

2016 Ballot Proposition Voter Guide

Proposition 51 - OPPOSE

\$9 billion in bonds for education

Authorizes \$9 billion in school bonds. The money would be used for both construction and modernization projects at K-12 schools and community colleges. Bonds are very expensive, costing almost as much in interest as the amount borrowed. Prop 51 would push the state further in debt.

Proposition 52 - OPPOSE

Voter approval of changes to the hospital fee program

Makes it more difficult for the Legislature to use funds that are otherwise allocated for the Medi-Cal program. It will divert millions of dollars away from patients and into the health care bureaucracy with no guarantee it will actually be spent on health care.

Proposition 53 - SUPPORT

Bond Accountability

Requires voter approval before any revenue bond over \$2 billion can be issued by the state for state projects.

Proposition 54 - SUPPORT

Transparency in Lawmaking

Requires legislation to be online for public review at least three days before a final vote. It also would expand the amount of live video required of legislative action at the state Capitol and allow that video to be used in political campaigns.

Proposition 55 - OPPOSE

Temporary Tax Extended

Adds 12 years to the life of income tax rates imposed by the 2012 Proposition 30. Proposition 30 was sold to the voters as a temporary tax. Those rates, 1% to 3% surtax on incomes above \$250,000 a year, would continue through 2030.

Proposition 56- OPPOSE

Increase Cigarette Tax

Raises taxes on tobacco and electronic cigarette products containing nicotine.

Proposition 57 - OPPOSE

Early Release of Inmates

Allows prisoners serving time for nonviolent crimes to become eligible for early release. However the term "nonviolent" is broadly defined and under California law applies to certain rapes and assaults. This would pose a risk to public safety.

Proposition 58 - OPPOSE

Bilingual education in public schools

Forces students back into Spanish-only instruction. Surrounding non-English speaking students with English speakers has been shown to lead to faster proficiency among non-English speaking students.

Proposition 59 - OPPOSE

State's position on Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

Prop 59 advises California officials to work toward a repeal of the Citizens United campaign finance ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. This measure is an opinion and it doesn't change law.

Proposition 60 - OPPOSE

Condoms in Pornography

Requires performers in adult films to use condoms during explicit sex scenes. California law has required condom use in adult films since 1992. Current law needs to be enforced.

Proposition 61 - OPPOSE

Prescription drug price

Bans state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays for that same drug. This proposition would limit prices only for people in certain government health plans, but could make it more expensive for others if the drug companies hike up prices to make up the difference.

Proposition 62 - OPPOSE

Repeal the death penalty

Repeals the 1978 law that imposes execution for the most heinous crimes. If passed, death row sentences would be changed to life without parole. The measure would also send more of the money earned for prison work to victim restitution efforts.

Proposition 63 - OPPOSE

Background checks for ammunition

Bans the sale and possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. It would also impose background checks for purchasing ammunition.

Proposition 64 - OPPOSE

Legalization of marijuana

Legalizes marijuana. Sales would be limited to those over the age of 21. State taxes would be collected from buyers, and local taxes would be allowed.

Proposition 65 - OPPOSE

Plastic Bags

Earmarks fees charged for paper or reusable bags for environmental programs. Prop 65 will only go into effect if Prop 67 passes.

Proposition 66 - SUPPORT

Death penalty

Shortens the time of legal challenges to the death penalty's process. It sets new time limits on the review of convictions by the courts. It would also require death row inmates to work and pay victim restitution.

Proposition 67 - OPPOSE

Plastic single-use carryout bags

Approves the 2014 statewide plastic bag ban. In 2014 a law was passed authorizing retailers to charge shoppers an additional 10 cents for carryout bags.