

Santa Barbara County Taxpayer Advocacy Center 2151 S. College Dr., Suite 101 Santa Maria, CA 93455 (805) 708-9100

www.sbctac.org MikeStoker@aol.com

"The SBCTAC...Fighting for the Taxpayer and Helping our Business Members Succeed!"

September 29, 2025

Dear friend,

There are two initiatives you need to keep your eye on and spread the word regarding how to vote.

The first is Prop. 50, which is on the ballot THIS NOVEMBER as a result of the Governor and Legislature calling for a special election. This initiative is nothing more than a political ploy by the Governor to keep his face in the national headlines.

As you are probably aware, Texas went through a redistricting process that will most likely lead to a Republican pick-up of 4 to 5 seats in the mid-term elections in November of 2026. To counter what Texas did, Newsom seized the moment to say if Texas wants to play politics, then he would do the same thing in California. That led to the gerrymandering of

new districts that 'might' give Democrats 4 new seats. "might' because these districts are not slam dunks for Democrats, unlike the Texas seats are for Republicans.

But you might say what is good for the goose is good for the gander. That's not the case here. There is a huge difference. In Texas, the state constitution requires the state legislature and the Governor to draw new legislative districts whenever demographic shifts and population increases require them to do so. **Under the state law, the legislature and the Governor were under a Court Order to redraw the districts**.

In California, the state constitution requires the legislative districts to be redrawn every 10 years, after the census, by an Independent Redistricting Commission created by a voter-approved initiative that passed with overwhelming support. The same law specifically prohibits any member of that commission who participates in the drawing of legislative districts from running for office for 10 years in any of the districts they propose.

So in Texas, they had a court order to draw the new districts. In California, the Governor and state legislature violated state law in drawing the districts. Indeed, for those very same reasons, if Prop. 50 passes it will be off to court to legally challenge the redistricting for violating state law and the state constitution. There are some legal scholars who even opine that the state legislators who voted for the redistricting plan should be prohibited from running for office for 10 years, having essentially replaced the Independent Redistricting Commission commissioners in drawing new legislative districts.

So spread the word to your friends and family members to Vote NO on Prop. 50. And if you want a No on 50-yard sign for your home or business, please call Sari Dominiguez, **who is also a candidate for Assembly in Northern SB County**. Sari's number is (805) 714-7936.

The other initiative that you should be watching and, in this case, supporting, is the Local Taxpayer Protection Act (LTPA). The LTPA is being sponsored and promoted by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. The LPPA will help Save Proposition 13 as the state legislature is trying to undo the protections it currently provides you if you own your own home or business. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is currently gathering signatures to qualify this initiative for the mid-term election in November 2026.

Please help gather signatures. You can click on this link that allows you to download a simple form that makes it easy for you and your spouse or significant other to sign and mail in. You can print off as many as you want to give to friends and neighbors or to take to work. Here is the link: http://www.saveprop13.com. So download the forms and mail in

your signatures today.

At the local level, the SBCTAC is making a huge difference in supporting our businesses, our taxpayers, public safety, and property rights at the local level. By spreading the word to Vote NO on 50 and signing the petitions to qualify the Local Taxpayer Protection Act, you can make a huge difference in regard to these two very important initiatives.

Please feel free to call me should you have any questions in regards to these initiatives or any issues of concern to you.

Best regards, Mike Stoker President & CEO, SBCTAC