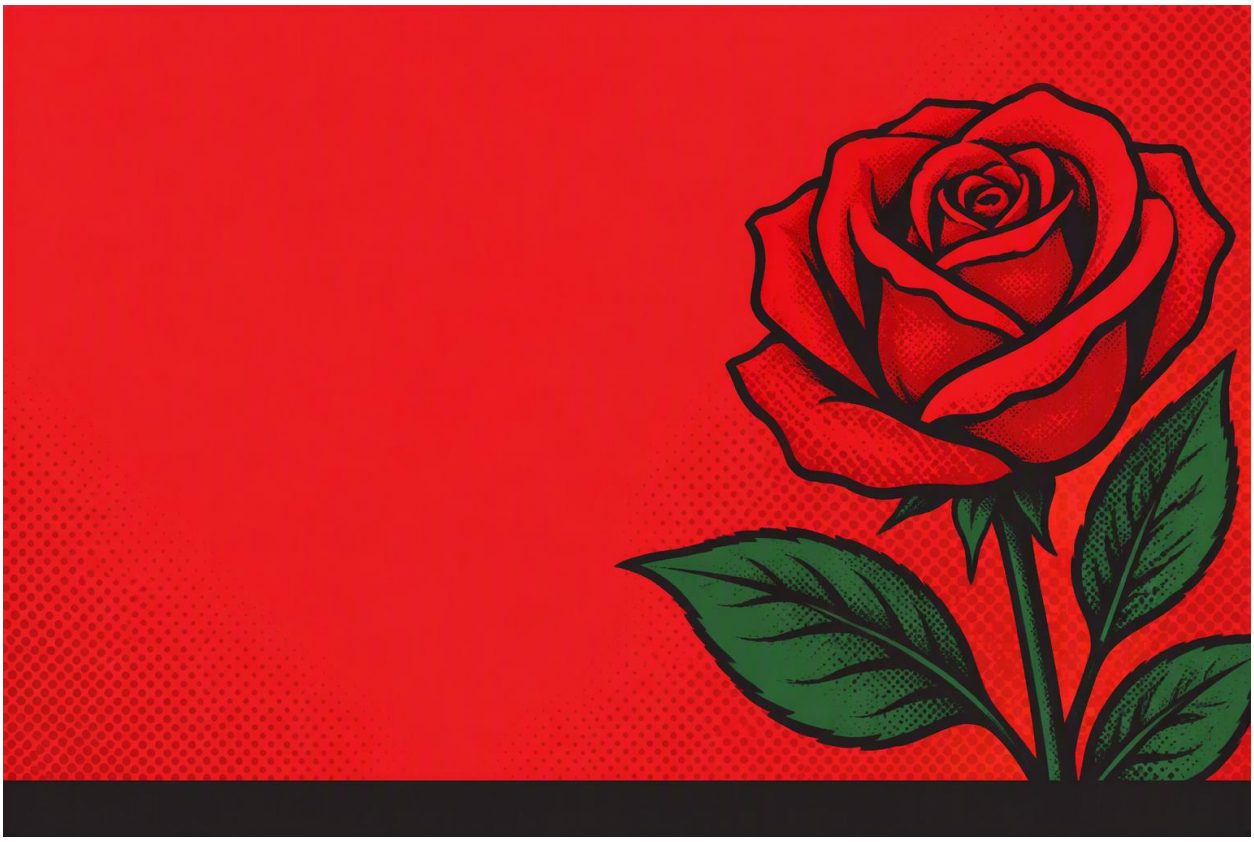


Sacramento DSA Voter Guide 2026

Democratic Socialists of America · November 2026 General Election · sacdsa.org

The Democratic Socialists of America is building a party that is committed to a democratic society of the working class. We are committed to ending the capitalist oligarchy and establishing a true democracy, where workers can exert control over the government and the workplace. You can read more about our shared goals in our program, *Workers Deserve More*.

At a Glance

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American River Flood Control District – Division 2	Emily Smet	**ENDORSED**
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Prop 2	Save more when state revenue is high	**YES**
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Measure H	Los Rios Community College District bond	**YES**
Measure I	Folsom: Council appoints city attorney	**YES**
Measure J	Folsom: Decision-making authority for commissions	**YES**
Measure K	Folsom: Raise campaign contribution limit to $500	**YES**
Measure L	Galt: Appointed city treasurer and clerk	**NO RECOMMENDATION**

Measure M	Sac City Unified parcel tax for special education	**YES**

Endorsements

For Sacramento DSA, an endorsement means that our chapter will commit real resources to a campaign, such as volunteering to phone bank and knock on doors. Our chapter has democratically decided to endorse three campaigns this November.

Mai Vang for US Congress - District 7

✓ Sacramento DSA Endorsed

Sacramento DSA proudly endorses Mai Vang for California's Congressional District 7. We are endorsing Mai because she has demonstrated a commitment to our values, and her campaign against a 50-year political dynasty highlights the class divide between workers and capitalists.

Mai brings years of advocacy, leadership, and community organizing experience to our region. Born and raised in Sacramento, she earned a Master's in Public Health and became a community organizer. She fought to bring the voices of our marginalized community members into focus when she, along with other community leaders founded Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP). As a school board member she introduced the Safe Haven Resolution for Sacramento schools which prohibits ICE officers from entering schools and prohibits schools from sharing information about students with ICE. After this policy passed, it was implemented as a model in school districts across California.

As a candidate for City Council, Mai took the pledge to reject campaign donations from corporations and law enforcement organizations. When COVID hit her district, she rolled up her sleeves and worked to organize one of the most linguistically diverse vaccination clinics in the country, even serving the overflow of patients from our privatized regional healthcare system. When the rest of the City Council refused to set aside funding for community youth programs, Mai and other community advocates organized for Measure L – The Sacramento Children's Fund. In 2025 the Fund provided over $10 million to support youth programming in Sacramento.

Mai Vang represents the new generation of leadership we need to meet the rising ecological, social, and authoritarian crises in our country.

Emily Smet for American River Flood Control District - Division 2

✓ Sacramento DSA Endorsed

Emily Smet is an environmental scientist and community organizer running to be a Trustee for the American River Flood Control District (ARFCD) to ensure that we work with nature to keep our communities safe from climate change.

Sacramento is neck-and-neck with New Orleans for the title of the most flood-prone and levee-dependent city in America. ARFCD is a board that governs the day-to-day operations of the levees that contain the American River.

Emily has a degree in environmental science with an emphasis in watershed science and works at the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts as the Agriculture and Watershed Program Manager. Every day, she works with special districts like ARFCD to support their mission of conservation, and she plans to do the same to support staff at the flood control district.

Emily has been a DSA organizer for years, serving a term as Co-chair of Sacramento DSA in 2025. She was instrumental in fighting for Sacramento to become a transgender sanctuary city - an experience that made her realize the power that an organized and engaged public can have in her city.

We are endorsing Emily because we know that her experience and perspective will bring necessary change to the American River Flood Control Board. We deserve elected officials who will prioritize the preservation of our natural watershed systems and understand the worsening impacts of capitalism and climate change on our communities. Crucially, we need elected officials who will not pit the interests of environmental conservation against the needs of our most marginalized neighbors. And because we believe the American River is for everyone, we are proud to endorse Emily Smet to represent Midtown, Downtown, and East Sacramento on the American River Flood Control District Board.

Prop 40: Tax Billionaire's Wealth to Fund Healthcare

✓ Endorsement: Vote Yes

Prop 40 would impose a one-time 5% tax or a 1% tax over 5 years on certain taxpayers with assets over $1 billion. In total, approximately 200 individuals would be affected by this tax, .00005% of California's population. However, taxing these 200 individuals would provide the state with 100 billion dollars in revenue. 90% of this tax would go to healthcare services, to supplement the funding that has been gutted by the federal government.

The measure was placed on the ballot by labor unions and DSA chapters which collected hundreds of thousands of signatures – in direct opposition to Gavin Newsom and his billionaire friends. This policy would be the first of its kind in the United States and set a precedent for future wealth-based taxation.

Sacramento DSA, California DSA, and Bernie Sanders alike have endorsed Prop 40 because it restores much-needed funding to healthcare and highlights the **cl**ass struggle between workers and capitalists. The measure directly targets some of the wealthiest capitalists on Earth, like Sergey Brin and Mark Zuckerberg, who have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in opposition.

⚠ Later in this voter guide, Sacramento DSA also recommends No on Prop 41 and No on Prop 42. If either one of those propositions pass with a higher percentage of the vote than Prop 40, they would nullify Prop 40.

State Propositions

Prop 1: Fund affordable housing & veterans' home loans with a state bond

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Text: Prop 1 authorizes $11.25 billion in bonds to both fund affordable housing and provide home loans for veterans. This would include:

- $7.2 billion to build, renovate or preserve affordable apartments,
- $1.1 billion for home buyers assistance and affordable repairs
- $500 million for infrastructure to support housing, such as for managing water systems and parks
- $450 million for farm worker housing
- $350 million for UC/ CSU housing
- $200 million for tribal housing
- $200 million for pilot programs to lower construction costs
- $1.25 billion in Calvet home loans for veterans

Sacramento DSA believes that housing is a human right, and supports efforts to supply affordable housing. Recently SB 1091 was signed into law, which will fund the acquisition of market rate housing and rehabilitation into affordable housing. However, the program will only have funding if Prop 1 passes. Although this proposition does not address the root causes of the housing crisis, it is an important step towards increasing the supply of housing.

Prop 2: Make California save more when state revenue is high

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Prop 2 requires the State to save more money when it experiences a budget surplus, doubling the saving cap from 10% to 20% of the general fund. This would allow for the State to have a larger rainy day fund, to prevent cuts to schools, healthcare, and fire prevention when the State is in a deficit.

California relies heavily on a progressive income tax and a capital gains tax for revenue. However, these sources are highly volatile. In 2022, California projected a record-high

budget surplus of $98 billion, almost 50% higher than the previous year's budget. Two years later, in 2024, the state faced a massive projected deficit of $73 billion. The rainy day fund will allow the state to save more in extreme high-revenue years to insure against big budget cuts in deficit years.

Prop 3: Keep current top-earner taxes for schools & health care

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

This proposition makes an already existing tax on high income earners permanent in order to fund education. Income taxes for top earners range from 10.3% for individual income over $360,000 to 12.3% for individual income over $721,000. Allocates 89% of revenues generated to K-12 public schools and 11% to community colleges with any excess going to healthcare. This tax is currently set to expire in 2031 if California voters do not re-approve it before then.

This proposition intends to extend K-14 education funding in perpetuity by taxing the highest earners in the state. Allowing this tax to expire would severely harm California's public education system.

Prop 4: Allow public funding for election campaigns

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

America's political system is broken and undemocratic. DSA supports reforms that can level the playing field for working class people and transform America into a **true democracy**.

Private campaign spending allows billionaires, corporations, and shadowy Super PACs to influence elections. By contrast, public funding programs would allow candidates to receive campaign funding directly from the City or State government.

In 2024, Sacramento DSA member **Katie Valenzuela** ran for re-election to Sacramento City Council. Her opponent was supported by developers, realtors, and business owners. CM Valenzuela lost this election after **the capitalist class outspent us by a factor of three-to-one**.

Public funding can **empower socialist candidates** to challenge well-funded establishment politicians. New York City's funding match for small-dollar donations has contributed to NYC-DSA's unlikely victories in electing **Zohran Mamdani, Claire Valdez,** and **Darializa Avila-Chevalier**.

The California state constitution bans public funding for elections. As a result, cities like Sacramento cannot establish a donation-matching program to counter the unlimited spending by billionaires, corporations, and Super PACs. **Prop 4 would remove this ban** and allow our state and local governments to establish public funding programs for our elections.

Vote YES on Prop 4 to transform California into a healthier democracy!

Prop 5: Change how California replaces officials removed by voters

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

The California State Constitution allows voters to recall any elected official and remove them from office if a majority of voters approve the recall, as seen by the 2021 election to recall Governor Newsom. Currently, voters elect replacement candidates on the same ballot when they vote to recall the sitting candidate. If the recall succeeds, the highest vote-getter is selected to replace the candidate, even if they receive a very small plurality of votes.

If Prop 5 passes, this arcane process would be replaced with more democratic and accountable processes for determining replacements:

- If a state legislator is recalled, the governor would call a special election within about four months.
- If the governor is recalled within the first two years of their term, the secretary of state would call a special election.
- If the governor is recalled in the second two years of their term, the lieutenant governor would finish the governor's term.
- If a statewide official such as the state treasurer, attorney general, or insurance commissioner is recalled, the governor would appoint their replacement to serve until the next scheduled election.
- Ousted officials would be allowed to run for the same office in the special election.

In 2021, California voters faced the opportunity to recall Newsom after high-profile scandals at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Newsom consolidated Democratic support and easily campaigned against a pack of Republicans on the recall ballot, led by far-fight conservative radio host Larry Elder. And, some two decades beforehand, Governor Gray Davis was successfully recalled and replaced by the famous actor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Reforming this process would allow voters to focus on the failings of the current officeholder, and then consider new candidates separately. This would mean that an elected official could separately be recalled in one election and then replaced by a majority-supported candidate in another. This allows workers to hold elected officials accountable for their actions, with less risk of unpredictable minoritarian control.

Prop 37: Offer second mortgages to some new-home buyers

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 37 is worse than doing nothing. It's like lighting our tax dollars on fire.

The proposition would authorize **$25 billion** in bonds for a **convoluted mortgage assistance program** for buyers of **brand new homes up to $1.5 million**. This measure would **supercharge demand** for new homes without meaningfully increasing the supply of homes being built. When demand rises relative to an inelastic supply, **prices will increase**. The capitalist class from bankers to developers to realtors would pocket billions of dollars in public funds so that a handful of high-income Californians could more easily **buy luxury homes at inflated prices**.

DSA believes that **housing is a human right** and should be **not-for-profit**. California's housing crisis is largely caused by **commodification**: homes have turned into **financial instruments** rather than places to live. Fiscal policy at the state and federal levels reinforce **asset price inflation** by limiting supply, subsidizing demand, and encouraging speculation by investors. **44% of Californians are renters, who pay taxes yet receive basically no fiscal support for housing** at any level of government.

DSA is also fighting for a **Green New Deal**. New homes should be located in urban areas near good-paying union jobs and high-quality public transit. Instead, **Sacramento's newest homes are built in car-dependent suburbs** like Natomas, Elk Grove, Folsom, and Placer County. In these places, giant corporations like Lennar Homes are gobbling up prime farmland to build million-dollar homes.

There is no shortage of good policies that could support affordability. DSA's program calls for:

- **Social housing**: quality, affordable, state-owned housing for people of all incomes.
- **Regulation on investment properties**: corporations shouldn't own homes. Period.
- **Universal rent control** and guaranteed right to counsel for all tenants.

Sacramento DSA is also part of the **California Public Banking Alliance** which supports the establishment of state and municipal banks. A hypothetical Sacramento Public Bank could issue low-interest development loans, resulting in **brand-new homes that are up to 50% cheaper**. Workers could buy these homes with fixed-rate mortgages, and **the profits would be re-invested in Sacramento** instead of the Cayman Islands.

Vote NO on Prop 37 because workers deserve real solutions to the housing crisis!

Prop 38: Fund medical research with a state bond

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 38 authorizes $8.4 billion in general obligation bonds for immunology and immunotherapy research. This may sound positive, however Prop 38 dedicates half of this bond to a UCLA- affiliated nonprofit. The main funder of Prop 38, billionaire Gary K. Michelson is chair of the non-profit that would get most of the funding. While funding medical research is especially important in today's political environment, we do not think the state should be cherry picking organizations, based on the wishes of billionaires. Therefore, we recommend voting no on Prop 38.

Prop 39: Adds voter ID rules that can reject valid mail ballots

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 39 invalidates mail ballots that do not have the last four digits of a designated government-issued identification number, such as a social security number written on the envelope. It also requires in-person voters to present a government issued ID. Prop 39 is a new attempt to suppress voters. It reflects efforts by the Trump Administration to increase fears about "voter fraud" and discount elections in Democratic States. This proposition would make it more difficult for the average Californian to vote. Currently, Government issued IDs are often expensive, and requiring them is essentially a poll tax. Adding more steps to the voting process, such as adding an ID number to an envelope, or requiring an ID for in person voting also makes it more difficult to vote correctly. This increases the odds that votes will be discounted. Sac DSA believes true democracy is accessible and comprehendable. Forcing the already tired working class to jump through more hoops just to vote will do nothing but suppress voices.

Prop 41: (Would undo Billionaires Tax)

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 41 is designed to cancel the Billionaire's Tax, by nullifying state taxes enacted after January 1, 2026. It also requires pre-election and recurring audits of programs funded by new special taxes, including recommendations for cutting program costs by 10%.

Sacramento DSA supports addressing California's wealth disparity. Billionaires dominate the political landscape with their money and thus are able to buy a louder voice than the rest of us. It not only ensures their messages make it out on the airwaves and on social media, but it also ensures that they have the ears of our electeds. All of this limits our voice, limits our influence, and stifles democracy. Please join us in voting No against Prop 41.

Prop 42: Ban Taxes on Capital

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

A capitalist coalition led by Google co-founder Sergey Brin has bankrolled this measure to not just cancel the Billionaire's Tax, but also ban any future taxes on wealth.

Prop 42 prohibits any new state tax (1) imposed on the ownership of personal property, or (2) that applies retroactively based on taxpayers' past activities. It retroactively bans all taxes (including the billionaires tax, or Prop 40) enacted after January 1, 2026 that conflict with this measure.

A capitalist coalition led by Google co-founder Sergey Brin has bankrolled this measure to not just cancel the Billionaire's Tax, but also ban any future taxes on wealth. These billionaires have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on misleading ads in favor of Prop 42, claiming that wealth taxes like Prop 40 would apply to everyday retirement accounts. In reality, Prop 40 would only apply to billionaires, not the working class, not retirees, and not even hundred-millionaires.

Sacramento DSA supports addressing California's wealth disparity and challenging the dominance of the property-owning class. Prop 42 would permanently close the door on this important method of taxing the rich. Please join us in voting No against Prop 42.

Prop 43: Require two-thirds approval for certain local taxes

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 43 will make it nearly impossible for voters to raise their own taxes.

Citizen initiatives involve gathering thousands of signatures from registered voters to qualify a proposition for a local or state election. Citizen initiatives for special-use taxes

only need a simple majority (50%) to pass. Citizen initiatives for special taxes are often used to fund things like schools, healthcare, and transportation.

Prop 43 would raise the threshold for these citizens initiative special taxes to a **two-thirds majority**. This would effectively close the pathway for special-use taxes via citizen initiative and put control back into the hands of elected officials.

Sacramento DSA has also endorsed **SaferSacStreets**, an initiative to increase the sales tax in Sacramento to support bus operations and street repairs. That effort failed to collect enough signatures and will not be on the ballot this year. If Prop 43 succeeds, it will become **nearly impossible for a second attempt** to pass SaferSacStreets into law. And, effectively, any future sales tax for transportation would be written by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, a **majority-Republican board that would prefer to spend our limited tax dollars on endless highway expansions**.

Vote NO on Prop 43 to preserve voters' control over our taxes.

Prop 44: Put a strict 90% spending rule on safety-net clinics

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 44 imposes penalties on nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Centers (community clinics providing primary care to medically underserved areas and populations) that spend less than 90% of revenue on "program services". Program services include anything connected to patient care such as: medical equipment, translation, telehealth, clinic space, technology and staff time. The penalty would be equal to the amount the clinic fell below 90%. Currently, clinics spend about 80% of their revenue on program services, meaning they would need to pay a fee equal to 10% of their revenue (90-80=10). This could force clinics to operate at a loss leading to closures. Sacramento DSA believes in increasing access to medical care, and closing clinics goes directly against this goal. For this reason we recommend voting no on Prop 44.

Prop 45: Speed up and limit environmental reviews

✗ Recommendation: Vote No

Prop 45 is a Trojan Horse that would make it easier to build data centers under the guise of children's hospitals and affordable housing. Sacramento DSA recognizes that targeted environmental reforms can support our goals in the near-term. However, environmental policy is complicated and should not be left to a **capitalist-funded power-grab**.

Since 1970, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has required local governments to study, disclose, and mitigate the impacts of big projects including housing and infrastructure. **CEQA can be used to block almost any project – good or bad**. Even sustainable efforts like high-speed rail are subject to lawsuits, delays, and cost increases.

In recent years, the Legislature has expanded a list of categories that are **exempt from CEQA review** to expedite projects like bus lanes and small apartment buildings. However, greedy developers and tech oligarchs wanted to go even further, so they went around the legislature and bank-rolled this Proposition.

Prop 45 would expedite CEQA review for many more types of projects, including **data centers, freeway widening, single-family housing, and giant solar arrays**. What's even worse: **high-speed rail was *excluded* from the list**.

If this measure passes, Sacramento would see more of these types of projects **without any of the transparency or protection measures that keep our communities safe**:

1. "Large Load" data centers in South Sacramento
2. Demolishing homes for endless freeway construction
3. Paving over farms and wetlands for suburban sprawl
4. Cutting down thousands of heritage oaks to build a massive solar farm

Vote NO on Prop 45 to protect Sacramento's natural resources from Wall Street investors!

Local Measures

Measure D (Natomas Unified School District)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Authorizes up to $300 million in school bonds to repair aging facilities, modernize classrooms, improve safety and accessibility, expand career-training facilities, and accommodate community growth. Funding would be locally controlled, subject to annual audits and citizen oversight, and cannot be used for administrator salaries. DSA believes in free, quality public education and expanded public investment in community institutions. Measure D aligns with these principles because it directs public funding toward public schools rather than privatized alternatives. Although Measure D does not fundamentally change the inequitable way California funds schools (through property taxes), it represents a substantial investment in public education and school infrastructure.

Measure E (Center Joint Unified School District)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Authorizes up to $197 million in school bonds to repair aging school facilities and expand science and career-training facilities and accommodate growing student enrollment. The measure includes annual audits, citizen oversight, and restrictions preventing bond funds from being used for administrator salaries or general operating expenses. DSA believes in strong public investment in education and expanded career and vocational training opportunities. Measure E aligns with these principles because it directs public funding toward public schools rather than privatized alternatives. Although Measure E does not fundamentally change the inequitable way California funds schools (through property taxes), it represents a substantial investment in public education and school infrastructure.

Measure G (Galt Joint Union High School District)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Authorizes $43 million in school bonds to modernize classrooms, expand vocational and skilled-trades training programs, repair aging facilities, remove asbestos and mold, and improve school safety. The measure would be funded through a property-tax levy of about $30 per $100,000 of assessed value and includes independent oversight, annual audits, local control of funds, and a prohibition on spending bond proceeds on administrator salaries or pensions. Although Measure E does not fundamentally change the inequitable

way California funds schools (through property taxes), it aligns with DSA goals by investing in public education and infrastructure and expanding access to career and vocational training that can help working-class students enter skilled trades.

Measure H (Los Rios Community College District)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Authorizes $1.1 billion in bonds to maintain and improve community college and career-training facilities, prepare students, workers, and veterans for employment, provide safe drinking water, and repair aging infrastructure. The measure would be funded through average levies of less than $17 per $100,000 of assessed property value, includes independent audits and oversight, and requires all funds to remain local. This measure is consistent with DSA priorities around higher educational access, public infrastructure, and creating pathways to good-paying jobs.

Measure I (City of Folsom)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Amends the Folsom City Charter and changes how the city attorney is selected by having the Folsom City Council appoint and direct the city attorney, rather than having the position report through the city manager. The measure also makes related operational changes and would bring Folsom's structure more in line with that used by most California cities. The measure moderately increases democratic accountability by shifting authority toward an elected city council. As a result, it can reasonably be viewed as aligned with DSA values.

Measure J (City of Folsom)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Amends the Folsom City Charter by permitting the Folsom City Council to grant decision-making authority to city boards and commissions through ordinance instead of limiting them to purely advisory roles. The measure does not automatically transfer authority, rather, it permits the Council to delegate specific powers to appointed commissions while retaining oversight and the ability to modify or revoke that authority. Allowing commissions composed of local residents to exercise limited decision-making authority can create additional avenues for civic participation and community oversight. However, enabling unelected decision-making through appointments can reduce voter accountability by creating opportunities for decisions to be made by individuals who are less responsive to the broader public. That said, the measure preserves ultimate authority with the elected

City Council. This measure modestly contributes to the DSA goal of increasing democratic participation through community boards and commissions while remaining subject to public oversight and council review.

Measure K (City of Folsom)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Increases the campaign contribution limit for candidates running for Folsom City Council from $150 (set in 1994) to $500 per donor per election. The 1994 limit supported the original intent—which was to reduce the influence of wealthy special interests—until the courts removed virtually all restrictions on money flowing into so-called "independent expenditure committees." These legal decisions have resulted in a system that allows a handful of donors to put more money into city elections than hundreds of city residents. Supporters argue the current limit is now outdated and that a higher limit would allow candidates to raise more money directly from supporters rather than relying on independent expenditure committees. On its face, it increases the role of money in elections, which is antithetical to DSA values. However, after considering the context of current spending patterns and how the low $150 limit ultimately undermines the goal of people-led elections, the measure in reality aligns with the DSA goal of increasing democratic control and accountability.

Measure L (City of Galt)

– No Recommendation

A "yes" vote on this measure would approve of making the offices of Galt City Treasurer and City Clerk both appointive, rather than elected positions. A "no" vote on this measure would disapprove of making the offices of Galt City Treasurer and City Clerk appointive. From a DSA perspective, Measure L presents competing values. On one hand, DSA generally supports competent administration of public institutions and desires that key public functions are managed by qualified professionals. On the other hand, DSA strongly emphasizes democratic accountability and public control over government institutions. Converting elected offices into appointed positions reduces direct voter oversight and shifts power from the electorate to the City Council, even if the appointments are merit-based. The offices oversee elections, public records, financial management, and government transparency, all areas where democratic accountability has particular value.

Measure M (Sacramento City Unified School District)

✓ Recommendation: Vote Yes

Establishes a $95 annual parcel tax (with inflation adjustments) on property parcels within the district to raise approximately $10 million per year for special education services and early-intervention programs. The tax would remain in effect until repealed or replaced by voters and includes exemptions for many seniors and certain disability-benefit recipients. This measure, by funding special education, counseling, intervention services, and accommodations for students with disabilities, advances the DSA goal of building public institutions that serve all members of the community.