

From: alice wissing
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] Prop 19 - It Defies a State Health Emergency
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:41:49 AM



Public Comment

From: Alice Wissing

Agenda Item: M2a. Board Discussion on Strike Team Reports, Part 2

Meeting Date: 01/15/21

Dear BOE Members,

Yesterday it was stated that delaying implementation of Prop 19 would require a Constitutional Amendment. On March 4, 2020 Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency due to COVID-19. This gave unlimited powers to health officers, both locally and at the state level, in order to slow the virus. No legislature, government body or even the governor can overrule a health officer's orders.

Despite this emergency, the California Association of Realtors, along with the Governor and Legislature, pushed through Proposition 19, knowing full well it would force property owners to sell or face assessor liens due to 500% tax increases. This sell-off is scheduled to begin February 16th, coinciding with an exponential increase in Coronavirus due to a new super-spreader variant.

Selling homes during a health emergency will result in citizens defying stay at home orders issued by health officers and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). It will require interaction with contractors, housecleaners, movers, gardeners, realtors and potential buyers. Those who transfer a deed before February 16 will interact with notaries, witnesses and family members outside their household. In desperation to avoid financial ruin, property owners will expose themselves to Coronavirus against their will.

I myself have an autoimmune disorder that increases risk of hospitalization three-fold. I also have two parents in their 90s on Hospice. Thanks to Prop 19, I will be forced to sell or hurriedly prepare their home as a rental due to the 500% tax increase. All this while my county has 0% ICU availability.

As we push forward with Prop 19, the indifference toward the health and safety of property owners deserves an explanation. The CA Association of Realtors and Legislature are complicit in encouraging the defiance of health orders. Assessors have the right and moral obligation to suspend Prop 19 regulations until property owners can address its consequences safely. If not, they too are complicit in fueling our public health catastrophe.

Thank you,

Alice Wissing
Santa Barbara, CA