Proposition 13 and the March and November Elections

Californians may be asked to cast two votes this year for two different propositions labeled or related to “Proposition 13.” The first opportunity to vote comes with the State Primary on March 3, and the second in the November general election. A lot of people are confused by the “Prop 13” reference in both initiatives, so a brief summary and links to more information may help:

Your Democrats of Rossmoor Board of Directors supports a “Yes” vote for both initiatives.

For the March 3, 2020 Election: California Proposition 13, School and College Facilities Bond

According to Ballotopedia: “Proposition 13 would authorize $15 billion in bonds for school and college facilities in California, including $9 billion for preschool and K-12 schools, $4 billion for universities, and $2 billion for community colleges.\(^{[1]}\) According to the California Legislative Analyst, the state would make payments totaling an estimated $26 billion, including $15 billion in principal and $11 billion in interest, over 35 years from the General Fund.”

Supporters: A partial list of supporters includes Governor Newsom, the California Democratic Party, the California Teachers’ Association, the League of Women Voters, and several Presidential candidates.

Opponents: The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and State Senator Brian Jones (Republican, District 38).

To learn more: [https://tinyurl.com/tsgbcvf](https://tinyurl.com/tsgbcvf)

For the November 3 General Election:

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020

This initiative will be on the November ballot if it gathers enough signatures. It is not labeled Proposition 13, but seeks to modify California’s historic Proposition 13 tax rules, hence the confusion.

Long-term Californians will remember that the original Prop 13 limited property taxes both for residential and for commercial and industrial property owners. This new initiative seeks to remove protections for big business, while keeping protections in place for homeowners and renters. It does NOT change California property taxes for people’s homes, as some opponents are suggesting, but would allow commercial and industrially zoned property to be taxed a full market rate.

According to proponents: “It closes commercial property tax loopholes benefiting a fraction of corporations and wealthy investors, without affecting homeowners or renters, and reclams $12 billion every year to fund world-class schools and strengthen local economies to lift up all Californians.”
Supporters: A partial list of supporters includes the California Teachers Association, the San Francisco Foundation, the California Alliance for Retired Americans, and the League of Women Voters of California.

Opponents: A partial list of opponents include the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the California Chamber of Commerce, and the California Business Roundtable.

To learn more: https://tinyurl.com/s4gyhao