# Christian Citizenship Council

When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan." (Prov 29:2)

# 5 March 2024 California Presidential Primary Election Kacer's Call on Statewide Proposition 1

## <u>Proposition 1: Bonds for Mental Health Treatment Facilities & Housing for Homeless</u> – Recommend: <u>NO</u>

**Content:** Bond for **\$6.4B**, to be paid back with **\$2.9B** interest over 30 years for a total cost of **\$9.3B**. Funds to be used to provide more facilities for mental health care and treatment, and supportive housing for homeless veterans and those with behavioral health challenges. Proposition also amends Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA; tax increase approved in 2005) to give a higher percentage of Proposition 63 tax revenues (10% instead of 5%) for the State to allocate instead of going to the counties as initially approved. Proposition also reduces the flexibility of each county to best decide how MHSA funds are to be used.

Consider: Bonds wrongly presume upon the future without regard for intrinsic economic uncertainties (James 4:13-14; Proverbs 22:3). Government public debt steals from future generations without their consent (Exodus 20:15), and prioritizes immediate financial opportunity above prudent planning and living within existing tax burdens (Proverbs 13:11; 1 Timothy 6:10a). Also, public debt must be paid off (with interest) independent of the impact on future tax burdens that will be borne by everyone (in effect, taxpayers become "slaves" to future debt obligations (Proverbs 22:7)). Proposition also reduces the flexibility of each county to decide how to best use existing MHSA funding, and reduces the amount they receive. Proposition text is 67 pages long, describes process and equity-based criteria in excruciating detail, and only isolated performance measures to assess success or failure. Finally, bonds should only be a last resort to quickly raise funds for extreme, emergency situations (e.g. war); they should not be used as a routine way to replace existing budgetary obligations (Proverbs 20:14).

# Kacer's Call on San Diego County and City Measures

Jurisdiction	Letter	Purpose	Consider	Recommend
City of San Diego	A	CHARTER AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR AND AUDIT COMMITTEE TO USE OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL INSTEAD OF THE ELECTED CITY ATTORNEY. Shall Charter section 40 be amended and section 40.2 be added to authorize the City Auditor and Audit Committee to use outside legal counsel instead of the elected City Attorney, subject to certain conditions, when the Audit Committee determines such use is in the public interest?	Measure would ensure availability of outside legal counsel for the City Auditor/Audit Committee if public interest indicates the City Attorney is not appropriate to use. Supports principle of impartiality (2 Chronicles 19:7).	YES
Mountain Empire Unified School District	В	To repair, replace, or reconstruct deteriorating classrooms, science labs, and school facilities at Mountain Empire High School that don't meet building safety/earthquake safety standards; replace/fix roofs, plumbing, sewer, electrical, and aging portables; and improve school safety/ security systems, shall Mountain Empire Unified School District's measure authorizing \$20,000,000 in bonds, at legal rates, be adopted, levying approximately \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed value (averaging \$1,253,097 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight, independent audits, and all money staying local?	Bonds wrongly presume upon the future without regard for economic uncertainties (James 4:13-14; Proverbs 22:3). Public debt steals from future generations without their consent (Exodus 20:15) instead of forcing prudent planning now for necessities (Proverbs 20:14) and living within existing tax burdens (Proverbs 13:11; 1 Timothy 6:10a). Bonds must be paid off (with interest) through increased property tax rates.	NO
Rincon Ranch Community Services District	С	Shall the Rincon Ranch Community Services District be authorized to establish and levy a Special Tax Override, on all taxable real property within its boundaries for the purpose of providing funds for repair and resurface of the roads maintained by the District, with this Special Tax not to exceed ten dollars per acre, or portion thereof, plus two hundred fifty dollars per parcel of land per year?	Infrastructure is a core duty of government (Rom 13:4). Adding tax burden (in perpetuity) to a small community to remedy a County created problem is inappropriate (Leviticus 19:13a; Proverbs 11:1).	NO

### General Guidelines I Follow in Analyzing Propositions and Measures:

- Do: First read Title/Summary, then proposed legal text, then official analysis (if provided); then arguments for & against
- Do: Ask yourself if this is a proper role of government biblically
- Do: Ask yourself if this is the right thing to do, who benefits, and what consequences will result
- Do: Determine what general principles apply (biblical, conservative, practical)
- Do: Concentrate on the major implications and not on trivial aspects to make a decision
- Do: Apply common sense; come to a tentative conclusion compare to positions of those you trust
- Don't: Rely on recommendations of organizations by name only (many sound good but are misleading)
- Don't: Wait until the last day to do your research (do it over time)

- Don't: Support government going into future debt (there are very rare exceptions (e.g. war))
- Don't: Allow rare circumstances or emotional arguments to overly influence you ("rare cases make bad law")
- Don't: Support anything that's too complex to completely understand (could be purposeful obfuscation)
- Don't: Accept a lot of bad legislation for the sake of a small amount of good, "worthwhile" legislation

#### Who is Frank Kacer?

Frank has been married to Lynn for 50 years, has three children and five grandchildren. He has served as a pastor/elder at Grace Bible Church since 1990 and is now pastor/elder emeritus. Professionally, Frank was a physicist in the Department of Defense Intelligence Community for over 35 years and a senior systems engineer with SAIC for 12 years. As a Christian worldview political activist, Frank has engaged in grass-roots political activism and formal political party representation. He is an author ("Christian Fratricide – Why Christians Continue to be Divided Politically," "65 Wisdom Principles for Christian Activists," and a soon to be released novella: "Destined for Completion – A Short History of the Universe"). Frank currently serves as the Director of Research, Content and Curriculum for Well Versed ministries, and is a professor at Chula Vista Christian University. As Founder of the Christian Citizenship Council (C3), Frank has published his "Kacer's Call" biblical perspective on every California statewide Proposition since 2002.

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