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Taxpayers Association Releases November 2026 Positions on Local Tax and Bond Measures

Association takes positions on 15 city, county, and school district measures after months of municipal review and fiscal analysis

San Diego, CA (August 4, 2026) -- The San Diego County Taxpayers Association today announced its official positions on 15 local tax and bond measures appearing before San Diego County voters this November, supporting 10 and opposing 5.

Each position is the product of extensive municipal reviews, in-depth policy analysis, and thorough discussion of what a measure would cost taxpayers and what it would deliver in return. The same published criteria are applied to every item on the ballot, and each is judged on its own merits rather than on ideology or party.

"Voters are being asked to approve billions of dollars in new taxes and debt this November, and most people simply don't have time to read thousands of pages of budgets and bond documents," said Mark Kersey, President and CEO of the Taxpayers Association. "That's our job. We evaluate every measure the same way — on the strength of the spending plan, the accountability safeguards in place, and whether the agency has earned the public's trust with the dollars it already manages."

Cities & County

SUPPORT

- **Oceanside Half-Cent Sales Tax**
- **Santee One-Cent Sales Tax**

OPPOSE

- **County of San Diego Charter Amendment**
- **County of San Diego Half-Cent Sales Tax**
- **National City Gross Receipts Tax**
- **Solana Beach Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Increase**

School Districts

SUPPORT

- **Fallbrook Union Elementary School District — $76 Million Bond**
- **Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District — $624 Million Bond**
- **Julian Union High School District — $9 Million Bond**
- **La Mesa-Spring Valley School District — $131 Million Bond**
- **Mountain Empire Unified School District — $23 Million Bond**

- **San Diego Unified School District — $3.5 Billion Bond**
- **Santee School District — $30 Million Bond**
- **Vista Unified School District — $543 Million Bond**

OPPOSE

- **Jamul-Dulzura Union School District — $18 Million Bond**

Why the positions differ

The recommendations turn on management and accountability. Where a city or district brings a well-scoped plan and a demonstrated record of stewarding public funds, the Association is prepared to back new investment. Where a measure lacks clear priorities, adequate oversight, or the history to justify the ask, it earns a "no."

That distinction is not about how appealing a measure's goals sound in the abstract. The Association opposes the County of San Diego's permanent half-cent sales tax for the following reasons: no sunset clause, no year-over-year performance targets for the public to track, and an oversight committee whose seats appear to exclude any taxpayer-advocacy representative. All of this is layered onto a county fiscal structure that the Association's own Financial Health Analysis has already flagged as unsustainable. Additionally, uncertainty surrounding whether the passage of this tax increase would automatically reopen one or more County labor contracts makes it difficult for voters to ascertain exactly how the new money would be spent.

By contrast, the Association supports Vista Unified School District's $543 million school bond, where a district carrying an "A+" transparency rating has consolidated four campuses since 2011 rather than build for growth, committed that no bond proceeds will backfill its General Fund, and exceeded its own maintenance benchmark every year for five years — the kind of stewardship the criteria are built to recognize.

"A worthy cause is not the same thing as a well-built measure," said Mike McLaughlin, chairman of the Taxpayers Association Board of Directors. "We support far more of these measures than we oppose, because most of these agencies did the work to earn it. But no matter how popular an idea sounds, we owe taxpayers a straight answer when the plan behind it isn't there."

The Association's policy reports on each measure, providing extensive analysis and rationale for all our positions, are available at SDtaxpayers.org.

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Founded in 1945, The San Diego County Taxpayers Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing taxes and fees which are unnecessary, ill-conceived, or poorly planned. For more information, please visit SDtaxpayers.org or call 619-234-6423.