

Honorable Chair and Members  
of the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Committee:**

**SUBJECT: Report of the Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee for the  
June 2010 Statewide Ballot Measures**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee that City Council concurs with the June 8, 2010 ballot measure positions recommended by the Committee.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

On January 26, 2010 the Mayor appointed an Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee. Members of the Committee are: Mayor Frank Scotto, Councilmember Gene Barnett and Councilmember Susan Rhilinger. The role of the Committee is to work with staff and State lobbyists in achieving the City's legislative goals at the state level. In addition, the Committee reviews and takes position on ballot measures prior to elections to consider state, county and local measures. In reviewing the ballot measures, the committee applies the criteria listed below to determine the potential impact of these measures on the City of Torrance:

- Does the proposed measure affect local control?
- Does the proposed measure have a fiscal impact on the City?
- Does the proposed measure affect public safety?

There are five (5) State measures and one (1) Local measure that will be presented to the electorate on June 8, 2010 Special General Election. There are two (2) state measures and one (1) local measure that meet the City's established criteria. The other 3 State propositions do not meet City's criteria as currently defined.

The Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee met on April 29, 2010 to review the measures and take a position on each measure. The agenda included an overview of each ballot measure, the City's overall legislative strategy, Committee's position on each measure, and public comment (Attachment A). The slide presentation is attached (Attachment B).

The handout materials for the Committee were organized by proposition number with materials explaining the individual proposition including a summary from the Legislative Analyst's Office and presented to the Committee. In order to obtain a better understanding of what affect a measure may have on the City, City departments were requested to complete an analysis of the proposition that would fall in their area of expertise. In addition, the Committee reviewed the California Quick Reference Guide issued by the Secretary of State (Attachment C).

After studying the background material on the individual measures and discussion on the issue with staff, the Finance Director and the public, the Committee voted on these measures.

### Positions of Other Organizations and Committee's Recommended Positions

The League of Women Voters, the League of California Cities, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, South Bay Cities Council of Governments have taken positions on these propositions.

Proposition 13 states that seismic retrofitting of existing buildings will not trigger reassessment of property value. The Finance Director indicated that local property taxes are based on a property's assessed value. There is potential for this proposition to affect the City's revenues with minimal fiscal impact. The proposition may also have a positive impact on public safety. The Finance Department took a neutral position on this measure.

The Finance Department opposes Proposition 16 which imposes a two-thirds voter approval requirement for local public electricity providers. The Finance Director indicated that this measure would impact local control and take power away from the City and give it to private electric utility companies, such as Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric.

Measure A is to change the City of Torrance's election day to a stand alone election, which allows for future consolidation of the City and School Board elections. On March 19, 2010 Council approved in favor of the measure to change the date of the City's general municipal election to the last Tuesday in April of even-numbered months.

#### Meets the City's criteria

Statewide Ballot Measures						
Proposition	League of Women Voters	League of California Cities	Torrance Chamber of Commerce	South Bay Cities Council of Governments	City Dept Positions	Committee's Recommendations
13	Neutral	No Stand	Support	No Stand	Neutral	Support
16	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose

Local Measure						
Proposition	League of Women Voters	League of California Cities	Torrance Chamber of Commerce	South Bay Cities Council of Governments	City Dept Positions	Committee's Recommendations
Measure A	No Stand	No Stand	Support	No Stand	Support	Support

#### For Information Only:

#### Does not meet City's criteria as currently defined

Statewide Ballot Measures				
Proposition	League of Women Voters	League of California Cities	Torrance Chamber of Commerce	South Bay Cities Council of Governments
14	No Stand	No Stand	Neutral	No Stand
15	Support	No Stand	Oppose	No Stand
17	No Stand	No Stand	Support	No Stand

Respectfully submitted,

AD HOC STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Frank Scotto, Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Gene Barnett, Member



\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilwoman Susan Rhilinger, Member

Attachments:

- A) Agenda for the April 29, 2010 State Legislative Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee
- B) Slide presentation
- C) California Quick Reference Guide for the June 8, 2010 Special General Election



## AGENDA

### CITY COUNCIL AD HOC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, April 29, 2010

TIME: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Torrance City Hall, City Manager's Assembly Room, Third Floor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mayor Frank Scotto, Chair  
Councilwoman Susan Rhilinger  
Councilman Gene Barnett

STAFF: LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager  
Mary Giordano, Assistant City Manager  
John Fellows, City Attorney  
Eric Tsao, Finance Director  
Aram Chaparyan, Assistant to the City Manager  
Eleanor B. Jones, Management Associate

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF BALLOT MEASURES ON THE JUNE 8, 2010 STATEWIDE BALLOT**

- |      |  |                     |
|------|--|---------------------|
| I.   | Welcome and Introductions  | Chair, Mayor Scotto |
| II.  | Overview of Ballot Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State</li> <li>• Local</li> </ul> | Eleanor B. Jones    |
| III. | Public Comment   |                     |
| IV.  | Policy Issues: City's Position on Initiatives  | Committee           |
| V.   | Committee Questions/Discussion   |                     |
| VI.  | Direction from Committee   |                     |
| VII. | Adjournment  |                     |



City Council Ad Hoc Legislative Committee  
Thursday, April 29, 2010

# June 8, 2010

## Statewide Primary Election

### Ballot Measures

## **LIST OF ALL BALLOT MEASURES**

### **STATE MEASURES:**

#### **PROPOSITION 13**

LIMITS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT. SEISMIC RETROFITTING OF EXISTING BUILDINGS.

#### **PROPOSITION 14**

ELECTIONS. INCREASES RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

#### **PROPOSITION 15**

CALIFORNIA FAIR ELECTIONS ACT.

#### **PROPOSITION 16**

IMPOSES NEW TWO-THIRDS VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS.  
INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

#### **PROPOSITION 17**

ALLOWS AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES TO BASE THEIR PRICES IN PART ON A DRIVER'S HISTORY OF INSURANCE COVERAGE  
INITIATIVE STATUTE.

### **LOCAL MEASURE:**

#### **MEASURE A**

CHANGES CITY OF TORRANCE'S ELECTION DAY TO A STAND ALONE ELECTION.  
LOCALLY CONTROLLED ELECTION FOR FUTURE CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.

## **PROPOSITION 13**

LIMITS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT. SEISMIC RETROFITTING OF EXISTING BUILDINGS.

### **SUMMARY:**

- ⌘ **Provides that construction to seismically retrofit buildings will not trigger reassessment of property tax value. Sets statewide standard for seismic retrofit improvements that qualify.**

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

- ⌘ **Minor reduction in local property tax revenues related to the assessment of earthquake upgrades.**

-Taken from the *California Quick Reference Guide*-

## **PROPOSITION 16**

IMPOSES NEW TWO-THIRDS VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

### **SUMMARY:**

- ⌘ Requires two-thirds voter approval before local governments provide electricity service to new customers or establish a community choice electricity program using public funds or bonds.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

- ⌘ Unknown net impact on state and local government costs and revenues—unlikely to be significant in the short run—due to the measure's uncertain effects on public electricity providers and on electricity rates.

-Taken from the *California Quick Reference Guide*-

## **MEASURE A**

CHANGES CITY OF TORRANCE'S ELECTION DAY TO A STAND ALONE ELECTION.  
 LOCALLY CONTROLLED ELECTION.  
 FOR FUTURE CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.

### ***What your vote means....***

#### **Yes**

- A YES vote on this measure means: Stand alone citywide election, save money, consolidate with local school district elections, local control over election process

#### **No**

- A NO vote on this measure means: Citywide election joined with County, lose ability to save money

-Taken from the *League of Women Voters Smart Voter Guide*

### **RECAP OF MEASURES THAT MEET THE CITY'S CRITERIA**

#### **STATE**

#### **PROPOSITION 13**

Support

LIMITS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT. SEISMIC RETROFITTING OF EXISTING BUILDINGS.

#### **STATE**

#### **PROPOSITION 16**

Oppose

IMPOSES NEW TWO-THIRDS VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

#### **LOCAL**

#### **MEASURE A**

Support

CHANGES CITY OF TORRANCE'S ELECTION DAY TO A STAND ALONE ELECTION.  
 LOCALLY CONTROLLED ELECTION FOR FUTURE CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS



Official Voter Information Guide

Home > Quick Reference Guide

**PROP 13**      **LIMITS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT. SEISMIC RETROFITTING OF EXISTING BUILDINGS. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

**Summary**

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

Provides that construction to seismically retrofit buildings will not trigger reassessment of property tax value. Sets statewide standard for seismic retrofit improvements that qualify. Fiscal Impact: **Minor reduction in local property tax revenues related to the assessment of earthquake upgrades.**

**WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS**

**YES** A YES vote on this measure means: Earthquake safety improvements made to unreinforced masonry (such as brick) buildings would not result in higher property taxes until the building is sold.

**NO** A NO vote on this measure means: Earthquake safety improvements made to unreinforced masonry buildings would continue to be excluded from property taxes but for only up to 15 years.

**ARGUMENTS**

**PRO** Proposition 13 makes a necessary change to our state's constitution in order to eliminate a dangerous disincentive for property owners to upgrade un-reinforced masonry structures in order to improve earthquake safety. This proposition promotes fairness by eliminating the unequal treatment of different types of property which undergo seismic safety improvements.

**CON** No argument against Proposition 13 was submitted.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## Official Voter Information Guide

Home > Quick Reference Guide

# PROP 16

## IMPOSES NEW TWO-THIRDS VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

### SUMMARY

Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Requires two-thirds voter approval before local governments provide electricity service to new customers or establish a community choice electricity program using public funds or bonds. Fiscal Impact: **Unknown net impact on state and local government costs and revenues—unlikely to be significant in the short run—due to the measure's uncertain effects on public electricity providers and on electricity rates.**

### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

**YES** A YES vote on this measure means: Local governments would generally be required to receive two-thirds voter approval before they could start up electricity services or expand electricity service into a new territory.

**NO** A NO vote on this measure means: Local governments generally could continue to implement proposals involving the start-up or expansion of electricity service either through approval by a majority of voters or actions by governing boards.

### ARGUMENTS

**PRO** Proposition 16 is the Taxpayers Right to Vote Act. It requires two thirds voter approval before local governments can spend or borrow public money to enter the retail electricity business. In tough economic times like these, taxpayers should have the final say in how government spends our money.

**CON** Proposition 16 does two things: First, it drastically limits your choices on who provides you with electricity. Second, it lets the for-profit utilities in California raise your electricity rates again and again, by protecting their monopoly and eliminating competition. For more choice and lower electric bills, NO on Proposition 16.



League of Women Voters of California Education Fund



SUPPORT SMART VOTER!



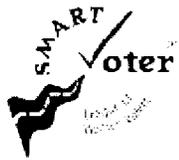
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...

Los Angeles County, CA

June 8, 2010 Election



**Measure A**  
Change in Election Schedule  
City of Torrance  
Charter Amendment - Majority Approval Required

**See Also: [Index of all Measures](#)**

Information shown below: [Official Information](#) | [Arguments](#) |

*Should section 510 of the Charter of the City of Torrance be amended to change the date of holding the general municipal election to the last Tuesday in April of each even numbered year?*

**Official Information**

[City of Torrance](#)

[Suggest a link related to Measure A](#)

Links to sources outside of Smart Voter are provided for information only and do not imply endorsement.

**Official Sources of Information**

- [Impartial Analysis](#) from City Attorney

**Arguments Submitted**

[Full Text of Argument In Favor, Rebuttal](#)

[Full Text of Argument Against, Rebuttal](#)

[Los Angeles Home Page](#) || [Statewide Links](#) || [About Smart Voter](#) || [Feedback](#)

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*The League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes candidates for public office or political parties.*

**A Yes vote on Measure A saves tax dollars** -- extremely important in the present economy. Our City and schools need every dollar they can get to provide the services our citizens and children deserve.

In an effort to save money, the Torrance City Council and the Torrance Unified School District have agreed to consider consolidating their future elections. To begin that process, we must first change the City's election date to a stand-alone date.

At present City of Torrance elections are coordinated with the June state-wide primary election, controlled by the County of Los Angeles. This arrangement, originally intended to increase local voter participation, did not demonstrate a sustained increase. Serious local issues appear to have a greater impact on local voting patterns. The County has charged the city as much as \$250,000, to conduct these elections, costs which could easily increase in the future. Torrance Unified School District Board of Education elections are held in November, also controlled by the County. Last November the County charged TUSD \$311,000 for its election!

By changing the Torrance election date to the last Tuesday in April of even years, the City of Torrance will be able to manage our own local election with lower costs and better service. Future consolidation of city and school board elections could provide cost savings of \$250,000 or more every two years -- saving our city and schools much needed revenue, and giving our community local control of our elections.

Changing the City of Torrance election date to a locally controlled election date -- saving precious tax money -- makes sense. That is why this proposal is supported by:

Torrance City Council  
 TUSD Board of Education  
 Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Torrance Police and Firefighters Associations  
 former Mayor Dee Hardison, and many others.

**Vote YES on Measure A** -- financially prudent, and the right thing to do!



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## ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL FORM

ELECTION DATE: JUNE 8, 2010 MEASURE I.D. (if any): A

JURISDICTION: CITY OF TORRANCE

(Please mark (x) in the appropriate box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Argument in Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuttal to Argument Against	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Argument Against <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuttal to Argument in Favor
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Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Use block paragraphs and single space format. Text submitted indented or centered will be typeset in block paragraph form. **Entire statements in all capital letters are not acceptable. Indentations, circles, stars, dots, italics and/or bullets cannot be accommodated.** However, you may use dashes/hyphens. Words to be printed in **boldface type, underscored** and/or CAPITALIZED are to be clearly indicated. Any combinations of enhanced words are counted as one word. The number of words/acronyms that are in **boldface type, underscored** and/or CAPITALIZED shall not exceed 30 words per document. All statements should be checked by the authors for spelling and punctuation as the elections official is not permitted to edit any material contained therein.

### ALL AUTHORS MUST SIGN ON THE REVERSE SIDE

Please type statements below in upper and lower case letters. Statement will be typeset in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet using DUTCH801 Rm BT font in 10 point size. However, statement can be submitted using any standard font.

SEE ATTACHED

A Yes vote on Measure A gives "local control" to incumbents, city hall politicians and special interest groups. **You lose voter control. They gain incumbent protection.**

Just six years ago, Torrance residents voted overwhelmingly to abandon the March stand-alone election and combine with the State of California primary election in June. This dramatically increased voter participation, eliminated an election date and proved cost effective.

Now the Torrance City Council wants to move the municipal election date to the last Tuesday in April so that Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) can consolidate their election with the City of Torrance. But there's no guarantee that TUSD will consolidate elections even if Measure A passes.

Since the City of Torrance must contract with a single, sole-source consultant to run our municipal election, Measure A will not reduce costs for taxpayers. Any savings will evaporate once the supplier uses his monopoly position to raise prices. Voters have confidence in the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters running a nonpartisan, low cost election.

If TUSD wishes to consolidate, they don't need Measure A. The Board of Education, by majority vote, can pass a resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors consolidate the TUSD election with the City of Torrance municipal election. (Elections Code 1302a). They have not done so. TUSD should demonstrate their desire by acting first.

If we consolidate elections, shouldn't we also place **term limits on the Board of Education?** Our City Council is under term limits, yet refused to place a companion measure on the ballot allowing voters to impose those same term limits on our Board of Education.

Measure A creates an extra, stand-alone, low voter turnout election favoring incumbents. It's an unnecessary waste of taxpayer money without substantiated cost savings.

**Say No To Incumbent Protection. Insist on Term Limits. Vote NO on Measure A.**

[www.keepthedate.com](http://www.keepthedate.com)