an excellent education.

Finances are not the problem. CCSF is in strong financial shape, the Board left it with a balanced budget. And with Prop 30 and Prop A and new facilities to attract new students, plus the improving economy, City College has a bright financial future.

The quality of City College's education is not in question. City College is renowned for its teachers, staff and educational excellence. Hundreds of thousands of successful students have gone on to rewarding careers, contributing to our community. **What annoys the ACCJC is the bureaucracy** — not because it's unresponsive to the will of the voters — just the opposite. The ACCJC's has imposed its will through "Extraordinary Powers" behind closed doors, without hearings or input from the public—that's antithetical to San Franciscans' sense of fair play and due process.

Destruction of records. Now that ACCJC has been forced to defend its actions in court, it's reportedly shredding documents. It's no wonder U.S. Congress Member Jackie Speier calls it "an agency run amok."

Policy pushback. The ACCJC wants to impose policies that read straight out of the right-wing playbook: remove faculty from the decision process, hire part-time, temporary, low-wage "adjunct" professors, slash job security for teachers, increase wages for administrators, trim "unnecessary classes," nullify child care agreements, rewrite the Mission Statement to exclude thousands of students, close neighborhood serving facilities, cancel expansion plans. All these "fiscal austerity" mandates are demanded despite the fact they will further cut enrollment, aggravating the fiscal health of CCSF.

Lifelong learning is not lifelong failure. We disagree with the ACCJC and the non-repeatability ruling. We favor repeating classes when repetition ensures success — hundreds of classes: learning English (ESL), basic skills, art, theater, music, tai chi, yoga, aerobics are being closed because students can't re-enroll. This especially hurts our seniors for whom a class makes a big difference. **Grandma's pottery class does not threaten the community college system!**

Education for All. It's why City College began. I take pride in the students who do not have the option of 4 year and elite universities, whose successful careers started at City College. They are the very people who need it the most, I'll always advocate for them.

No Apologies. I am confident that we will prevail if we stay true to what we believe. I do not apologize for standing up for the values San Franciscans cherish — living wages, a seat for everyone at the table and education for all — our San Francisco values.

A great career begins at City College!

Please sign my petition on repeating classes: petitions.moveon.org/sign/dont-kick-grandma-out
INFO: anitagrier.org

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ELECTION

CONTINUED from page B4

one because of the idea of drug testing doctors that was kind of tacked on at the end. Focus groups showed consumers love that idea. Doctors don't love that idea.

RICHMAN: Both insurers and the health-care industry don't want to see the malpractice cap go up.

ZIPPERER: Has there been polling?

GERSTON: There have been two polls, one in July, one in August. The results are very predictable. In July, before the money starting flowing, Prop 45 [had] about 58 percent [versus] low 30s to high 20s; and Prop 46 by a smaller margin, but doing well. Then we saw by the end of last August, it had already flipped. You'll see them flip even more.

This is not surprising. Go back and think of some of the propositions in recent years. To add a dollar a pack to cigarette taxes. To tax oil. Any time you've got someone with a stake, and it has to do with dollars and cents, those groups amass their resources and do quite well. It's an irony, because when the initiative process was begun as part of what we call direct democracy a little more than 100 years ago, the idea was that the people would have the opportunity to make laws because the legislature was controlled by special interests. So now the people have bypassed the legislature, but the special interests control the process at the initiative level. Somewhere Hiram Johnson, the father you could say of direct democracy, that guy's gotta be rolling in his grave.

ZIPPERER: In San Francisco, and over in Berkeley, they're going to be voting on something that's generally known as the soda tax, which is taxing non-alcoholic, sugary drinks. Is this just kind of the old nanny state?

MARINUCCI: This is another one that is very, very controversial, of course. You know health professionals say this is a good thing that would lower health-care costs in the long run and would sort of break the addiction that kids have to sugary sodas. Of course small business hates this idea and huge billboards are up in San Francisco. A lot of money is going into this one as well. Even though it's only a couple of cents, the tax.

GERSTON: It's a repeat of Richmond. Richmond had this issue very recently. An interesting coalition comes out against it. Of course it's the American Beverage Association. We

expect that. And yes, small businesses. Then you get the NAACP. Why is the NAACP opposed to it? Because it will be unfair to poor people. Suddenly, [it] becomes a David and Goliath story; it gets all muddled. "If the NAACP is against it, maybe



Marinucci calls Nancy Pelosi "the Energizer bunny" PHOTO: VALERIE CASTRO

I want to think about being against it, too; I'm a good liberal," whatever. That really makes it an interesting thing to watch. But I would be surprised if either one of them does very well.

ZIPPERER: Statewide it looks like the rest of the propositions are — I'm not sure if they're of significance. Something about reducing the classification of certain nonviolent crimes, to make them misdemeanors. What, what is the point of that?

GERSTON: About 10,000 people will likely qualify for getting their sentences changed. It's retroactive. It's for nonviolent crimes that had been considered felonies in the past. When you're talking about incarceration [costs] of \$50,000 a year, per person, per inmate, that adds up to a lot of money pretty quickly. We have not been able to control prison spending; we don't control it to this day. Unfortunately, not only does state prison spending continue to go up, but now it's spilled over to the counties with the realignment program, in which the counties have been asked to take prisoners, and the county costs are going up. And they're letting them out early. So now the parole problems are there.

Jerry Brown can get credit for a lot of things these last four years. But if anybody sits down and does a serious study — the prison issues, realignment and all that, have been a pretty big problem for him.

ZIPPERER: There was a story about Nancy Pelosi being either the number one or number two money-raiser for Democrats. She has raised in total \$400 million or something like that.

MARINUCCI: She is unbelievable. She's the Energizer bunny. She is just out there nonstop for the Democrats. There's no one

like her. When you watch her, whether it's at a campaign event or just a local event, I mean, the energy is just there with her.

RICHMAN: You think this next cycle will be her last?

MARINUCCI: It certainly doesn't appear so when you're watching her.

ZIPPERER: Do you think she would want to be involved in all the hoopla of 2016, if the nominee is Hillary Clinton?

MARINUCCI: She's made the comment recently that if the Republicans take the Senate, it's the end of civilization as we know it. So maybe she won't want to be part of that. It's looking more and more like they may.

ZIPPERER: One of the juicy questions is what happens to the U.S. Senate. There's been some interesting stuff going on in the Kansas Senate race where you may have seen the Democratic candidate dropped out of the race. The independent candidate is now leading in the polls over the incumbent Republican. Does this change the game plan or expectations that the Democrats might still hold on to the Senate?

MARINUCCI: It's not looking good for the Democrats to hold on to the Senate. In many of the races you are talking about districts where the Republicans have an advantage, where Obama didn't win these districts; and in the mid-term elections as we know, Republicans turn out more than Democrats. They are more motivated. So every sort of odds-maker out there, including the 538 blog — which tracks 10,000 different polls — is now giving it a 65 percent chance that the Republicans will take the Senate. I think that's a dire sign for the Democrats.

GERSTON: That's about right. It's a very fluid issue right now; you can turn it in one or two states. Tomorrow could be different. The bigger issue is, this is more a psychological victory than anything else, because to get anything of significance done in the Senate, it takes 60 votes. The Republicans will have a leg up on things like judicial confirmations, because they've changed the rule on all that. Democrats may regret changing the filibuster rule.

Some Democrats may actually feel a little happy about it, only because it's their reason to get rid of Harry Reid. He's been around a long time and some people are not happy with his leadership, as happens with anyone in leadership for a long time.

2014 Voting Guide



VOTE YES

Proposition A: Transportation Road and Improvement Bond

* Allows the City to make much needed capital investments in our transportation infrastructure

Proposition C: Renews the Children's Fund to better serve San Francisco youth and families

Proposition F: Approves Union Iron Works/Pier 70 Development Project Heights

Proposition I: Allows Renovation of Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields

Proposition K: Supports Affordable Housing Goals

Proposition L: Advocates for Balanced Transportation Priorities

VOTE NO

Proposition G: 24% Surtax on Transfers of Residential Property

* Places burdens on residential property owners with no guarantee revenue will go to housing

Proposition H: Prohibits lights and turf at Beach Chalet Soccer Fields



SF Forward is the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. SF Forward is comprised of local business owners and residents who support sound economic policy and exceptional quality of life in San Francisco. The PAC is dedicated to insuring that political reforms strengthen the local economy, improve the business climate, and streamline the operation of government.

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Important ballot initiatives this November

by mark e. farrell

This November's ballot contains a number of local measures that will have a significant impact on the future of San Francisco. Though I have opinions about every proposition on the ballot, there are four in particular about which I feel very strongly and believe are the most critical for our city. I wanted to briefly highlight each of these ballot initiatives, including my reasoning for voting for or against them.

YES ON PROPOSITION A

Proposition A is a \$500 million general obligation bond that will fund critical transportation infrastructure improvements — all without raising property taxes or any other taxes. If passed, the bond dollars will be used for Muni infrastructure upgrades to improve transit services, upgrades to key transit corridors citywide to reduce congestion, and pedestrian safety improvements to make our streets safer for everyone. Muni has not put forward a bond in more than 40 years, and if we are serious about improving our transit system for everyone, this is the right investment for our city.

Proposition A is part of San Francisco's 10-year capital planning process, and as a result it

went through a careful planning process. With our city's population continuing to grow, it is crucial that we make additional improvements and investments in our entire transportation system to meet the growing demand. Additionally, by investing and improving our transportation system, it will help residents who drive by reducing congestion and traffic that we all experience and drives us crazy. Prop A is endorsed by Mayor Lee and all 11 of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors; please vote yes on A.

YES ON PROPOSITION C

Proposition C is the reauthorization of the Children and Youth Fund and the Public Education and Enrichment Fund, which San Francisco voters have overwhelmingly supported in the past. The reauthorization of both of these funds will amount to more than \$125 million in funding for services and programs citywide for our children, youth, and families — and, just like Proposition A, will do so without raising taxes.

These two funds have ensured for years that there is support for critical children's services, such as after-school programs, family support centers, workforce and job-training programs, health-care initiatives, and counseling services.

In addition, the funds help support and enhance programs for sports, arts and music. Education and family services are the areas that have proven to deliver better outcomes for our children if we make greater investments, and as a father of three young children, I wholeheartedly support additional investments in our city's children and families. It is simply the best investment we can make. And, just like Proposition A, Proposition C is endorsed by Mayor Lee and all 11 of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors; please vote yes on C.

NO ON PROPOSITION G

Proposition G is a misguided attempt to address San Francisco's rising cost of housing, which is without doubt one of the biggest issues we are facing as a city. Proposition G is being billed as the "anti-speculation tax," but it is pure and simply a new housing tax that will have the opposite effects of what the supporters are claiming the initiative will achieve. Instead of helping our city's affordability crisis, Proposition G is only going to make it worse with its unintended consequences if it passes.

Proposition G would create a new tax on San Francisco homes — up to 24 percent of the total sales price. The measure is only going to make housing in our city

even more expensive because the measure will encourage homeowners to hold on to their properties longer, restrict the supply of housing even more, and cause the prices for housing to continue to rise. Additionally, the housing tax does not include any exemptions for seniors or life emergencies that may occur and unfairly penalizes homeowners with extreme tax rates that are not seen in any other city in the country. Though the supporters of Proposition G claim to have the best intentions in putting this measure forward, they clearly missed the mark and will only make matters worse. Please vote no on G.

NO ON PROPOSITION H / YES ON PROPOSITION I

Proposition H was placed on the ballot by obstructionists who were upset that numerous local and state boards and commissions disagreed with their objections to the installation of new, safer turf sports fields at Beach Chalet for our city's children and families. In an ideal world, all of our sports fields would be grass and mowed like putting greens on a golf course, but the reality is much different; we continue to underfund the number of gardeners our Recreation and Park Department needs, and San Francisco has historically inclem-

ent weather. Many of our fields are riddled with potholes, and when it rains the fields are closed for days, resulting in canceled practices and games. As a father of three young children who has coached a number of their sports teams over the past few years, I speak from first-hand experience that there are simply not enough sports fields for our city's children and families.

Proposition I, placed on the ballot in response to Proposition H, would ensure that obstructionists do not hold up crucial improvements and projects for our city's families and children. Proposition I ensures that if our Recreation and Park Department certifies that any park improvement project doubles the usage of that facility, and the proposed project has cleared necessary environmental review, park improvement projects can proceed without additional, unnecessary delays. Proposition I will not cost the city any additional resources and is a simple, straightforward solution to restore, improve and expand projects that will simply let our kids play. Please vote no on H and yes on I.

Please feel free to email me at mark.farrell@sfgov.org if you have any questions, or call my City Hall office at 415-554-7752. Don't forget to vote by absentee or at the polls on November 4!



City and County of San Francisco Department of Elections

Be A Voter

Election Day is Tuesday
November 4

Vote at City Hall October 6 – November 4

Vote by Mail new requests due by October 28

Vote at Your Polling Place on Election Day

Register to Vote by October 20!

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“

PROP E IS CONFUSING AND COULD

HURT
BUSINESSES
LIKE MINE.

THAT'S WHY I'M VOTING

NO ON **E**.

”

TAYLOR PECK,
CO-OWNER OF THE FIZZARY



VoteNoOnPropE.com

Paid for by No on E: Stop Unfair Beverage Taxes. Coalition for an Affordable City, with major funding by American Beverage Association California PAC.

NO
ON **E**



unfair beverage taxes.