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INITIATIVE EDITORIAL
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FORWARD
OBSERVER

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Forward Observer and Klink Campaigns developed the 2018 California Initiative Editorial Scorecard to keep track of editorials for and against the 11 statewide initiatives on this November’s ballot. We will update the scorecard weekly with ballot measure endorsements (pro and con) from the top 20 California newspapers by circulation. The fourth edition of the California Initiative Editorial Scorecard is based on 158 editorials thus far.

2018 California Initiative Editorial Endorsement Scorecard		
Proposition	Yes	No
Proposition 1 (Housing Bond)	9	8
Proposition 2 (Tax Revenue for Homeless Prevention)	10	7
Proposition 3 (Water Bond)	3	12
Proposition 4 (Children’s Hospitals bond)	8	7
Proposition 5 (Property Tax Transfers)	9	6
Proposition 6 (Gas Tax Repeal)	7	11
Proposition 7 (Repeals Daylight Savings Time)	1	7
Proposition 8 (Kidney Dialysis Clinic Requirements)	0	11
Proposition 10 (Rent Control Regulations)	2	17
Proposition 11 (Ambulance Employees Regulations)	15	1
Proposition 12 (Animal Space Requirements)	3	4

Endorsements from the Top 20 California Papers

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12
Los Angeles Times	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Francisco Chronicle	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
San Diego Union Tribune	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No		No	No	Yes	
Orange County Register	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	
The Mercury News	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Sacramento Bee	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
The Mercury News East Bay Times	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
La Opinión						No		No	No		
Riverside Press-Enterprise	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	
Fresno Bee	Yes	Yes	Yes				No	No	No	Yes	
Santa Rosa Press Democrat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No		No	No	Yes	No
Los Angeles Daily News	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	
Ventura County Star						No			No		
Torrance Daily Breeze	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	
Modesto Bee	Yes	Yes					No	No	No		
Palm Springs Desert Sun											
Long Beach Press-Telegram	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	
Bakersfield Californian	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
San Bernardino Sun	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			No	Yes	

The following excerpts are from endorsement editorials that appeared online or in print since our last edition:

Proposition 1

Los Angeles Times – Yes

"As we've observed before, the state needs to build 3.5 million homes by 2025 to satisfy pent-up demand for housing and to stabilize prices. To even get close to that number would require a building boom unlike any California has seen since the 1960s. Proposition 1 is a necessary step, even if it's not a sufficient one." [Link](#)

San Jose Mercury News and East Bay Times – Yes

"Prop. 1 can't possibly solve the state's housing crisis on its own. But it's an essential piece of the puzzle, designed to work with Prop. 2, the mental health housing measure on the same ballot, and local and federal housing programs to offer critical funding for the state's most needy residents." [Link](#)

Santa Rosa Press Democrat – Yes

"Why is it necessary? California needs about 180,000 new housing units every year to keep up with population growth, but only about half of that has been built over the past decade. The results include average homes costing 2½ times the national average, rents running 50 percent above the national average — and people being priced out of the market." [Link](#)

Modesto Bee – Yes

"Proposition 1's \$4 billion sets aside \$1.5 billion to provide loans to renovate or build more rental housing. Millions more would go toward grants to build or improve sewers, roads and water systems in cities." [Link](#)

Proposition 2

Modesto Bee – Yes

"Many believed that Proposition 63 addressed a portion of this crisis through its "No Place Like Home" program, which authorized \$2 billion in bonds to build short-term housing. But that program has been tied up in lawsuits. The money has been collected and allocated, but can't be spent. Proposition 2 would put a stop to the legal maneuvering and allow the money to be used as voters originally decreed." [Link](#)

Proposition 3

Santa Rosa Press Democrat – Yes

“Much of the money will be distributed as grants by state agencies, and Sonoma County Water Agency officials anticipate funding from several categories, including wastewater recycling, urban and agricultural water conservation, flood control and storm water management. Small water systems throughout the region also could qualify for funding.”

[Link](#)

Proposition 4

Santa Rosa Press Democrat – Yes

“Together, these hospitals treat 2 million children every year, including many of the most complicated cases — pediatric organ transplants, traumatic injuries and cancer. Many of these young patients are covered by Medi-Cal, meaning the hospitals are reimbursed at low rates for the care they provide. Proposition 4, a \$1.5 billion bond act, would help these hospitals add capacity and acquire the latest medical technology and life-saving equipment for their mission — providing children with the health care that they need.”

[Link](#)

Proposition 5

Los Angeles Times – No

“California is in the midst of a serious housing crisis, and the California Assn. of Realtors would like voters to believe Proposition 5 is part of the solution. But in fact it would create not a single new unit of housing. It is a false promise; it should be rejected.” [Link](#)

Proposition 6

Orange County Register, The Riverside Press-Enterprise, Los Angeles Daily News, Torrance Daily Breeze, Long Beach Press Telegram, San Bernardino Sun, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin – Yes

“Proponents of SB1 argued that the cost of repairing vehicle damage from potholes and broken roads was greater than the cost of the tax. But this argument was disingenuous—much of the revenue from the tax increase is going to projects that that don’t fix potholes or cracked pavement.” [Link](#)

Proposition 10

Santa Rosa Press Democrat – No

“Faced with rent control, many landlords turn apartments into for-sale condominiums or convert their property to other uses. In San Francisco, a Stanford University study found, 15 percent of rental units were removed from the market after rent control was implemented. Santa Monica, West Hollywood and other cities that enacted rent control lost units, too. Rent control — or the threat of price controls — also is a disincentive for anyone contemplating construction of new rental housing.” [Link](#)

Ventura County Star – No

“The main reason for California’s affordable housing shortage is simple: too much demand and not enough supply. Prop. 10 does nothing to address that disparity and indeed could make it worse. For that reason and others, we urge you to vote no on Proposition 10.” [link](#)

La Opinión – No

“Hay iniciativas electorales que tienen la buena intención de resolver un problema serio como la crisis de vivienda en California. La Proposición 10 es una de ellas, sin embargo a la larga su impacto es más perjudicial que beneficioso por su efecto no intencionado.”

“There are electoral initiatives that have the good intention of solving a serious problem like the housing crisis in California. Proposition 10 is one of them, but in the long run its impact is more harmful than beneficial because of its unintended effect.” [Link](#)