

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

IT'S PRIMARY TIME

“Donors don't win elections; voters win elections.” Jeff Sessions, U.S. Attorney General

The California statewide primary election is June 5th. Contra Costa County voters have the opportunity to vote for a number of candidates and weigh-in on Regional Measure 3 (RM 3). Here are a few choices for consideration:

District Attorney: Paul Graves is the clear choice for this important position. Mr. Graves has over two decades of service to the DA's office. The chief role of the DA is to prosecute and prevent crime. It's not a position for social reengineering. He is a prosecutor that has tried nearly 70 jury trials involving including gang-related crimes, violent felonies, homicides and sexual assaults. He has supervised both the Homicide and Felony units. He currently supervises the Family Violence unit which includes sexual assault, domestic violence, and elder abuse.

Mr. Graves is intent on keeping Contra Costa communities safe. He wants to change the culture of the office away from reactionary prosecution to a more proactive, crime strategies office. Gang violence remains a high priority. Along with safe communities, Mr. Graves intends to shift DA's resources to a more “victim-centered” approach. By this, he wants to educate law enforcement officers to ensure that all victims are treated with dignity and respect; work with communities to provide victim support services and increase community awareness of intervention. Mr. Graves has stated that human trafficking is a big problem in the county. He intends to create systems that target the trafficking market and provide services for exploited victims.

A partial list of Mr. Graves endorsements are: Every law enforcement agency in Contra Costa County, United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, East Bay Times editorial board, Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorneys' Association, Contra Costa County District Attorney Investigators' Association, Peace Officers' Research Association (PORAC), Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Supervisor Candace Andersen, BART Director Debora Allen, former State Senator and Contra Costa County Sheriff Richard Rainey, Walnut Creek Mayor Justin Wedel, Walnut Creek Councilwoman Loella Haskew, Walnut Creek Police Association and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police Officers' Association.

Contra Costa County needs an experienced prosecutor as District Attorney. Paul Graves deserves our vote.

Secretary of State: Mark Meuser is a conservative that deserves your vote. One function of this office is to insure voter integrity in California elections. Mark will follow

both Federal and State law to remove from the voter rolls those individuals who are ineligible to vote. By cleaning up voter rolls, he can start the process of reducing the amount of fraud in our California elections.

The Secretary of State is an elected state executive officer established by the California Constitution. He serves as the state's chief election officer, keeps the state's key documents including the constitution and Great Seal, and keeps the state archives. Additionally, the secretary of state registers businesses in the state, commissions notaries public and manages state ballot initiatives. The Secretary of State is elected to four-year terms, concurrent with the other constitutional officers of California, and is restricted to two terms.

Regional Measure 3: RM 3 will raise bridge tolls another \$3.00 each with a false promise of relieving Bay Area traffic congestion in nine counties. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D) as well as California Assembly members Jim Frazier, D-Brentwood, Tim Grayson, D-Concord, and Catharine Baker, R-San Ramon, are all voting “no.” Frazier, who chairs the Assembly Transportation Committee, said that while there was a need for transportation improvements, “adding another tax on commuters is not the answer.” He likened an \$8 toll to “highway robbery.”

In a letter to the East Bay Times, DeSaulnier offered: “The measure would permanently increase the price to travel the Bay Area’s state-owned toll bridges from \$5 to \$8 by 2025, and from \$6 to \$9 on the Bay Bridge during commute hours.

It demands that bridge commuters take hundreds of dollars out of their paychecks to fund a grab bag of transportation projects cobbled together by state lawmakers behind closed doors. By 2025, typical commuters would pay about \$700 more each year, but would see little to no improvement in their commutes.”

Voters should know that a “yes” vote means a CHANGE of our COUNTY government (elected) to REGIONAL governance (appointed). The Metropolitan Transportation Commission who crafted RM 3 has not earned our trust. This agency delivered the Bay Bridge ten years late and \$5 billion over budget.

Vote “NO” on RM 3.