Larry Stone,
Santa Clara County Assessor

February 4, 2021
During my term in Office, we have Accomplished a lot

Every five years, we are audited by State Board of Equalization. Last four BOE audits, we have met BOE standards 98% - 99%.

Assessment roll has increased 472% ($115 billion in 1995 to $551 billion in 2020).

Staff increased only 4.5% during those 26 years.

Santa Clara County employment has increased 64% during the same time.

Returned $21.6 million of the Assessors budget back to the County General Fund unspent.

THE RESULT: Nearly $6 billion in property tax revenue each year for schools and local government.
Proposition 13: Revolutionizes Property Taxes

- Assessments are based upon the purchase price at a change of ownership or new construction, and then increased by no more than 2 percent a year.
- Assessments no longer tied to market. Over time, far less than market values.
- One’s low assessed value has become a prized asset.

Propositions Galore

- Proposition 58
- Proposition 60
- Proposition 90
- Proposition 110
- Proposition 193
Proposition 60

• Passed in 1986

• Enables homeowners over the age of 55, to transfer their coveted assessed value to another home of equal or lesser value, without reassessment to market value.

• Designed for empty nesters wishing to downsize.

Proposition 90

• Passed in 1988

• Expands Proposition 60 benefit, at County option, to other counties.

• Only 10 counties of 58 participate. The reason? Loss of property tax revenue.
In 2008, Florida voters passed Amendment 1.

Allowed homeowners, just like Prop. 19, to retain low property taxes when they move to a new home.

Initiated by realtors. More transactions, more commissions.
Proposition 5

- Purchase a larger, more expensive home
- Move all you want
- Move anywhere in the State

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<tr>
<th>California Proposition 5</th>
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<td><strong>Result</strong></td>
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In 1975, purchased home in Sunnyvale, a modest tract house for $85,000.

Currently assessed for $276,000.

Zillow says the market value of my home is $3.1 million.

In the 43 years, I have paid a total of $78,000 in property taxes.

Proposition 13 has allowed me to save at least $500,000 simply by owning the same home for many years.
Proposition 58/193: Inheritance Exclusion

- Children can inherit their parent’s principle residence, and retain their low assessed value
- Estimated 60,000 to 80,000 property owners used benefit
- Annual cost: as much as $1.5 billion in property taxes
- Allows the transfer of additional property assessed at $1 million

Beau & Jeff Bridges inherited from their actor-father Lloyd Bridges, a four-bedroom Malibu home with access to a semi-private beach and panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean.

Rented home for $16,000 a month.

Paid approx. $5,000 a year in property tax.
Proposition 19's tortuous journey to the ballot

BY DAN WALTERS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

IN SUMMARY
California's Proposition 19 refights old battles as it alters laws governing property tax assessments.

Proposition 19 shares one characteristic with most of the other 11 measures on California's ballot this year: It rekindles a political conflict from years past.

However, Proposition 19 has meandered a particularly convoluted pathway to the ballot, which explains why it wound up with three distinct sections, to wit:

− It would expand current law's limited right for Californians over 55 to move to new homes while retaining the taxable property values of their previous residences;

− It would erase a provision of property tax law that allows those who inherit expensive homes to retain their relatively low taxable values while converting the homes into income-producing rentals; and

− It would dedicate some of the additional revenue from the loophole closure to local and state firefighting agencies.
Fair & Equitable Assessments is Job #1

- A property should receive the same treatment no matter where it is located.
- Legislature, “Skinny bill” – will provide Assessors on how to administer the parent-to-child provisions of Prop. 19.
Effective April 1, 2021, Proposition 19 permits eligible homeowners (defined as over 55, severely disabled, or whose homes were destroyed by wildfire or disaster) to transfer their primary residence’s assessment to a replacement residence of any value, anywhere in the state.

- Keep their lower property tax assessment when moving to another home anywhere in the state.
- Use special rules to move to a more expensive home.
- Use these special rules three times in their lifetime.
- Proposition 60 and Proposition 90 sunset on March 31, 2021.
- To receive the expanded portability benefits of Proposition 19, homeowners must complete at least one of the transactions on or after April 1.
- Property owners have two years from the transfer of the first property to complete the second transaction.
- Proposition 19 also supplements existing transfer provisions exclusively for victims of wildfire or disaster, or owners who are “severely disabled.” Upon implementation, taxpayers will have to determine and apply for those provisions which are most advantageous for their circumstances.
Starting February 16, 2021, Proposition 19 narrows property tax benefits for inherited properties

Narrows the assessed value that can be transferred to two kinds of inherited property:

- property used continuously by the child or grandchild as a primary home, or
- property held as a family farm.

Convoluted formula to qualify and to compute the benefit.

Assessed value of an inherited home or farm would increase if the price the property could be sold for exceeds the property’s assessed value by more than $1 million (adjusted for inflation every two years).

To make things easier, our office has developed an electronic calculator that will enable residents to calculate the savings.

Eliminates Proposition 58 and 193

Santa Clara County Assessor’s office will accept notarized documents, recorded or not, executed before the deadline to effect the benefit of Prop. 58.
Doing our best, but no promises

Presentation is NOT absolute legal interpretation.

Proposition 19 is a constitutional amendment - additional legislation and guidance is necessary to clarify implementation.

The text of the proposition and other implementing or interpretive authorities will prevail.

Assessors do their best to provide general guidance, BUT, our office does not provide legal advice to specific situations.