

August 27, 2018

I was recently reading a monthly publication I receive and noticed an article detailing the propositions that will appear on the general election ballot in November. There are twelve propositions listed, which range between a number of issues some of which are very important and others revolve around issues that may not affect the lives of all Californians.

One of the propositions dealing with the splitting of California into three separate states was removed from the ballot by the California Supreme Court, so in reality we will only be casting a vote for eleven of the twelve listed propositions.

One that caught my attention was Proposition 5, the property tax transfer initiative. This initiative would allow homeowners over 55 or those severely disabled to transfer their tax assessment from their prior home to a new home they purchase regardless of the new homes market value, location or the number of moves the buyer may make.

This would obviously save senior citizens and those severely disabled a great deal of money in reduced property taxes for the purchase of a newer home. You often hear of older people needing to move closer to family or medical services, this would help make such a move feasible.

Proposition seven is another interesting initiative, which would overturn the voter-approved 1949 initiative called the daylight saving time act. This initiative established Standard Pacific Time

for California so if approved the legislature would determine how the states time should be set. So we could have permanent Day light savings time or stay on our normal fall-winter time line.

There are a few states that do not recognize Daylight savings time, such as Arizona. The reason for daylight savings time, originally was to optimize work hours during the spring-summer or planting-harvesting time.

I am very interested in Proposition six, which would require voter approval for future gas and vehicle taxes and would repeal the 2017 initiative, which was not approved by the voters. The 2017 initiative imposed a 50 to 70 cent a gallon tax on gas and diesel, it also raised taxes on the sales of new and used vehicles.

If you visit our neighboring states, such as Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington or Idaho, you will notice that gas and diesel is 50 to 70 cents a gallon cheaper than California. The tax initiative was levied by the Governor and legislature with the expressed purpose of improving our roads, which are in bad shape. My concern is that the funds will not used for the repair of roads but instead siphoned off for other uses as in the past, for such things as the over budgeted cost of the central valley high speed rail, which has well surpassed estimated costs.

The interesting thing is that our neighboring states that do not have the high tax on fuel and vehicles have better roads than much of California, so it makes you wonder why a state with the 4th or 5th largest economy in the world would need such a tax in the first place. I am glad to see this proposition on the ballot for

the voters to decide on this type of taxation. This has been Mike Downey for community comment.