

2016
California Voter Guide

OUR VOICE, OUR VOTE

If you think the only thing to vote on is the president—check again. You have the power to decide on many important issues that are closer to home! Find out key Propositions on the **California ballot**.

Be Sure
To Vote by
November 8th

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ABOUT US

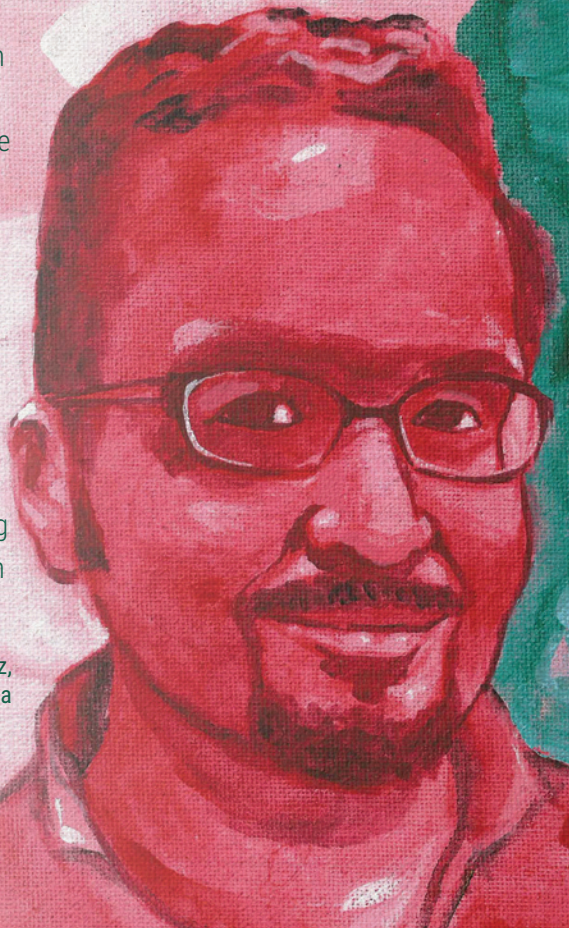
We - young people, working families, immigrants, refugees, and multi-hued communities - envision a state and country in which our dreams of equal opportunity, safety, and success are safeguarded. We envision a California that nurtures our young people through investing in quality, affordable education and services instead of an inhumane and unjust prison system. We envision communities that take pride in our cultures, languages, and histories; communities that know diversity makes us strong rather than divided. More than ever, our votes - YOUR vote - counts to make this vision a reality.



Paid for by We Are California,
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When I left Mexico as a fourth grader, I only had a year in English as a Second Language classes before being thrown into English-only classes. It was difficult for me to learn and the hardest part was the feeling of isolation. **Prop 58 gives students a chance to get real bilingual education to help them transition to a new country.** I'm encouraging my community to vote YES on Prop 58!

—Chema Hernandez,
Born in Mexico, home in California



Key propositions at a glance

- ✓ **YES ON 55** - Protects core funding for schools and healthcare through maintaining current tax rates on the richest 2% of Californians.
- ✓ **YES ON 56** - Increases the tax on cigarette packs to prevent smoking and invests revenue in existing healthcare and tobacco prevention programs.
- ✓ **YES ON 57** - Allows imprisoned people to get early parole based on good behavior, rehabilitation or education. Prop 57 also restores the authority of judges to decide if youth, as young as 14 years old, should be tried as adults in court.
- ✓ **YES ON 58** - Reverses California's ban on bilingual education by providing the opportunity for parents and guardians to choose a language learning program that best suits their child if English is not the child's first language.
- ✓ **YES ON 62** - Abolishes the death penalty and replaces it with life sentence without possibility of parole.
- **NEUTRAL ON 64** - Prop 64 would make it legal for adults to use and grow small amounts of marijuana for personal use. The sale of marijuana to adults will be legal and highly regulated and taxed.
- ✗ **NO ON 66** - Prop 66 increases the risk of executing an innocent person by shortening the death penalty appeals process and limiting the prisoner's ability to present new evidence of their innocence.

Key proposition information

YES ON 55

Protects funding for services we depend on through maintaining current income tax rates on the richest 2% of Californians. Voters approved taxing the wealthiest Californians to prevent deep cuts in education and healthcare in 2012. This decision has helped California move towards economic recovery and stability in K-12 schools and community colleges. However, our communities know the recovery is not over. We need Prop 55 to ensure that we do not go back to the days of massive teacher layoffs, school closures, and tuition hikes.

WHO SAYS YES?

**League of Women Voters
California Federation of Teachers
California School Boards Association
California Children's Hospital
Association
Children's Defense Fund – California**

WHO SAYS NO?

California Chamber of Commerce Board
California Republican Party
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

YES ON 56

Increases the cigarette tax by \$2 per pack, with an equivalent increase on other tobacco products. Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in California and thousands of youth become addicted to tobacco each year. One in three smokers will eventually die from tobacco-related illnesses. It is proven that higher tobacco taxes prevent teen smoking. Since most smokers start as teens, Prop 56 will protect the health of generations of Californians by helping teens avoid a lifetime of addiction to tobacco as well as resulting illnesses or deaths.

WHO SAYS YES?

**American Cancer Society Cancer
Action Network
American Heart Association
California Medical Association
Equality CA
Asian American Small Business PAC
Los Angeles Latino Chamber of
Commerce**

WHO SAYS NO?

Phillip Morris USA Inc.
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
California Manufacturers and Technology
Association

YES ON 57

Research shows that increased prison sentences are not an effective deterrent to crime. Instead, rehabilitation and crime prevention programs work, particularly for young people. Prop 57 would stop wasteful spending on prisons and allow people who are incarcerated for nonviolent crimes the opportunity to earn credits for good behavior and participate in rehabilitation programs. Prop 57 would also reinstate parole boards and their authority to grant imprisoned people early parole based on credits earned, and restore the authority of judges to determine whether a young person should be tried as an adult.

WHO SAYS YES?
Governor Brown
Catholic Bishops of California
Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice
California State Law Enforcement Association

WHO SAYS NO?
California District Attorneys Association
Southern California Alliance
of Law Enforcement

YES ON 58

Parents and guardians of children whose first language is not English will be able to choose a language education program in their public schools that best serves their needs. Parents and guardians can choose programs that teach their children English while preserving their children's native language. Allowing students to learn multiple languages supports their cognitive development, strengthens diversity in our society, and makes them more competitive in a global economy.

WHO SAYS YES?
Council on Teacher Education
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Language Teachers Association
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

WHO SAYS NO?
The Republican Party of California
Keep English for the Children
Ron Untz, advocate for proposition 227

YES ON 62

Takes our state out of “an eye for an eye” era of death penalty into justice that works. Instead of death row, prisoners will get a life sentence without possibility of parole. They will spend more time in work and increase the portion of wages going to victims’ families. California has spent \$5 billion to execute people since 1978. No evidence suggests that the death penalty is effective in deterring crime or healing wounds. We want a justice system that promotes healing and restitution rather than retribution. That’s why we say YES on 62 and NO on 66.

WHO SAYS YES?

Catholic Bishops of California
NAACP California
American Civil Liberties Union of California
Murder Victim’s Families for Reconciliation
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

WHO SAYS NO?

California Police Chiefs Association
Law Enforcement Managers Association
Local 1613, National Border Patrol Council
California Correctional Peace Officers Association

NO ON 66

Speeds up the time between a death sentence and execution by shortening the time for appeals and limiting a prisoner’s ability to present new evidence of their innocence. We have a criminal justice system that values white lives more than lives of people of color. A study by the American Civil Liberties Union found that people, regardless of race, who killed whites were several times more likely to be sentenced to death than those who killed African Americans. Prop 66 misuses our tax dollars to enforce racially biased decisions to execute people. That’s why we say NO on 66 and YES on 62.

WHO SAYS NO?

California Federation of Teachers
California Labor Association
American Civil Liberties Union of California
League of Women Voters of California
NAACP California
California Catholic Conference

WHO SAYS YES?

California Police Chiefs Association
California Correctional Peace Officers Association
California State Sheriff’s Association

Adults aged 21+ would be allowed to possess marijuana and grow small amounts at home for personal use. Sale of marijuana would be legal and highly regulated to protect consumers and children. Voters in Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington have already adopted similar policies. Medical research shows that negative effects of alcohol are much greater than those of marijuana use. Supporters argue that marijuana is beneficial when used responsibly.

PROS

Prop 64 will bring the marijuana industry into the open so that it can be controlled, regulated, and taxed. It will also stop the criminalization of people using or distributing marijuana if they follow the new laws.

Revenues go toward: teen drug use prevention and treatment; protecting the environment against illegal marijuana growing; and economic development in communities harmed by marijuana prohibition.

CONS

Marijuana use will likely increase if it is advertised and sold like other products. Marijuana is known as a "gateway" to other drugs.

Big corporations, much like tobacco companies, will likely gain control of the newly created legal marijuana market. These corporations care more about profits than people's health.

WHO SAYS YES?

Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom
NAACP California
California Medical Association
Drug Policy Action
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

WHO SAYS NO?

California Hospital Association
Small Grower Association
California Teamsters Union
California Correctional Supervisors
Association

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING?

Bring yourself and this voter guide! In most cases, you do not need identification in order to vote. But it is a good idea to bring identification in case you are asked for it. A driver's license, student ID, copy of recent utility bill, or the sample ballot mailed to you are all good forms of identification.

Check here to see if you are registered to vote:

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status

Visit here to register to vote or re-register if you have moved:

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration

Visit here to find your polling place:

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place



**How
To Vote**

FIND OUT MORE

This independent voter guide is designed to give you the quickest, most important information on what you're facing on your ballot. AND there is a lot more information out there. If you are looking to read more, we highly encourage checking out our longer, online guide:

American Voter Guide americanvoterguide.org

ALSO, LOTS MORE GOOD INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES:

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

<http://apen4ej.org/media-resources/resources>

California League of Conservation Voters

www.ecovote.org/page/endorsements

Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights

www.chirla.org

League of Women Voters

<http://lwvc.org>

Planned Parenthood

www.ppactionca.org/voter-resources/voter-guides

WE ARE CALIFORNIA

THANKS THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS GUIDE:



Positions in this guide are the result of collective decision making
and do not reflect the positions of individual organizations.

Art by Robert Liu-Trujillo

At the age of eight, my brother escaped with my dad from a war torn country and settled in the inner city. In his teen years, he made mistakes including getting in a fight and stealing a car radio. Because my dad didn't speak English, my brother didn't have an advocate in the courts and ended up locked up for over 10 years.

Voting YES on Prop 57 gives people like my brother an opportunity to turn their lives around while serving their time.

—Thuy Trang Nguyen,
graduate of UC Berkeley

