

Disability Vote California

Voter Guide on Propositions

15, 16, 19, 21, and 22



We have used great information from the League of Women Voters [Easy Voter Guide](#) and the Secretary of State's [California Official Voter Guide](#) in this guide. Please visit these documents if you would like more information.

What is a proposition? Propositions are potential laws that the public votes on instead of government representatives. Propositions can make new laws, change existing laws, and sometimes they change California's Constitution. They can be placed on the ballot by state lawmakers or people who collect enough voter signatures. A proposition passes and becomes law if it receives more than 50 percent YES votes.

Prop 15: Taxes on Commercial Property

The way it is now: Commercial property is land used for large and small businesses. Owners of commercial property pay taxes, or a certain amount of money that goes to the government. As of now, the amount of money they pay is based on how much the property was worth when it was bought. These taxes go up a little bit each year. Money from property taxes goes to local governments, who spend the taxes on funding schools, libraries, fire departments, and more.



What Prop 15 would do if it passes: Prop 15 would change the rules for taxes on commercial property. Commercial property would be taxed based on what the property is worth now, instead of small increases each year based on the price when it was first bought. These new rules would only apply to businesses that own more than \$3 million in commercial property. This proposition would not affect taxes on homes that people live in.

What it means for the disability community: Local governments would get between \$6.5 billion and \$11.5 billion more in property taxes each year starting in 2025. More taxes means more money the government has for local services. Here are some examples of what the additional money would help with:

- Expanding special education
- Ensuring sidewalks have curb cuts and public buildings are accessible
- Increasing library services and access to their internet
- More money for fire departments who respond to people who are sick

People who vote YES on Prop 15 would say: Taxes from Prop 15 will help the government pay for important services for the disability community.

People who vote NO on Prop 15 would say: Raising taxes will increase the costs of everything that people buy, including food, gas, and health care. It will also make large businesses pay a lot more taxes.

Prop 16: Allow Public Agencies to Consider Diversity

The way it is now: In 1996, California voters passed a law that prevents public programs from using “affirmative action” when making decisions about public education, public employment, and who the government buys products from. Affirmative action is a practice in which an individual’s race, gender, or other status is considered to increase opportunities for an underrepresented group. When deciding who gets into college or who to hire, public schools and government agencies are usually not allowed to consider a person’s gender, race, ethnicity, or the country they come from.



What Prop 16 would do if it passes: Prop 16 would allow public colleges, universities, and job agencies to include race, gender, ethnicity, and country of origin as part of their decision-making. They would be allowed to create “affirmative action” programs to increase diversity or to help certain groups.

What it means for the disability community: People with disabilities are of all races, and disabled people of color suffer from discrimination and receive fewer services. When race and other factors are allowed to be considered, public schools and job agencies can consider the entire experience of the person applying.

People who vote YES on Prop 16 would say: Prop 16 will help communities that have experienced challenges receive opportunities in schools and employment. Everyone, no matter what race or gender they are or where they were born, deserves to have quality jobs and education.

People who vote NO on Prop 16 would say: No one should receive special treatment in college acceptances and in job applications. Even if certain people have experienced challenges because of their race, gender, or place of birth, the schools and government agencies should not think about this when deciding who to accept into college or who to hire at a job.

Prop 19: Changes in Property Tax Rules

The way it is now: You must pay property tax if you own a home. Taxes are based on how much the property was worth at the time it was bought and go up a little bit each year.

Homeowners who are over 55, have severe physical disabilities, and are victims of natural disasters such as fires or earthquakes can buy a new home without paying higher taxes in some counties **once** in their lifetime. Money from property taxes goes to local governments, such as cities, counties, public schools, and departments like the library and the fire department.



What Prop 19 would do if it passes: People over 55, people who are severely physically disabled, and people affected by a natural disaster could keep their lower property taxes when moving to a new home in California up to **three times** instead of one time. They would still pay lower taxes even if they buy a more expensive home. Taxes would go up on inherited homes, or homes that someone gets from their parents or grandparents, that is worth more than \$1 million. The people who live in these homes could still pay lower taxes only if they live there all the time.

What it means for the disability community: Right now, people with disabilities who own a home can pay lower taxes if they move once in their county to a home of the same or less value. This proposition expands options for people with disabilities to pay less taxes by increasing the number of times they can move without paying higher taxes. It also expands options by stating they can move anywhere in the state, not just their county, and the value of the house can be more than the house they live in now.

People who vote YES on Prop 19 would say: People with disabilities, people over 55 years old, and people who have been in an earthquake or fire should not have to pay increased taxes if they need to move to a new home three times.

People who vote NO on Prop 19 would say: People who are over 55, disabled, or affected by a natural disaster should not pay lower taxes if they move three times. Paying lower taxes if they move once is enough.

Prop 21: Local Governments and Rent Control

The way it is now: Rent control is when governments limit how much money a landlord can charge someone. An old state law took power away from local governments to do more rent control. A new state law says that landlords can only increase rent 5 to 10% per year.



What Prop 21 would do if it passes: Prop 21 would give local governments back the power to pass rent control rules. The rules will be decided by each community.

What it means for the disability community: A lot of people with disabilities rely on government programs like SSI to pay their rent. Rent control makes housing cheaper for people with disabilities. For individuals who live in houses older than 15 years old, their local governments could pass rent control rules in their area.

People who vote YES on Prop 21 would say: Rent control will help people with disabilities to not have to leave their homes because their landlord charged too much money. This will prevent homelessness because people will continue to be able to pay their rent.

People who vote NO on Prop 21 would say: Rent control is bad because landlords will make less money. Landlords rent apartments that people need, so landlords need to have enough money.

Prop 22: Rideshare and Delivery Drivers

The way it is now: An independent contractor is a type of worker who can choose when, where, and how much to work. An employee, on the other hand, has the time, place, and hours of work set by who they work for. Employees get benefits and protections that independent contractors do not. These include minimum wage, overtime pay, and paid time off if they are sick.



Rideshare and delivery apps include companies such as Uber, Lyft and DoorDash. These companies currently hire drivers as independent contractors. A 2019 law required rideshare companies to hire drivers as employees. This law will only go into effect if this proposition does not pass.

What Prop 22 would do if it passes: Rideshare and delivery drivers would *not* become employees and stay as independent contractors. However, drivers would receive certain benefits. Rideshare companies would have to pay drivers 20% more than the local minimum wage while driving. These companies would have to help pay health insurance costs only for drivers who drive more than 15 hours per week and pay medical costs when a driver is injured while working.

What it means for the disability community: People with disabilities often use Uber and Lyft to get around. The rideshare companies have said that if this proposition does *not* pass and their workers become employees, they would have to

fire a lot of workers, meaning there would be less drivers for people with disabilities. They would fire workers because the companies don't want to pay benefits to all the people who currently work for them. However, if the drivers become employees, they would have more rights. Workers' rights include the right to form a union, more pay, paid sick days, and paid family leave. They do not have these rights as independent contractors.

People who vote YES on Prop 22 would say: As independent contractors, the drivers would still have choice on when, how long, and where to work. They would not be able to do this as employees. Rideshare companies claim the proposition may save jobs and lower costs for customers. The drivers will have benefits while still having the freedom to choose when they want to work.

People who vote NO on Prop 22 would say: Treating drivers as employees will make sure they get paid sick leave, unemployment benefits, and more. Rideshare companies should have to follow the 2019 law. Even if the companies fire a lot of people, rideshare drivers will have a lot more security like paid sick leave and more.