

# Political Grab Bag

## October 2022, Part 2

### LOS ANGELES MAYORAL RACE

As Rick Caruso makes allegations against Karen Bass relating to the Mark Ridley-Thomas/USC controversy regarding the scholarship she received to obtain her Master's Degree, it should be made clear that while federal prosecutors may be interested in the circumstances surrounding the scholarship, "[f]ederal prosecutors have not indicated Bass is under criminal investigation." September 8, 2022 online article in [lamag.com/citythinkblog/karen-bass-link](https://lamag.com/citythinkblog/karen-bass-link).

In a September 9<sup>th</sup> online article at [californiaglobe.com/fl/la-mayoral-candidate-karen-bass](https://californiaglobe.com/fl/la-mayoral-candidate-karen-bass), it was further indicated that the U. S. Attorney's Office stated that: "At present and based on the evidence obtained to date, Rep. Bass is not a target or a subject of our office's investigation."

Further, Karen Bass obtained approval from the Congressional Ethics Committee to receive the scholarship. Per a November 21, 2021 online article at [ktla.com/news/local-news/rep-karen-bass](https://ktla.com/news/local-news/rep-karen-bass), "during Rep. Karen Bass' first year in Congress in 2011, she contacted government ethics officials with a request: Could she accept a full scholarship for a graduate degree at USC. The House Committee on Ethics cleared Bass' request to accept the USC School of Social Work tuition award, ultimately valued at over \$95,000." **We have to be very discerning on this matter and others matters when we make our voting decisions in the November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election. We have to look beyond the rhetoric and focus on the facts.**

**STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES** - There are seven Propositions on the November 8, 2022 Ballot:

**Proposition 1 - Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom** - This measure would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or

interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives.

**Proposition 26 - Allows In-Person Roulette, Dice Games, Sports Wagering on Tribal Lands** - This measure would amend the California Constitution and state law to allow sports gambling at tribal casinos and large horse racing tracks — but only in person — and let tribes offer new games such as roulette. It requires that racetracks and casinos that offer sports betting make certain payments to the state—such as to support state regulatory costs. However, the proposition bans bets on certain sports—such as high school games and games in which California college teams participate.

**Proposition 27 - Allows Online and Mobile Sports Wagering Outside Tribal Lands** - This measure would amend the California Constitution and state law to allow sports betting not just in person, but also through computers and mobile apps, in partnership with tribes. It generally favors large, established operators; companies would have to pay a \$100 million fee just to get into the market. Proponents say that 85 percent of that fee will go to programs fighting homelessness and that the remaining 15 percent will go to smaller tribes — only a few of which are supporting the initiative.

**Proposition 28 - Provides Additional Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools** - This ballot measure would create a dedicated funding stream for art and music education not by raising taxes, but by requiring the state to provide a minimum funding guarantee of an additional 1% of the amount funded for public education.

**Proposition 29 - Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional at Kidney Dialysis Clinics and Establishes Other State Requirements.** This third attempt (this issue has been on the ballot twice before) again calls for several new restrictions on clinics, including a requirement that a doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant be on site during all patient treatment. It also requires doctor's to reveal clinic ownership, demands posting of infection rates and requires reporting on refusal of services.

**Proposition 30 - Provides Funding for Programs to Reduce Air Pollution and Prevent Wildfires by Increasing Tax on Personal Income Over \$2 Million** - This

measure arises due to global warming — and from a California law that requires ride-sharing companies to electrify their fleets. It would raise the top tier of the state income tax to help subsidize electric vehicles and charging infrastructure and, to a lesser extent, prevent and respond to wildfires. Personal income over \$2 million would be taxed by an extra 1.75 percent, raising up to \$5 billion for zero-emission incentives and wildfire prevention programs.

**Proposition 31 - Referendum On 2020 Law That Would Prohibit the Retail Sale of Certain Flavored Tobacco Products** - In 2020, California banned the sale of flavored tobacco products that the tobacco industry has long marketed to new smokers, including bubble gum vape pens and menthol cigarettes. Almost immediately the tobacco industry qualified this referendum, preventing the ban from going into effect. Since then, the statewide ban has remained on pause, even as many California cities have passed municipal bans on flavored tobacco products. A yes vote will enact the ban, and a no vote will overturn the law.

**LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES** – There are six measures on the November 8<sup>th</sup> Ballot.

**Measure A – Removal of Sheriff for Cause** - This measure amends the County of Los Angeles Charter to grant the Board of Supervisors authority to remove an elected Sheriff from office for cause, including violation of law related to a Sheriff's duties, flagrant or repeated neglect of duties, misappropriation of funds, willful falsification of documents, or obstructing an investigation, by a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors, after written notice and an opportunity to be heard.

**Measure C – Marijuana Tax for Unincorporated Areas** – This measure would authorize the County to impose a general tax on cannabis business activities within the unincorporated area of the County, including cultivating, selling, processing, distributing, or testing cannabis or cannabis products. Personal cannabis cultivation or use would be exempt from this tax.

**Proposition LH – Low Income Rental Housing Measure** - This measure would authorize public entities in the City to increase the number of units of low-income rental housing the City could develop, construct, or acquire by an additional 5,000 units in each Council District, for a total of 75,000 additional authorized units.

**Proposition SP – Parks and Recreation Parcel Tax Measure** - This measure would amend the L. A. Municipal Code to allow the City to collect funds for parks, recreational centers, pools, playgrounds, waterways, beaches, green spaces, open spaces and increase park equity in the City of Los Angeles through a tax of approximately 8.4 cents per square foot on improved parcels, reduced to approximately 2.2 cents upon completion of certain programs or in 30 years with citizen oversight and exemptions for low-income households.

**Proposition ULA – Tax on \$5 Million House Sales Initiative** – This measure would add a special tax on the sale or transfer of real property valued over \$5 million to fund affordable housing and tenant assistance programs.

**Proposition LA – Facilities and Job Training Bond Measure** - This Los Angeles Community College District measure would authorize \$5,300,000,000 in bonds to repair/upgrade local community colleges, classrooms, water pipes, sewer/gas lines, technology, science labs for nurses, paramedics, firefighters, veterans; prepare students for jobs/university transfer; remove asbestos, lead paint; acquire, construct, repair facilities, sites, equipment.

**Recommendations** regarding the Ballot Measures can be found by accessing the League of Women Voter’s website, [lwvc.org/VOTEwiththeLeague](http://lwvc.org/VOTEwiththeLeague). (The League previously hosted a forum on the Statewide Ballot Measures on September 15th).

**Recommendations** can also be found by accessing the L.A. Times’ website at [latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-09-08/los-angeles-times-elections-endorsements-november-2022-races](http://latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-09-08/los-angeles-times-elections-endorsements-november-2022-races).

**Our decision about all the offices up for election or measures on the ballot needs to be carefully considered. Make sure you vote so that your voice will be heard and you will have impact** on the federal, state and local offices/measures before us on the November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election Ballot.

Thank you for reading!

(October 2022)