Transit Vote 2006

Rail-volution

Chicago, IL • Nov. 8, 2006

Center for Transportation Excellence
Transit Vote 2006 Overview

• **Election Day '06**
  - 33 Ballot Measures
    - 13 States
    - 7 Statewide
    - 26 Local
  - 23 Approved
    - 71.8% Approval Rate
  - $40+ Billion in Funding
  - All Statewide Measures Pass

• **2006 Total**
  - 54 Ballot Measures
    - 17 States
    - 7 Statewide
    - 47 Local
  - 37 Approved
    - 69% Approval Rate
  - 79.6% Approval w/o California Supermajority
  - $43+ Billion in Funding

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The Rise of Ballot Box Finance

- Ballot Measures 2000 - 2005
  - Successful Measures in 33 States
  - 200+ Ballot Measures
  - $70+ Billion in New Investment
Transportation, Choice
Win at the Polls

- 70% Approval Rate for Transportation Measures
- Twice the Approval Rate of All Ballot Measures
- Success Across Region, Population, Party Affiliation

**Graph: Adopted Transit Ballot Initiatives, 1999 - 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Cycle</th>
<th>Percentage Approved</th>
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Finance Measure Trends

- 80% of all Trans Measures Focus on Finance
- Sales Tax Measures are Most Common
  - 40% of all measures; 1/3 of all successful finance measures
  - Majority of Local Funding
  - 54% Approval Rate Since 2000
- Property Tax Measures are Most Successful
  - 80% Approval Rate
- Numerous Tax Extensions Due
  - Strong Approval Rate for Extensions
  - No “New Tax” Argument
- Bonds & Dedicated Funding More Common for Statewide Ballots

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States with 2006 Transportation Ballot Measures

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Arizona Prop 104

- **Prop 104**
  - Constitutional Amendment
  - Allows Transportation Projects to be included in the 20% Municipal Debt Ceiling

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 58.6%
  - No 41.1%
California 1-A

- **Initiative 1-A**
  - Transportation Funding Protection
  - Prevent Gas Tax Funding Diversions

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 71.1%
  - No 22.9%

Transit Vote 2006
Statewide Transportation Measures
California 1-B

- **Initiative 1-B**
  - $37.3 Billion Infrastructure Bond Measure
  - $20 Billion for Transportation

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 60.6%
  - No 39.4%
California 1-C

- **Initiative 1-C**
  - $300 million Loan Fund for Transit Oriented Development
  - $850 million in capital grants for infill-related infrastructure

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 56.7%
  - No 43.3%
Minnesota Statewide

• **Constitutional Amendment**
  - Dedicate Vehicle Taxes / Fees to Transportation
  - $300 million / yr.

• **APPROVED**
  - Yes 59%
  - No 41%
New Jersey Statewide

- **Question #3**
  - Increases % of Gas Tax Dedicated to Transportation

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 58.9%
  - No 41.1%
Rhode Island Statewide

- **GO Bonds**
  - $88.5 Million Total
  - $7 Million for Commuter Rail
  - $1.5 Mil. For Bus

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 75.4%
  - No 24.6%
Orange Co., CA

- **Measure M Renewal**
  - 30 Yr. ½ Cent Sales Tax, $11.86 Billion

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 69%
  - No 32%
Marin Co., CA

- **Create SMART**
  - Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit
  - 2-County, ¼ Cent Sales tax

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 57.3%
  - No 42.69%
Sonoma Co., CA

- Create SMART
  - Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit
  - 2-County, ¼ Cent Sales tax

- APPROVED
  - Yes 69.3%
  - No 30.7%
Fresno Co., CA

- **Measure C Renewal**
  - ½ Cent Sales Tax

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 77%
  - No 23%
Kern Co., CA

- **New Sales Tax**
  - 20-Year, ½ Cent

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 56.1%
  - No 43.9%
Merced Co., CA

- **Measure G**
  - 30-year, .25 cent sales tax
  - Narrowly defeated in June
  - Estimated $446 million

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 60.7%
  - No 39.3%
Santa Barbara Co., CA

- **Renew Measure D**
  - 30-year, ½ Cent Sales Tax
  - Estimated $1 Billion

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 54.1%
  - No 45.9%
Stanislaus Co., CA

- **New Sales Tax**
  - 30-year, ½ Cent

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 57.44%
  - No 42.56%
San Joaquin Co., CA

- **Measure K Renewal**
  - ½ Cent Sales Tax
  - 30% Dedicated to Transit
  - Estimated $2.5 Billion

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 77.33%
  - No 22.67%
Tulare Co., CA

- Create Tulare County Transportation Authority
  - 30-year, $1/2$ cent Sales Tax

- APPROVED
  - Yes 66.74%
  - No 33.26%
Broward Co., FL

- **New Sales Tax**
  - 30-year, 1 cent
  - $12.6 billion
  - Funds Transit Investment Plan
  - ‘Pass the Penny’ Campaign

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 38.52%
  - No 61.48%
Utah Co., UT

• Question 3
  – ¼ cent sales tax
  – 87% dedicated to commuter rail to SLC
  – Legislative action required to allow sales tax vote

• APPROVED
  – Yes 64%
  – No 36%
Salt Lake Co., UT

Salt Lake Co., Utah

- **Question 3**
  - ¼ cent Sales Tax
  - Complete TRAX and other projects by 2015, instead of 2030

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 64%
  - No 36%
King Co., WA

- **.1% Sales Tax**
  - Dedicated for King Co. Metro Public Transportation
  - $50 million / yr.

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 56%
  - No 43%
Yakima Co., WA

- 2 Measures
  - Prop 1 in Selah
    - .3% Sales Tax
  - Prop 1 in Union Gap
    - .2% Sales Tax
    - Funds County Bus Service

- APPROVED - Selah
  - Yes 62% No 38%

- APPROVED - Union Gap
  - Too Close to Call
Franklin Co., OH

• **Measure 7**
  - 10-year, .25% Sales Tax for Central OH Transit Authority
  - $4.5 mil annually for transit

• **APPROVED**
  - Yes 50.55%
  - No 49.45%
Boulder, CO

- **Issue 1A**
  - .20% Sales Tax to 2020
  - .05% Sales Tax after 2020
  - Dedicated to Transit & Trails
  - Estimated $8.1 million annually

- **DEFEATED**
  - Yes 42.2%
  - No 57.8%
Seattle & Spokane, WA

- **Seattle**
  - Prop 1: 9-yr. $544 Million Property Tax
  - Add’l. Employer, Parking Taxes Already Approved by City Council
  - Repair & Modernization
  - Transit, Trail, Safety Improvements

- **APPROVED**
  - Yes 53.99%
  - No 46.01%

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Seattle & Spokane, WA

- **Spokane**
  - 2 Advisory Measures for Light Rail
  - Funding Plan
    - **DEFEATED**
      - Yes 44%
      - No 56%
  - Use of STA Funding for Initial Work
    - **DEFEATED**
      - Yes 46%
      - No 54%
Holland & Kalamazoo, MI

- **Holland City & Township**
  - 5-year, .4 mill Property Tax for Macatawa Area Transportation Authority
  - **APPROVED**
Holland & Kalamazoo, MI

- Kalamazoo County
  - 2-year, .45 mill Property Tax to expand bus service countywide
  - $3.4 million annually

- APPROVED
Corinth & Grapevine, TX

• Grapevine
  - ½ cent Sales Tax for Commuter Rail to Ft. Worth ($9 mil. annually)
  - APPROVED
    - Yes 73.55%
    - No 26.45%

• Corinth
  - Whether to Join Denton Co. Transportation Auth.
  - APPROVED
Kansas City

- Citizen Initiative
- Extend 3/8s Cent Sales Tax for 30-years
- Funds Rail, Transit, Gondola Projects
- APPROVED
  - Yes 53.96%
  - No 46.04%
- Interest in Regional Vote in ‘08
Selected 2006 Pre-Election Day Races

Transit Vote 2006
Ballot Measures Considered Prior to Election Day

- Supermajority
  Troubles in CA

- Tucson, AZ: $2.1 Billion, .5¢ sales tax

- Michigan: 10+ Property Tax Measures Pass

- Canton, OH: 5-year, .25 cent sales tax extension
Regulatory Takings Elections

- **AZ Prop 207**
  - APPROVED 65% - 35%
- **CA Prop 90**
  - DEFEATED 48% - 52%
- **ID Prop 2**
  - DEFEATED 24% - 76%
- **WA I-933**
  - DEFEATED 42% - 58%
TABOR Elections

• ‘Taxpayer Bill of Rights’
  – Maine Question 1
    • DEFEATED 54% - 46%
  – Nebraska I-423
    • DEFEATED 71% - 29%
  – Oregon Measure 48
    • DEFEATED 71% - 29%
Why Ballot Measures?

• The Legislative Process
• Validation, Political ‘Cover’ for Elected Officials
• Fiscal Pressures … Tight Resources, Growing Demands & Costs
• Local Match
• “Up Ballot” GOTV
• Political Strategy: Counterbalance Other Ballot Measures, Legislation
• Local Political Culture
Ballot Trends

• Highly Specific Ballot Language
• Inclusion of Multiple Infrastructure Projects
• Plan & Project Funding Approval Measures
• Aggressive Public Education & Outreach
• Multiple Elections
Ballot Initiative Campaign Strategies

• Use Planning & Public Outreach
• Be Specific & Simple
• Listen to People - Poll Early & Often
• Use Local Champions
• Build a Broad Coalition
• Tap the Grassroots

• Counter Critics with Accountability, Credibility
• Run a Professional Campaign
• Raise Money Early
• Know Political Climate & Unique Nature of Transportation Elections
• Consider Multimodal, Multiple Project Ballot Language
For more information ...

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Visit www.cfte.org for details on transit ballot measures and elections.