

# VALLEY VOTE

Organized Toward Empowerment Voters  
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## VALLEY VOTE REPORT: September 19, 2016 MEETING

Minutes accumulated by Denny Schneider

**Galpin Ford - 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 15555 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343**

*Valley Vote meetings are held the third Monday of each month to address critical public policy issues impacting the San Fernando Valley. **The next meeting will be October 17, 2016.***



**In Memorial: Longtime Chairman of the Board, J. Richard Leyner died this week. He will be missed by so many of us. His humor, caring, selflessness and willingness to do whatever it takes to help others is legendary. Richard was “Mr. San Fernando Valley” who found ways to make things happen so that others’ lives would be improved.**

This meeting featured Joel Fox, editor of Fox and Hounds website and longtime past president of the Howard Jarvis Association. Several Board members also presented reports covering various topics of interest.

Valley VOTE continues to advocate for San Fernando Valley citizens. To volunteer for positions as Board member and Executive Board member of Valley Vote or to see the dozens of impact position statements taken to improve the SFV visit our website: [www.ValleyVOTE.org](http://www.ValleyVOTE.org)

### **Joel Fox, Editor of Fox and Hounds Daily**



Joel Fox was a driving force for 19 years as president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. He is currently editor of a blog covering California Business, adjunct professor at Pepperdine University, business group leader, and public policy and political consultant. He has written hundreds of opinion section articles for key publications nationwide related to public policy, finance, education, and numerous other topics.

Joel gave us his insights into the seventeen upcoming November election California propositions and took questions from the audience to address any question that they raised. His presentation addressed the pros and cons of each proposition. He note 5% of voters in last Gubernatorial election were needed to qualify. Initiatives are only allowed in November which drove up the number of items. He stated which groups were drivers for passage and opposition. He told us that “I’m going to provide the facts and let you make up your own minds.” Joel’s humor compared Propositions to a Hollywood plot—sex, drugs, guns, and more. Propositions are assigned numbers by the Secretary of State Alex Padilla and listed at <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/propositions/> . The Fair Political Practices website lists major contributors; <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors/nov-16-gen-v2/pending-circulating-ballot-measures.html> .

Below is a table of the 17 proposition information along with some comments provided by Joel.

<b>Proposition Number and Description</b>	<b>Favor</b> This is CA funding that can be made	<b>Oppose</b> Opposed by Gov. Brown
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<p><b>51 Authorizes \$9B in general obligation bonds for school construction and modernization. \$7B is K-12 including charter; \$2B to Community College. Total cost about \$18B with interest. This covers construction, not services.</b></p>	<p>available to local schools. Funded by Charles Munger to aid in development of schools. CA matches local bond funds. This is in place of developer fees.</p>	<p>because it adds to CA general obligations to be funded by taxpayers. This increases property tax.</p>
<p><b>52 Extends fee indefinitely and requires 2/3 vote of legislature to amend laws requiring fees from hospitals for matching Medi-Cal grants for uninsured and non-covered children.</b></p>	<p>Generates over \$3 billion a year in federal matching funds that pay for health care services for children, seniors and low-income families. Prohibits the Legislature from diverting this money for other purposes, as done previously, without voter approval. Labor unions support. Existing charge on private hospitals ends 2018 unless extended.</p>	<p>SEIU opposes; no controls of \$ hospital use ie. CEO salaries. No independent audit and no requirement the money is spent on health care. Public funds can be spent on lobbyists, perks and salaries for hospital bureaucrats instead of children and seniors. Almost 1/3 of people served receive some support.</p>
<p><b>53 Requires voter approval on all revenue bonds for projects greater than \$2B.</b></p>	<p>Howard Jarvis Assn. Supports. This addresses general and revenue bonds to protect taxpayers on projects like the bullet train or Water Delta project. Currently revenue bonds do NOT require a vote, but CA is on the hook if inadequate \$ are generated by project to pay back bonds.</p>	<p>Prop. erodes local or regional control by requiring statewide vote on some local infrastructure projects. Empowers voters in faraway regions to reject local needs. Prop. 53 jeopardizes water supply, bridge safety, other repairs. No exemption for emergencies/disasters. Business, Chambers, Gov Brown, Firefighters, cities, counties, Association of California Water Agencies urge No.</p>
<p><b>54 Requires bills to be in print 72 hours prior to being acted upon.</b></p>	<p>Provides transparency. Any bill (including changes to the bill) would require bill detail be available to legislators and posted on the Internet for at least 72 hours before the Legislature could pass it. The Legislature would have to record meetings (and allow others to record) and post videos of meetings on the Internet. Press supports.</p>	<p>Eliminates flexibility. Legislature opposes because it may delay passage because compromise language would have to be posted before vote.</p>
<p><b>55 Extends temporary Prop 30 income tax on high earners \$250K for additional 12 years</b></p>	<p>Provides money for schools and all items that general fund can fund. Hospitals, Teachers Assn, Service Employees support. Some \$ to medicare as well.</p>	<p>Opposed by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and Chambers.</p>
<p><b>56 Increases tobacco tax by \$2 per package</b></p>	<p>State excise tax also would be applied to electronic cigarettes. Revenue from these higher taxes would be used for many purposes, but primarily to augment spending on health care for low-income Californians. Service Employees, Med and Dental Assns, Insurance Companies, Hospitals support.</p>	<p>Tobacco opposes \$1.6 billion tax increase gives \$1 billion to health insurance companies and special interests. 56 cheats schools out of \$600 million a year by circumventing our minimum school funding guarantee. Only 13% of \$ is anti-smoking or prevents kids from starting.</p>
<p><b>57 Requires judges instead of prosecutors to determine if criminals under 18 should be tried</b></p>	<p>Certain CA prison inmates convicted of nonviolent felony offenses would be considered for earlier release. The state prison system could</p>	<p>DAs oppose. Can reduce sentences by credit of "good behavior" even in juvenile. EARLY RELEASE of</p>

<p><b>in juvenile court. More discretion to judges.</b></p>	<p>award additional sentencing credits to inmates for good behavior and approved rehabilitative or educational achievements. Youths must have a hearing in juvenile court before they could be transferred to adult court. Governor, CA Democratic Party, Service Employees major contributors.</p>	<p>violent criminals, including those who RAPE unconscious victims. Authorizes immediate release for 16,000 dangerous criminals, even convicted murderers. Amends the California Constitution; takes rights away from victims; grants more rights to criminals</p>
<p><b>58 Amends 1998 Prop 227 to allow limited English students to be taught in other languages. Legislature referendum.</b></p>	<p>Gov Brown supports. Gives schools more latitude on how to teach in other languages. Opposes English immersion and English Only.</p>	<p>Eliminates parental rights to insist on an English–language education for their children.</p>
<p><b>59 Seeks voter opinions on whether CA electeds should work to overturn Citizens United decision on restriction of election spending where the Supreme Court ruled that laws placing certain limits on political spending by corporations and unions are unconstitutional.</b></p>	<p>This is advisory only which encourages CA action to work to change Constitution and overturn Supreme Court decision.</p>	
<p><b>60 Requires adult film performs to use condoms throughout CA</b></p>	<p>Gives California health officials new enforcement tools to ensure pornographers finally obey the same workplace protection rules that apply to other California industries. Currently in LA this would extend to all of CA. Funded by Aids Foundation.</p>	<p>ANY Californian may sue adult film performers, producers, or distributors, Violates their privacy, and weakens workplace safety. Aids foundation has spent millions to disguise flaws. Public health workers, civil rights orgs, and political parties oppose.</p>
<p><b>61 Prohibits CA to spend more for prescription drugs than that paid by US Dept Veteran Affairs. Exempts managed care programs funded through Medi–Cal.</b></p>	<p>Drug companies spending \$60-80M to defeat this. Controversial- supported by those who fell measure will reduce medicine costs.</p>	<p>Pharmaceutical industry opposes; claim increased prescription prices, reduce patient access to needed medicines, produce more bureaucracy and lawsuits that cost taxpayers millions, and hurt veterans by increasing their prescription costs. Opposed by California Medical Association, California NAACP, California Taxpayers Association, Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Greater California, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)</p>
<p><b>62 Repeals Death Penalty and affirms life w/o parole. No offenders could be sentenced to death by the state for first degree murder. The most serious penalty available would be a prison term of life without the possibility of parole. Offenders who are currently under a sentence of death would be resentenced to life without the possibility of parole.</b></p>	<p>Pro claim prisoners must work and pay restitution instead of sitting on death row. Claim is it guarantees no innocent person is executed.</p>	<p>Opponents claim costly to house all convicted. Measure repeals the death penalty for brutal killers, including child killers, mass murderers, serial killers, and rape/torture murderers. Prop. 62 means these murderers will live the rest of their lives at taxpayers' expense, with free healthcare, long after their victims are gone. Law enforcement, victims' families, and DAs oppose</p>

<b>63 Prohibits large-capacity ammunition magazines; background checks to buy ammo; mandates reporting stolen guns</b>	New requirements related to the selling or purchasing of ammunition would be implemented. Gavin Newsom initiative.	2/3 of people don't own guns. Another way to control gun access by limiting purchase of ammunition.
<b>64 Legalizes marijuana and initiates tax on sales</b>	Adults 21 years of age or older could legally grow, possess, and use marijuana for nonmedical purposes, with certain restrictions. The state would regulate nonmedical marijuana businesses and tax the growing and selling of medical and nonmedical marijuana. Allows local taxes on marijuana.	Omits DUI standard to keep marijuana-impaired drivers off our highways. California Association of Highway Patrolmen and Senator Dianne Feinstein strenuously oppose. Legalizes ads promoting smoking marijuana, gummy candy and brownies on shows watched by millions of children and teens. Shows reckless disregard for child health and safety. Opposed by California Hospital Association.
<b>65 Redirects \$ from selling carry-out bags at retail stores to fund by Wildlife Conservation Board.</b>	Prohibits giving customers certain carryout bags for free and (2) requires a charge for other types of carryout bags, the resulting revenue would be deposited in a new state fund to support certain environmental programs. Plastics companies support.	Charges on carryout bags are required by a state law, this law could direct the use of the resulting revenue toward any purpose away from grocery company.
<b>66 Sets time limits for CA death sentence reviews; requires appointed attorneys with noncapital appeals to accept death penalty appeals.</b>	Changes procedures governing challenges to death sentences. Designates superior court for initial petitions and limits successive petitions. Requires appointed attorneys who take noncapital appeals to accept death penalty appeals as well. Exempts prison officials from existing regulation process for developing execution methods. Favored by pro death penalty people. Brings closure to victims' families and justice to brutal murderers. Victims' families, DAs and law enforcement support.	Opponents claim it adds more layers of government bureaucracy causing more delays, costs taxpayers money, and increases California's risk of executing an innocent person.
<b>67 Referendum to overturn SB270 to reinstate plastic bag use. Yes is favor ban of plastic bags.</b>	Most grocery stores, convenience stores, large pharmacies, and liquor stores would be prohibited from providing plastic carryout bags. Stores generally would be required to charge at least 10 cents for bags provided to customers at checkout. Stores would keep the resulting revenue for specified purposes.	Opponents claim not one penny goes to the environment. All \$300 million goes to grocer profits.

**Valley VOTE Committee Reports:**

**Victor N. Viereck- LA Proposition HHH vs Homelessness**

Because of the City of Los Angeles's homelessness of possibly 27,000, Measure HHH will be on the November 8, 2016 ballot. As sad as it is for even one person to be homeless, having about 27,000 homeless is horrendous. Although due to mental illness many of the homeless do not want housing, most of the homeless need and want housing.

If government had been more intelligent about regulations involving housing, there would be a lot fewer homeless. It would not be nearly as pervasive if government (including elected) officials had not imposed so many regulations as they have. It has been a problem at local, state, and federal levels. The five cities nationally, with the highest rents, all have rent control. The Los Angeles Rent Stabilization Ordinance prevents adequate preservation of older apartments through strict limitations on cost pass through for capital improvements. At the beginning of the RSO there were well over 1.3 million subject apartments (units). Now there are less than 700,000 such units. In order to build apartment buildings investors need to get city permits. Depending on how many units owners want built, projects exceeding a certain allowed number of units are required to have Affordable Housing covenants on a certain number of included units. Due to the reduced rent in the covenants, the non-covenanted units are less affordable than they would otherwise be. Required rent limits also reduce property tax and income tax. For government that certainly relates to "Be Careful What You Ask For."

Recently passed SB 2819, at the state level, prevents apartment owners who are trying to rent vacant apartments from obtaining unlawful detainer actions against applicants. Although that is a new law, it's a strong example of problems from prior laws.

Although the 1986 (Federal) Tax Reform Act included some very helpful (for the economy) tax law changes, it included a very discouraging part regarding rental housing. Prior to that change apartment investors could get a tax shelter by buying rental housing. That encouraged a lot of investment. But the 1986 Tax Reform Act increased the depreciable life of residential rental property from 19 years to 27 1/2 years. That eliminated the tax shelter. That law change did not change the overall amount of depreciation an owner could write off. It spread the depreciable amount over the 27 1/2 years instead of just 19 years.

Victor N. Viereck For additional info: Victor N. Viereck, CPA 12702 Tiara Street, Valley Village, CA 91607 [\(818\) 985-9174](tel:8189859174) [vicviereck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vicviereck@sbcglobal.net)

### **Ralph Kroy, Sunshine Canyon**

The landfill is located at 14747 San Fernando Road, West of the 1-5 and the 14 freeway intersection on the borders between the communities of Granada Hills and Sylmar and is owned by BFI/Republic Industries. It is also one of the most cited landfills for odors in the State, if not in the country.

So why are we still here giving you yet another one of these reports? Because the landfill while reaping huge profits from their operations has failed to fix the odor problem (fresh trash odors from arriving trash in the morning, and methane odors at night from an inadequate landfill gas collection system), and instead chooses to blame others for causing the problem by claiming that the calls are bogus because some people are suing them, and that others just want to close the landfill..

From January 2009 thru August 2016, the residents of Granada Hills and Sylmar have filed 9,309 odor complaints with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and in turn they have issued 191 Notices of Violations (NOVs). The issuing of violations is complex and favors the landfill. It requires at least 3 calls within an hour to be filed before an inspector is dispatched to the area, in addition if odors are detected, then there must be a least 6 complainants' reports of odor verified, and these 6 in turn must be tracked back to the landfill before a NOV can be issued.

After 3 Townhall Meetings, the SCAQMD filed a Petition for an Order of Abatement for Odors, and held a SCAQMD Hearing Board Meeting in Granada Hills on August 27th to hear from the residents. Among the proposed restrictions are:

The reduce the daily tonnage of trash to 6,000 tons per day, Currently they are permitted for 12,100 tons per day with the daily average now running about 8,400 tons per day. Since they are adding 2.3 million tons of trash per year, the reduction would help them get ahead of the gas generation curve.

Changing the landfills opening time from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Currently 31% of all fresh trash odors reported are between 6:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m., and heavily impact the Van Gogh Elementary School in Granada Hills.

Use Alternative Daily Cover, and implement improved Intermediate Cover.

Dewatering of wells, and analysis of well integrity and landfill gas collection.

Improve odor management at the working face and at transfer stations. Remote transfer facilities are owned by Republic, other disposal companies, and by the City of Los Angeles.

While the residents still hold out hope, the SCAQMD must plead their case in front of the SCAQMD Hearing Board which is composed of lawyers, environmentalists, and other professionals not in the employ of the SCAQMD, and it is this same Board which in the past has failed to impose similar restrictions in other previous Orders for Abatement of Odors issued to Sunshine Canyon Landfill. In conclusion, County Public Works in letters to Republic on March 31st and again on July 7, 2016, after what only can be described as an prior inadequate response by Republic to resolve the odors, has issued a series of conditions/improvements to eliminate or drastically reduce the number of odors reported. Further, Public Works is requiring that the improvements must be completed by August 2017 or BFI/Republic will be in violation of their Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Ralph Kroy [REKroy@aol.com](mailto:REKroy@aol.com)

### **Ernie Hilger – Veterans**

The Veterans Community supports passage of S.2921 the Veterans First Act (see <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s2921> for the complete text and details.) because it improves the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs and includes a West LA VA Master Plan reference Title IX).

This is a critical piece of legislation required to start construction process for Homeless Veterans as stipulated in the approved Master for the West LA VA.

The 2016 Master Plan West LA VA is a “synthesis 21 century document” taking inputs from the greater Los Angeles Community for the benefit of future generations of veterans and their families.

A critical piece of the puzzle is the ability to provide leases on the LA VA property. This is included in West Los Angeles Campus, the Veterans Care Agreement and West Los Angeles Leasing Act, Bill HR 5936 which was approved in the Senate and sent to the President for signature. After he signs that bill we all need to push for passage of S2921 which further supports the VA Master Plan but also provides support to Women Veterans, authorizes needed long term care givers, and will provide appeals reform to allow timely responses to our veterans.

For more information: Ernie Hilger, Legislative Chair, DAV Chapter Camp Kearney, Van Nuys  
[ErnieHilger@hotmail.com](mailto:ErnieHilger@hotmail.com)

### **Denny Schneider - Airport Report**

ARSAC and community spent over 100,000 man-hours over the past 20 years commenting on LAWA projects. This past month Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and LA City, owners of LAX, agreed to make LAX safer, more secure, and convenient while considering surrounding areas' quality of life.

Terminals and public access into LAX along with significant taxiway improvements and upgraded electronics are planned. It took “only” 14 years and a \$million in legal fees, but this agreement commences a new era of cooperation not seen in over 40 years. Air safety, air quality, noise, and health concern mitigations are on the same level of importance as operational efficiency for the new LAWA leadership.

The real significance of this agreement, however, is that it documents a meeting of the minds and is not just another “enforceable agreement.”

Key agreement points include:

Safety enhanced north airfield without moving runways closer to airport neighbors. Enhancements include moving high speed taxiways to the last third of the runway ends, improved taxiways parallel to the north terminals and adding active safety technology such as Runway Status Lights and Final Approach Runway Occupancy Signals (FAROS) to warn pilots if it is unsafe to enter or land on a runway. These airfield enhancements will result in a reduction in aircraft emissions thereby protecting surrounding communities and the 50K people working at LAX.

New passenger gates within the Central Terminal Area will replace the west remote gates currently served by buses.

A new community park in the LAX Northside Development

A new site for an airport air quality monitoring station

“Real” ongoing dialogue will occur between LAWA, ARSAC and the community to make LAX better while enhancing the community.

ARSAC agrees not to sue to slow or stop Landside Access Modernization Program which LAWA wants to complete before the 2024 Olympics

Further, LAWA and the City are also on the same page in support of a regional network of airports by recognizing the importance enhancing the region’s outlying airports.

There’s still much to be accomplished, but now there’s hope! Meanwhile the FAA is about to implement its So. Cal. [Optimization of Airspace & Procedures in the Metroplex \(OAPM\)](#) air traffic controls starting next month through April 2017. The new system utilizes GPS controls instead of old style radar. It will add efficiency and air space capacity, but will simultaneously increase impacts on some neighborhoods.

Denny Schneider, President Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport

Congestion [www.RegionalSolution.org](http://www.RegionalSolution.org) [Denny@WeLiveFree.com](mailto:Denny@WeLiveFree.com) 213 675-1817

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**Valley VOTE Mission Statement**

**Valley VOTE is a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley residents, business people, educators, community activists, and organizations, committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters. We meet monthly to address key policy issues and hear reports from our standing committee chairs. For additional information about Valley VOTE, for an upcoming meeting agenda, or for previous meeting reports and press releases, we encourage you to go to the [Valley VOTE website](#).**