

# KERNTAX VOTER GUIDE

November 5, 2024



KernTax  
Facts Through Research

## KERN COUNTY BOND MEASURES

✓ = support   ✗ = not support   ○ = no position

|   |                                                                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE AA</b>   Sierra Sands Unified School District Bond*                    |
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE D</b>   Wasco Union High School District Bond*                         |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE H</b>   Southern Kern Unified School District Bond                     |
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE I</b>   Buttonwillow Union School District Bond*                       |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE J</b>   Delano Union Elementary School District Bond                   |
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE K</b>   Fruitvale School District Bond*                                |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE L</b>   Greenfield Union School District Bond                          |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE N</b>   California City One Cent Sales Tax Increase                    |
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE M</b>   Rosedale Union School District Bond*                           |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE O</b>   City of McFarland Transient Occupancy Tax                      |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE P</b>   City of McFarland Utility Tax                                  |
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE S</b>   McFarland Recreation and Parks District Bond (with conditions) |
| ✓ | <b>MEASURE T</b>   Creation of the Lost Hills Community Services District         |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE V</b>   City of Ridgecrest One Cent Sales Tax Extension                |
| ✗ | <b>MEASURE W</b>   City of Maricopa Sales Tax                                     |

\*These school districts contacted KernTax for support for their 2024 Bond Measures. KernTax negotiated a reduction in the total bond principal by \$37 million and total bond interest by \$96 million for a total savings of \$132 million.

## KERNTAX'S PRINCIPLES

### All Taxes & Fees

- Must be fair
- Must be understandable
- Must be cost effective
- Must be good for the economy

### All Expenditures

- Must be fiscally responsible
- Must be economically sustainable
- Must be societally equitable



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[www.kerntaxpayers.org](http://www.kerntaxpayers.org)

The Kern County Taxpayers Association, a member-supported 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation, has been steadfastly committed since its inception in 1939 to its mission of creating a more accountable, effective, efficient, and reliable government. Our actions are guided by our adopted values, common sense, innovation, and long-term view, all of which aim to protect the interests of Kern County taxpayers.

KernTax, as a non-partisan entity, perceives any government collection of funds through any financial conduit as taxation: an identified tax, a fee for government service, or a regulated rate structure. If it is excessive or inappropriate, KernTax is duty-bound to act by charter to educate and facilitate a resolution, ensuring fair representation and treatment. KernTax's stance is clear: it does not seek subsidies; it seeks reasonable returns for our local taxpayers from all regulatory bodies and their agents for levied taxes, fees, or regulated services.




For more than eight decades, KernTax has been a faithful and influential advocate for taxpayers in Kern County and the Central Valley.

If you support our mission, please join us. Visit our website, [www.kerntaxpayers.org](http://www.kerntaxpayers.org).



CalMatters.org provided the following analysis.

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|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <p><b>PROPOSITION 2</b><br/> <b>Issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of public education facilities</b><br/>                     Borrow \$10 billion to build schools. Legislative Democrats put on the ballot a bond issue to <b>give \$8.5 billion to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion to community colleges</b> for construction and modernization.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|    | <p><b>PROPOSITION 3</b><br/> <b>Repeal Proposition 8 and establish a right to marry</b><br/>                     Reaffirm the right of same-sex couples to marry. This constitutional amendment from the Legislature would remove outdated language from Proposition 8, passed by voters in 2008, that characterizes marriage as being between a man and a woman.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|    | <p><b>PROPOSITION 4</b><br/> <b>Issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, energy projects, and flood protection projects</b><br/>                     Borrow \$10 billion for climate programs. Legislative Democrats also placed a bond issue on the ballot that includes \$3.8 billion for drinking water and groundwater, \$1.5 billion for wildfire and forest programs, and \$1.2 billion for sea level rise. In part, the money <b>would offset some budget cuts</b>.</p>                           |
|    | <p><b>PROPOSITION 5</b><br/> <b>Lower the vote threshold from 66.67% to 55% for local bond measures to fund housing projects and public infrastructure</b><br/>                     Lower voter approval requirements for local housing and infrastructure bonds. This constitutional amendment from the Legislature would make it easier for local governments to borrow money for affordable housing and other infrastructure. To <b>avoid opposition from the influential real estate industry</b>, supporters agreed to block bond money from being used to buy single-family homes.</p> |
|   | <p><b>PROPOSITION 6</b><br/> <b>Remove involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime from the state constitution</b><br/>                     Limit forced labor in state prisons. Lawmakers added this one late – a constitutional amendment to <b>end indentured servitude in state prisons</b> considered one of the last remnants of slavery. The California Black Legislative Caucus included the amendment in its reparations bill package.</p>                                                                                                                                      |
|  | <p><b>PROPOSITION 32</b><br/> <b>Increase the state's minimum wage to \$18 per hour</b><br/>                     Raise the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour. This initiative seemed a much bigger deal when it was first proposed in 2021. However, under existing law, the overall minimum wage has risen to \$16 an hour. Lower-paid workers in two huge industries are getting more: Fast food workers receive a \$20 an hour minimum on April 1, and healthcare workers eventually get \$25, though the <b>start date has been pushed back</b> to at least October 15.</p>             |
|  | <p><b>PROPOSITION 33</b><br/> <b>Repeals Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act</b><br/>                     Allow local governments to impose rent controls. This is the latest attempt to roll back a state law that generally prevents cities and counties from limiting rents in properties first occupied after February 1, 1995.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <p><b>PROPOSITION 34</b><br/> <b>Requires health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care</b><br/>                     Require certain health providers to use nearly all revenue from a federal prescription drug program on patient care. Sponsored by the trade group for California's landlords, this measure is squarely aimed at <b>knee-capping the AIDS Healthcare Foundation</b>, which has been active in funding ballot measures.</p>                                                                       |
|  | <p><b>PROPOSITION 35</b><br/> <b>Permanently authorizes a tax on managed care organizations to fund Medi-Cal programs</b><br/>                     Permanently impose a tax on managed health care insurance plans. California's healthcare industry sponsors this initiative to <b>raise more money for Medi-Cal</b> and block lawmakers from using the cash to avoid cuts to other programs. The measure would hold Newsom to a promise to permanently secure that tax money for health care for low-income patients.</p>                                                                  |
|  | <p><b>PROPOSITION 36</b><br/> <b>Increase penalties for certain drug crimes and theft convictions and allow a new class of crime to be called treatment-mandated felony</b><br/>                     Increase penalties for theft and drug trafficking. This initiative may be the most contentious on the ballot. It would partly roll back Proposition 47, which was approved by voters in 2014.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                       |