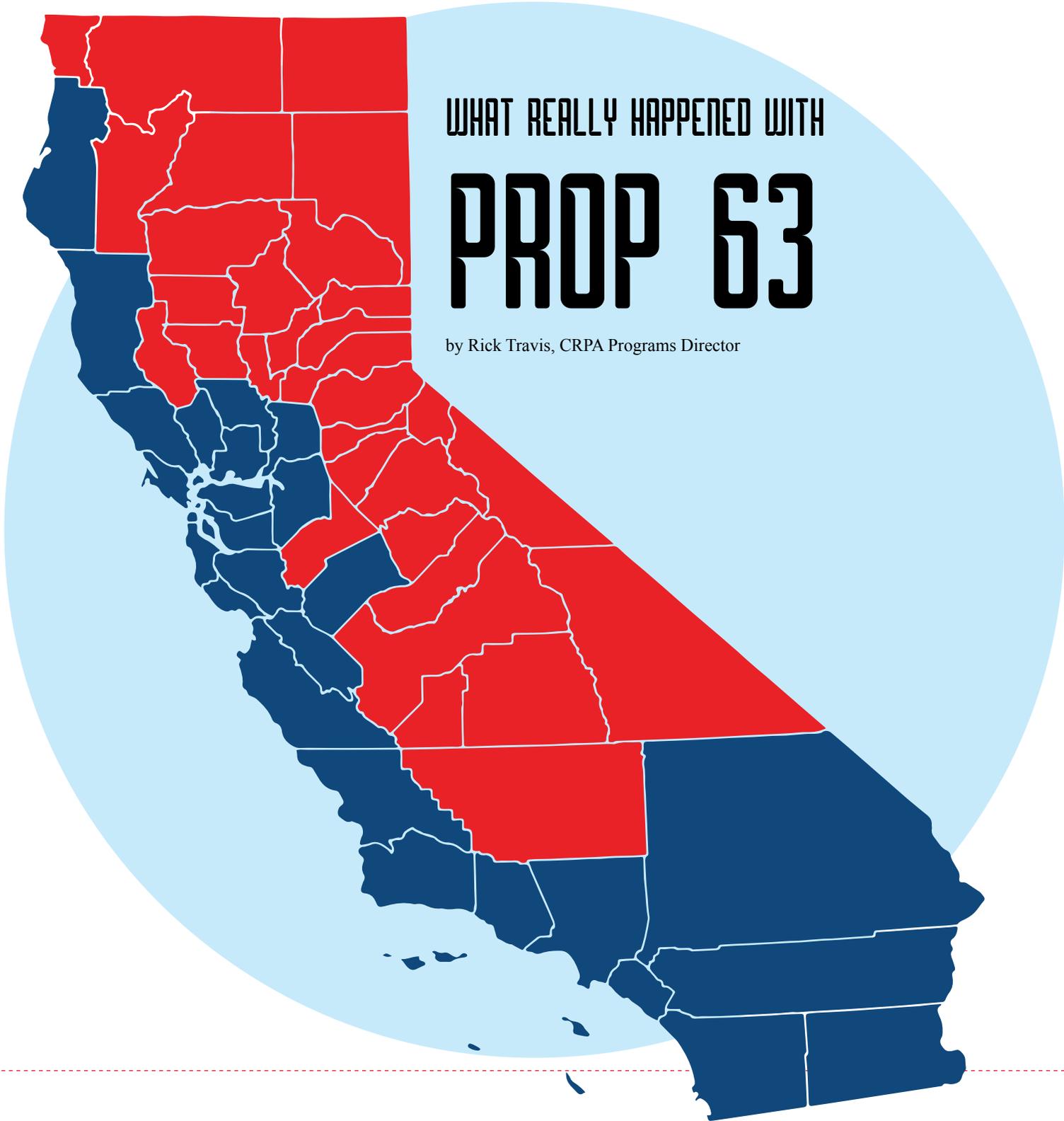


# DIGGING THROUGH THE NUMBERS:

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WITH

# PROP 63

by Rick Travis, CRPA Programs Director



While many Americans processed the 2016 National Election results with a range of emotions from utter elation to downright depression, Pro 2A Californians were left feeling largely the latter. Gun owners attempted to gain enough signatures to overturn the crazy rushed set of new laws driven by Senator Kevin De Leon, but came up short. The California Rifle & Pistol Association and the National Rifle Association worked with the Coalition of Civil Liberties to stop the passage of Proposition 63.

Proposition 63 was passed statewide by a 63%-37% margin.

The news of this large of a defeat is hard to understand given the estimates of 8-10 million gun owners in the state who are of voting age. Many feel that Battered Gun Owner Syndrome is to blame. Many feel there is no point in voting at all. This election taught everyone that every vote counts. One only has to look at different races throughout the country to see margins of less than 1% that make a difference such as Michigan where even with the recount in his favor, Trump is up by .3% or Wisconsin where he led by .8%. The message is clear that we need to get every vote out there to count!

When one looks at the county by county map of voting for Proposition 63 it paints a picture that works in favor of feeling like all hope is lost. It shows blue (Democrat leaning) counties south of the grapevine and from Baja to Humboldt along the coast. This is in contrast to the red counties in the central valley, eastern Sierras and the majority of what the upper northern counties call the State of Jefferson. This quick glance paints the heavily populated areas versus the lower populated areas. That viewpoint is wrong.

Precinct maps paint a different picture. For example San Bernardino County is the largest county in the state and the media shows it Blue the same as San Francisco. The truth is much different when looking at the two counties. Proposition 63 passed by 85.5% of the vote

in San Francisco. There were 267,584 votes cast in San Francisco according to the Secretary of State's Office as reported by the LATimes.com last accessed on December 6, 2016. Those who agreed with us made up only 14.5% of that population. San Francisco County has a voting age population according to the 2015 U.S. Census of roughly 749,000 people. Which means only about 36% of the people voted.

The 14.5% of the people who voted against Proposition 63 equates to 38,800 brothers and sisters in arms in the belly of the beast. That means there is hope because successful nationwide movements have started out with far less people than that number alone. It also means Republican Donald Trump who only received 26,461 votes in that county proves that 12,000 of our brothers and sisters are Independent and Democratic Party aligned voters! Remember, the Second Amendment transcends party lines at the voting level which means if harnessed correctly will remove politicians who fail to recognize that fact.

San Bernardino which is portrayed as blue just like San Francisco is a completely different story.

Proposition 63 passed by 52.9% to 47.1 % of the vote. Only 28% of the 1.5 million people eligible to vote did so on Election Day. We needed to convince 12,500 people to switch their vote and the county goes red. Looking at this at the precinct level, it means that with roughly 295 precincts in the county we needed 45 people to cross over. That means less than one person per street needed to change their vote and the county becomes red.

Taking a further look at blue counties, the margin is slim, such as in Humboldt where if only 925 voters or 2.8% changed their mind on Prop 63, the county would have gone in our favor. The same is true in Mendocino, where 2.4% or 470 votes flips the county red. Blue counties such as Riverside (3.7%), San Benito (3.7%), San Luis Obispo (3%), San Joaquin (2.7%) all are easy targets for the 2018 election.

Merced only went blue by the slimmest of margins at just .003% or 127 votes in the opposite direction changes the color from blue to red.

There are all red precincts in counties, such as Los Angeles, that are predominantly blue and yet defiantly the precinct votes overwhelmingly 62.1 to 37.9 percent against Proposition 63. There are also very blue precincts in that same county that voted 69.9% to defeat proposition 63. This demonstrates again that our issues cross party partisanship.

Research papers, books and documentaries are being written on this subject matter at this very moment. This article is by no means even scratching the surface of the data. It does however shed some light on why gun owners need to take their vote seriously. Taking the low number of 8 million gun owners we can draw a few conclusions. To be a registered gun owner one has to be of legal voting age. This makes the 8 million gun owners a dominating voting block to anyone who opposes them.

Looking at the county layouts there are many seats held by politicians from local city level to county level to those in the Assembly and Senate that are vulnerable to change. Super majorities only happen when we don't vote. Bad gun laws don't happen when we make bad politicians pay for their idiocy by voting them out of office.

I have witnessed in my lifetime numerous groups change the political landscape with far fewer than 8 million potential votes. The question we each have to ask is "Do I really believe what I claim to believe when it comes to the Second Amendment?" If the answer is yes... then now is the time to join the CRPA and NRA in this fight and let's work together to change California. For those of you who are scoffing at that idea...so did the media when 18 months ago a New York Real Estate Mogul said he would be the next President.