



In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

**MPAC Recommendations on
2012 California Propositions
June 5, 2012 – Primary Election**

Quick Reference

State-Wide
Measures

Proposition Number	Title	Recommended Vote
28	Legislative Term Limits Reform	Yes
29	Tobacco Tax	Yes

Los Angeles County Measures

Measure Number	Title	Recommended Vote
Measure H	Hotel Tax	Yes
Measure L	Landfill Tax	Yes

BACKGROUND

The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) is pleased to present its analysis of the two propositions and two county measures appearing on the California primary election ballot on June 5, 2012. We have conducted our research by reviewing voting material produced by the state, analyzing the arguments of the proponents and opponents of each proposition, and attempting to view propositions from a holistic American Muslim perspective. As always, we urge all voters to familiarize themselves with the propositions and vote their conscience. We hope that this will serve as a useful tool as you decide how to vote. All summaries of propositions below are taken from the California Voter Guide. For more information, visit <http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/>.

PROPOSITION ANALYSIS

Prop. 28: Vote Yes. Term Limit Changes at the State Legislature

Summary: Modifies Term Limits at the State Legislature allowing members to serve a combined 12 years in either chamber versus the current system that allows members to serve a combined 14 years but a maximum of 6 years in the State Assembly and 8 years in the State Senate. Fiscal Impact: No Fiscal Impact. Put on the ballot via signatures.

MPAC Analysis: Many members of the state legislature take time to figure out the rules and to become familiar with the process of their respective house. The current system forces them to switch houses resulting in a longer and more ineffective tenure at the state legislature. By passing Prop 28, members of the state legislature will be able to stay in one house allowing them to more effectively use their time in Sacramento.

Prop. 29: Vote Yes. Taxes Tobacco to help fund state-wide cancer research

Summary: Increases taxes on cigarette packs by \$1 to \$1.87 per pack. Funds collected as a result will be used to fund cancer research and tobacco prevention initiatives. *Fiscal Impact:* Would result in an increase of \$735 million in tax revenues annually by the year 2013-2014. Put on the Ballot by via signatures.

MPAC Analysis: This increase of taxes on cigarettes will go to funding research for cancer and the prevention of tobacco usage in California. Also by increasing taxes on cigarettes more Californians will be dissuaded from using them due to the increase in cost. This proposition will help resolve one of the biggest public health issues facing the state today.

Measure H: Vote Yes. Maintains Current Tax Rate for Staying at a hotel within the County

Summary: Maintains lodge tax for staying in a hotel in Los Angeles County at 12% rather than let it fall to 10%. *Fiscal Impact:* The 2% percent difference in tax rate brings in about \$2.1 million to the county. Put on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

MPAC Analysis: Measure H is not a new tax but rather it maintains the current lodge tax within the county. The majority of this tax is not paid by people living within the county but rather out of town visitors meaning that the tax is not a burden on county residents. Also cities within the county maintain a similar lodge tax (Pasadena 12.11%, Santa Monica and Los Angeles 14%, Long Beach 12%). Also, a failure to pass Measure H will mean that the County will have to cut vital services to County residents.

Measure L: Vote Yes. Maintains Tax Rate on Land Fill Usage

Summary: Maintains 10% tax rate on the gross revenue of businesses that operate Land Fills within the county. Put on the ballot by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor

MPAC Analysis: Measure L, like Measure H, is not a new tax but merely maintains a previous tax rate. Passing this measure is important to continue to fund key county services such as libraries and parks that county residents rely upon.