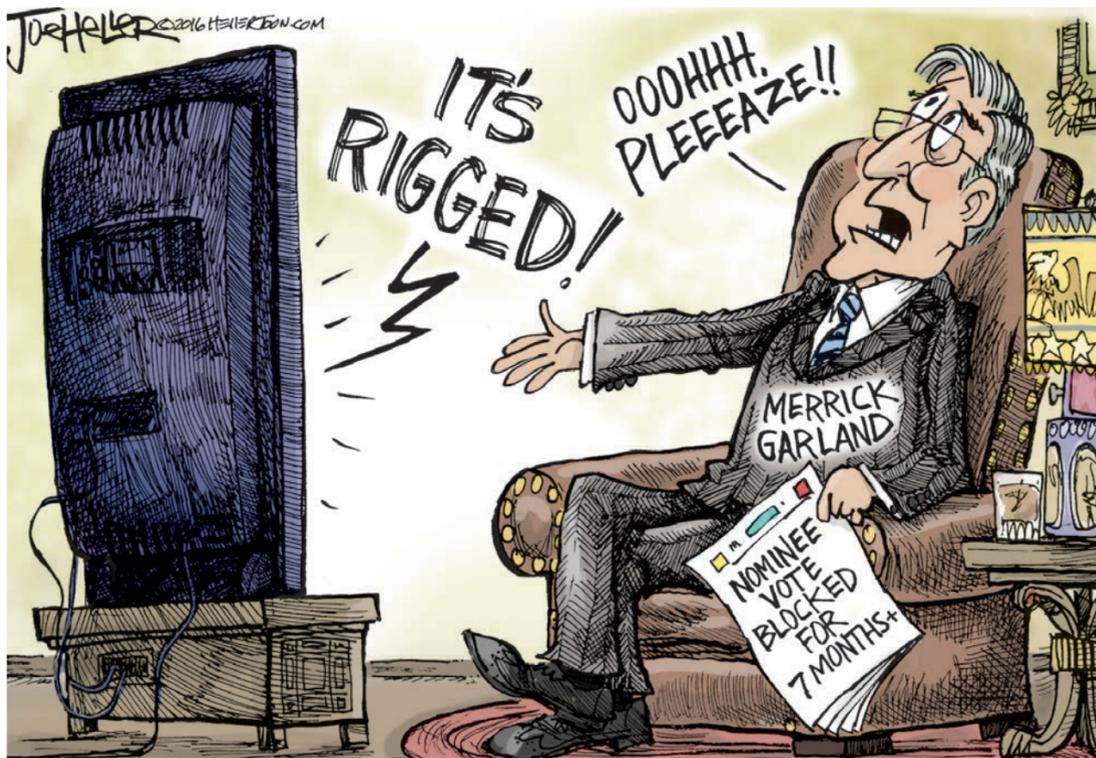


# OPINION



## GUEST VIEW

*Without continued investment in the South Valley's traffic infrastructure, traffic and quality of life here will suffer. Measure B provides a mix of road improvements, mass transit expansion and alternative options such as bicycle lanes that will ease congestion as well as provide better connections to the greater Bay Area by contributing to Caltrain electrification and extending BART. The Morgan Hill Times recommends a "yes" vote on Measure B. —Editor*

CARL GUARDINO AND JOHN HORNER

# Vote Yes on B for traffic relief in South County

**W**E HEARD a rumor: Traffic congestion is back in Santa Clara County.

That's why we both support Measure B—

because the traffic challenges we face in South County and Silicon Valley have become so bad that it impacts every person, family and community, including Morgan Hill.

Measure B has the transportation improvements we need, and the accountability provisions we deserve.

For the past three years, citizens have been working with traffic engineers and transportation directors to develop a plan that would have a positive impact on traffic relief, transit options and road repairs.

The result is Measure B. Since there is no single answer to our traffic problems, Measure B is more like a jigsaw puzzle, with each transportation improvement snapping into place to add up to a comprehensive, countywide plan:

- First, Measure B improves traffic flow at 24 key interchanges on all seven highways that run through Santa Clara County. In South County, that includes interchange improvements at 101 & 25, 101 & 152 at Tenth Street and a new interchange near Saint Louise Regional Hospital.

- Second, it improves our nine county expressways, which carry one of every two county residents every single day. For Santa Teresa, Measure B funds road and trail improvements between DeWitt and Main.

- Third, nearly \$1 of every \$5 are for the basics—to improve the crumbling conditions of our local streets and roads in all 15 cities and towns. In South County, this totals more than \$50 million.

- Fourth, it funds lifeline service and core transit service for people with disabilities, seniors, students and the working poor who depend on that core service.

- Fifth, Measure B improves bicycle and pedestrian safety, especially near our schools.

- Sixth, it finishes the BART extension, with the final six miles and four stations in San Jose and at Santa Clara University.

- Finally, it connects BART with what will be an electrified Caltrain Commuter Rail Service. Together, BART connected with Caltrain creates a rapid-rail-network around the Bay Area, linked with Morgan Hill and Gilroy with additional Caltrain service.

For us, a key provision of Measure B is accountability. Instead of a "General Purpose Tax" that only requires a 50 percent vote, but that can be changed at any time by elected officials, Measure B intentionally calls for a two-thirds vote.

That's because this is the only way the funds can be locked in for these specific transportation improvements. In fact, the Valley Transportation Authority Board can't change a single sentence in Measure B without a supermajority vote of 9 of the 12 board members.

That protects small communities like Morgan Hill and Gilroy from being "out-voted" by the VTA Board.

Neither of us are big fans of taxes, but we hate traffic even more. On Nov. 8, join us in voting Yes on Measure B. For more details, visit [YesMeasureB.com](http://YesMeasureB.com)

*Carl Guardino is CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Council. John Horner is Executive Director of the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce.*

## LETTERS

### Don't litter

My son and I were on our way to Gilroy on Wednesday and saw a garbage truck coming down Burnett Avenue, with papers flying out of the truck. We turned onto Monterey Road and saw papers all up and down the road. Something needs to be done about this.

Thank you.

GLENDIA COX  
Morgan Hill

### No on Measure S

Vote No on Measure S. Measure S increases our current population by nearly 40 percent without consideration to sustainability. The proposed population cap of 58,200 for 2035 is an arbitrary number. Such surges in population will increase demands upon public safety, public works, parks, water, sewage, garbage, schools, etc.

It will increase our infrastructure costs and add requirements for new taxes. We cannot maintain the infrastructure we have with a multi-million-dollar deficit, let alone significantly add to our infrastructure and their costs.

The idea that Measure S will protect our open space is disingenuous and simply a fraud. Measure S does not confine itself to our current city limits. In fact, it specifically sets aside 300 agriculture units for housing. Where did that number come from? That is a loss of open space and precious farmlands. It is urban sprawl of the worst kind.

The measure is filled with exceptions and is written in a vague and misleading manner to undermine the purpose of our slow growth values.

Increasing the population to 58,200 from our current 44,000 will also increase noise, pollution, crime, garbage, congestion, traffic, etc. It does not preserve our rural character and country charm. It threatens and impacts our quality of life in a manner we cannot even imagine.

We have thousands of acres within our current city limits to grow. The state-authorized Local Agency Formation Commission says we have enough land for housing for decades to come. There is no need to expand to farm and ag lands.

Over the last decade, this council has tried to convert farmlands into housing, spending more than \$1 million of public and private funds for just that purpose. As long as incumbents remain in office, our open spaces will be threatened.

Cautioned repeatedly by environmental groups, the Open Space Authority and the county, this council persists in actions that place our quality of life at risk.

Come Nov. 8, vote NO on Measure S and elect new leaders whose values are aligned with the community instead of developers and land speculators.

MARK GRZAN  
Former Council Member, General Plan Advisory Committee  
Member and Mayor Pro Tempore

### Big funds in balloting

Election Day is quickly approaching in the most unusual campaign season most of us have ever seen. There is much at stake—concerning our children's education and the future direction of our local educational system—in the Morgan Hill Unified School District Race for Area 5.

I'm particularly concerned about TA 5 because of the extremely large donations to Mr. Tom Arnett, the incumbent trustee. Area 5 is one-seventh of the district. Since June, Mr. Arnett (FPPC # 1383996) has reported, in his publically accessible FPPC filings, campaign donations of \$27,000 (from Jan. 1, 2016 through Sept. 2016) from a Washington D.C. group Leadership for Education Equity. (Committee ID # 1346788).

I am simply stunned! Why is this kind of money being sent to an individual who represents 1/7<sup>th</sup> of our school district? I have served as a treasurer for several local city council, school board and water district candidates for many years. I have never seen this much money from one donor, for a local school board race, nor any other county-wide race. WHY and WHAT does this Washington D.C. lobby group want in return for this kind of financial support?

When Tom was asked about donations at the AAUW candidate forum, he replied vaguely that he had received funds of \$500-\$1,000.00 from people that support children's education. Twenty-seven thousand dollars plus other small donations is a record amount of money from one donor headquartered on the other side of the country. This amount is nearly five times the amount raised by any of the other candidates I have ever worked with.

These filing reports are public record and can be found on the Registrar of Voters Website. In my experience, with both state and local campaigns this money should raise serious questions by all voters in not only Area 5, but throughout our school district. Tom Arnett is new to campaigns and new to living in Area 5. All we know of him is his brief time on the board and his FPPC reports.

This kind of money infused into the school board leaves me with a very negative impression.

SWANEE EDWARDS  
Morgan Hill

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### LETTERS

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