Climate Connection

October 15, 2026

Vote as if your life depended on it. It does.

By Lynne Baker

Climate change is not a hoax. Politicians who cast doubt on this well-established science, backed by decades of sound data, are either ill-informed, or motivated by political power, and greed. We can disagree about the methods of solving this crisis, but we must agree that this crisis is real, and reject candidates who have chosen to cast a blind eye to the problem.

There is much to be done, including at the polls this election season, to slow down climate change. Here's our take on a few of the ballot measures and initiatives.

Measure B – FireWise

Napa County faces an undeniable reality. We've had too many close calls and the threat of wildfire keeps looming over us. The state and federal government cannot fix all of our problems. Absent action, insurance companies will cancel more policies and raise rates. We need locally-controlled funding to ensure a safer, more resilient Napa.

That's where Measure B comes in. The Napa County Wildfire Preparedness, Watershed Protection and Open Space Preservation Act of 2026 provides dedicated local funding to tackle three critical, interconnected goals: wildfire preparedness, watershed protection and open space preservation. It establishes a half-percent (1/2%), countywide sales tax for eighteen years, starting April 1, 2027.

We support Measure B because it will directly benefit all county residents while simultaneously protecting the climate by mitigating the fallout from wildfires, preserving and improving our watershed, and reinforcing the conservation of open space throughout our county. Dedicated funding is the most effective way to implement risk reduction plans, according to Piper Cole, Vice Chair of Napa Firewise.

"Even if your property is not directly affected by wildfires, your health might be, your livelihood might be," she said. "We won't ever be able to prevent wildfire entirely, but with Measure B, we can reduce the risks of catastrophic wildfire to lives, health, businesses, agriculture, and tourism."

All Measure B funds would stay in Napa County, and a citizens' oversight committee and independent auditor would review every penny spent. With a simple majority we can pass Measure B. www.saferresilientnapa.org/

Proposition 45 – CEQA Overhaul

Prop. 45, an initiative that “modifies environmental review for certain projects,” represents an overhaul of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), our state’s landmark law that protects communities near projects that pollute the air and water, including hospitals, schools, and homes.

Prop. 45 would limit environmental and public review of projects built in our communities, essentially flipping the law to protect corporate profits over public health. It would *not* lower costs for consumers.

While some streamlining is important, we oppose Prop. 45 because it goes too far, playing into the hands of those who seek to weaken environmental protection in favor of corporate profit, using the argument of “affordability” as a pretext. We recommend a “NO” vote. Learn more at www.noprop45ca.com/

Proposition 1 – Housing Affordability

Prop. 1 is a bond measure aiming to build affordable homes for veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, low- and middle-income working families, vulnerable Californians and essential workers, including teachers, firefighters and nurses. It would expand homeownership opportunities, fast-track affordable shovel-ready homes, and help those one crisis away from homelessness, with strict fiscal accountability and public oversight, and no new taxes.

State Senator Christopher Cabaldon, representing Napa in Sacramento and legislative co-sponsor of the initiative, said: "With one vote, California will build tens of thousands of new homes, prevent existing affordable housing from disappearing, and help Californians who need a hand to buy a home or partner with organizations like Habitat for Humanity. "

We support Prop 1 because affordable housing and the impact on climate change are inextricable. Workers need affordable housing near their place of work. Fewer trips on the highway means less pollution from fossil fuels and lower fuel costs. Proximity to work means more people can bike to work or take local public transportation. The list goes on.

Vote Early

One more thing. Please vote early. Drop your ballot directly into a ballot box, vote by mail (it really is secure), or simply go to the county registrar’s office and vote in person.

Lynne Baker is a retired nurse and is Co-Chair of Napa Climate NOW!, a local nonprofit citizens’ group advocating for smart climate solutions based on the latest climate science, and part of 350 Bay Area. https://napa.350bayarea.org/