



CALIFORNIA KNOW YOUR VOTE

VOTER RESOURCE

2024 California General Election

November 5, 2024

Key General Election Dates

The last day to register to vote:

October 21, 2024

For eligible citizens who miss the voter registration deadline, **Same Day Voter Registration** is available at county elections offices, polling places, or vote centers.

All California registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot from your county elections office starting **October 7, 2024**

Returning your ballot

Return your vote-by-mail ballots by mail, at a drop-off location, or your county elections office:

- Ballot drop-off locations open on October 8, 2024.
- Vote centers open for early in-person voting in Voter's Choice Act counties beginning on October 26, 2024.
- Mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 12, 2024, to be counted.

Learn more and access our voter tools:
[CourageCaliforniaInstitute.org](https://www.CourageCaliforniaInstitute.org)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why Your Vote Matters	2
What May be on Your Ballot	2
• Federal and National Races: President/Vice President, U.S. Senate, and Congress	2
• State Races: State Assembly and State Senate	4
• County Races: Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, Superior Court Judge	4
• Local Races: City Council, Mayor, School Board	6
• Propositions/Ballot Measures	7
Statewide Propositions/Ballot Measures	8
• Proposition 2: Education Finance: School Facilities: Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024	8
• Proposition 3: Marriage Equality	10
• Proposition 4: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024	11
• Proposition 5: Local Government Financing: Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure	12
• Proposition 6: Slavery	13
• Proposition 32: Raises Minimum Wage	14
• Proposition 33: Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property	15
• Proposition 34: Restricts Spending by Health Care Providers Meeting Specified Criteria	17
• Proposition 35: Provides Permanent Funding for Medi-Cal Health Care Services	18
• Proposition 36: Allows Felony Charges and Increases Sentences for Certain Drug and Theft Crimes	19
Who we are	21



WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS FOR NOVEMBER 5

Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Values

Your vote matters every election because you have the opportunity to choose leaders to represent your community and champion the issues you care most about. Some races have been won by literally one vote, and how close or not a race is can influence how an elected leader governs. For example, if someone is elected to office in a close race, they may be worried about not being re-elected and be less likely to live up to some of their campaign promises – but a wide margin of victory lets the candidate know he or she has a mandate from the people to fulfill those promises.

Our California

You can make sure the election results truly represent the diversity of California voters. Voter turnout tends to be higher among voters who are older, whiter, and wealthier than the whole California electorate, so results don't always represent all voters in the state.

Our Shared Future

In many candidate and proposition races, your choice is between two extremely different visions for what our shared future will look like on climate change, housing and homelessness, public safety, education, LGBTQ+ rights, and other

major issues. Voting up and down the ballot is a critical way to elect leaders and enact policies that align with your values from the local to national level.

Communities vs. Corporations

These races also represent ongoing battles between community voices and big corporations and other wealthy interests. Who will ultimately have more influence on policies? Voting is part of the year-round work it takes to elect leaders who represent our communities, co-govern with them on key policies, and hold them accountable for their votes and actions to ensure our representatives work for the people of California, not just the wealthy and powerful.



WHAT MAY BE ON YOUR BALLOT

1. Federal/National Races

President and Vice President

The President of the United States is the head of the Executive branch of the federal government, and the Commander-in-Chief for all branches of the armed forces. A president has the power to make diplomatic, executive, and judicial appointments, and can sign into law or veto

legislation. Presidential administrations are responsible for both foreign and domestic policy priorities. Presidents are limited to serving two four-year terms in office.

The Vice President is the second-highest office in the Executive branch of the federal government. The officeholder is the first in the line of succession to the presidency and holds legislative authority as the president of the Senate. In this role, the Vice President presides over Senate deliberations and can cast a tie-breaking vote in close decisions. A Vice Presidential candidate is selected directly by a Presidential nominee who has won the Democratic primary process. Vice Presidential candidates are elected indirectly as a part of the Presidential ticket in the general election. A Vice President serves four-year terms, and there is no term limit for this position.

U.S. Senate

Members of the Senate represent and advocate for the needs of their state constituency and share legislative responsibility with the House of Representatives.

They are responsible for creating, debating, and voting on legislation that addresses issues of national importance. Senators have the exclusive responsibility of providing advice and consent to the executive branch on treaties, and the nomination and approval of cabinet secretaries, ambassadors, and federal judges. The Senate also has the sole authority to bring and try an impeachment of a high official, up to and including removal from office with a two-thirds majority vote.



Each state, regardless of population, is represented by two senators. Senate elections are statewide, and senators are elected to serve a six-year term. There is no term limit for this position. Democrats and Independents currently hold a 51-person majority in the Senate, while Republicans hold 49 seats.

Congress

Congressmembers represent and advocate for the needs of their district constituents at the United States Capitol. They are responsible for creating, debating, and voting on legislation that addresses issues within their district.



The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts, each with a population of about 710,000 individuals. Each district elects a representative to the House of Representatives for a two-year term. California has 52 congressional representatives, the largest delegation in the country. There is no term limit for this position. Republicans currently hold a 220-member majority in the House, Democrats hold 212 seats, and there are three vacant seats from deaths and a resignation.



2. State Races

State Assembly

State assembly members represent and advocate for the needs of their district constituents at the California State Capitol. They are responsible for creating, debating, and voting on legislation that addresses issues within their district.

The California State Assembly has 80 districts. Each represents a population of at least 465,000 Californians. Representatives are elected to the Assembly for a two-year term. Every two years, all 80 seats are subject to election. Members elected in or after 2012 are allowed to serve 12 years total across both the state Senate or Assembly. Democrats currently hold a three-quarters supermajority of 60 seats in the California State Assembly, while Republicans hold 19 seats and one seat is held by an Independent.

State Senate

State senators represent and advocate for the needs of their district constituents at the California State Capitol. They are responsible for creating, debating, and voting



on legislation that addresses issues within their district.

The California State Senate has 40 districts. Each represents a population of about 930,000 Californians. Representatives are elected to the Senate for a four-year term. Every two years, half of the Senate's 40 seats are subject to election. Members elected before 2012 are restricted to two four-year terms (eight years) in the Senate. Those elected in or after 2012 are allowed to serve 12 years total across both the state Senate or Assembly. Democrats currently hold a two-thirds supermajority of 31 seats in the California State Senate, while Republicans hold 9 seats.



3. County Races

Board of Supervisors

Each of the 58 counties in California is governed by a five-person board of supervisors. A board of supervisors has legislative and executive power to manage county services and resources, including courts, jails, public health, and public lands. They also have quasi-judicial powers, which give them the right to hold hearings, conduct investigations, and make decisions in a manner similar to judicial courts. Laws passed by Boards of Supervisors are

generally called ordinances. Because counties include both incorporated cities which are administered by their own city councils and unincorporated areas which are directly administered by the county, ordinances may or may not apply in different areas of the county. Supervisors are typically limited to 3 terms or 12 years in office total.

District Attorney

Each of the 58 counties in California elects a District Attorney to manage the prosecution of criminal offenses related to the violation of state and county law. The District Attorney has investigative authority, manages the apprehension of individuals identified through the investigative process, and holds charging and prosecutorial power. The work of the District Attorney includes Municipal and Superior court operations, and serving as a legal liaison to the Grand Jury. The county Board of Supervisors provides financial oversight to the District Attorney's office but holds no operational power over their work. District Attorneys are elected to four-year terms in office.



when not facing an opponent, does not obtain a certain percentage of voters (often 50%), they are removed from the position. Many judges join the court through a gubernatorial appointment. If a judge is appointed, they compete in the next general election following the appointment.

California has 58 trial or superior courts, one in each county. In the more than 450 courthouses of the superior courts, a judge and sometimes a jury hear witness testimony and other evidence. These courts hear civil, criminal, family, probate, and juvenile cases. The judge decides cases through the application of relevant law to the relevant facts.

Superior Court Judge

Judges of the California Superior Courts are elected in nonpartisan, county-wide elections to six-year terms. Once voted in, a judge can run for retention at the expiration of their term. A retention election is a process by which voters decide whether an incumbent judge should remain for another term. If the judge,





4. Local and City Races

City Council

Incorporated cities in California are generally governed by a five-person city council – larger cities have larger councils with more members. A city council is responsible for establishing policy, passing local laws (called ordinances), voting on budget appropriations, and developing an overall vision for the city. Many city council members are limited to 3 terms or 12 years in office total.

Mayor

Some cities use a council-manager government structure, in which the mayor is elected at large and acts as chair of the city council and works in collaboration with an appointed city manager. The city council is responsible for recommending policy, local laws (called ordinances), and budget priorities to the city council for approval. The city manager then directs implementation. The mayor has veto and emergency powers and is responsible for managing dozens of departments and agencies.



Some cities use the mayor-council government structure, in which a mayor is elected at large and acts as chair of the city council and the city's chief executive officer. The mayor does not hold any special legislative power.

In some cities, the city council elects a mayor from the council. The mayor does not hold any special legislative power.

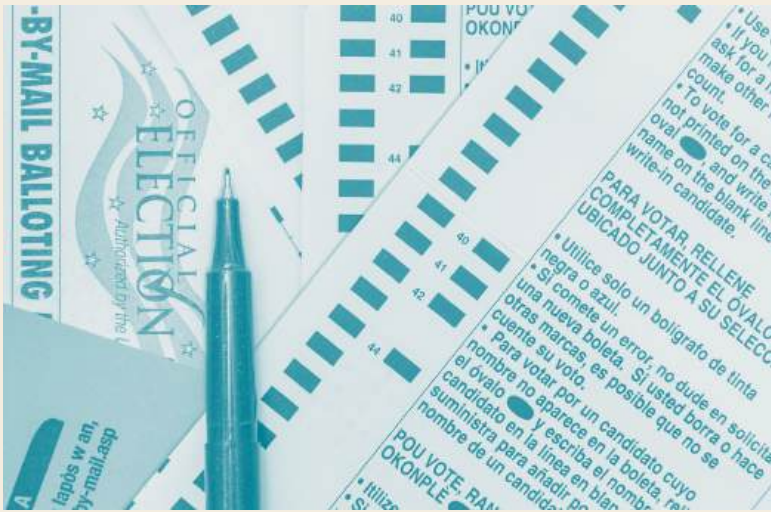
Mayors are elected to a four-year term, with a limit of two consecutive terms.

School Board

School districts have a board that provides administrative oversight and manages the district-wide budget.

Depending on the school district, members are elected by districts (an area within the school district in which a candidate must live) or at-large (district-wide where all candidates run against each other and the top vote-getters win). School board member terms and term limits vary by district.





5. Propositions/Ballot Measures

Propositions - General

Propositions – also called initiatives and ballot measures – are proposed changes in the law that voters weigh in on directly on the ballot. Statewide ballot measures can be approved with a majority (over 50%) of the vote, while some local ballot measures require approval of 55% or two-thirds of the vote.

Ballot measures can be placed on the ballot by governing bodies – the state legislature, boards of supervisors, and city councils. Ballot measures can also be placed on the ballot by any voter registered in the relevant district by a process that includes gathering a certain threshold of verified signatures of registered voters. Special interest groups – including wealthy donors and corporations – will often spend millions of dollars to qualify and pass ballot measures when they cannot get favorable policies from governing bodies.

Propositions - State Constitutional Amendments

A state constitution amendment allows voters to change the California Constitution with a two-

thirds vote. Amendments are initiated by the state legislature, which must pass the proposed amendment by two-thirds to qualify it for the ballot as a proposition. California Propositions 3 (Marriage Equality) and 6 (Slavery) are state constitutional amendments.

Referenda

The California Constitution allows voters to approve or reject measures and laws that have already been enacted. Anyone can challenge a state law by qualifying a referendum for the ballot through a process that includes collecting verified signatures from at least 5% of votes cast for all candidates in the previous gubernatorial election (2022 for the 2024 presidential election). Voters decide if they will “Keep the law” or “Overturn the law,” determined by a majority vote. Similar to other ballot measures, the referenda process has been driven largely by wealthy special interests.

Recalls

The California Constitution allows voters to remove state and local elected officials from office before their term expires through a recall. California state and counties often have different rules for recall processes. Generally, anyone can initiate a recall by filing a notice of intention and collecting and submitting a minimum number of signatures on a petition that will be verified by an election official. If a recall petition qualifies with enough verified signatures, the governing body will set an election date within the required timeline. Recalls are special elections, and if they are not scheduled to coincide with an existing election, they would require additional public funding and resources to execute. Several recall reform proposals have been made to make the process less vulnerable to exploitation and corruption by wealthy donors and special interests.



STATEWIDE PROPOSITIONS/ BALLOT MEASURES

Proposition 2: Education Finance: School Facilities: Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024

Overview

Proposition 2 is a \$10 billion bond measure to fund repairs and facilities upgrades for public K-12 buildings and community colleges within the state. It aims to replenish the funds needed to continue ongoing building updates in public education buildings, many of which have stalled since funds from the last bond measure in 2016 ran out. This measure will distribute funds across two buckets of public education - \$8.5 billion for K-12 institutions, and \$1.5 billion for community colleges.



The proposition dictates a model for fund distribution that would require local districts to raise 35-40% of the project costs through a local bond or other financing before requesting a match from the state. The exact match requirement depends on a formula that includes factors such as the socioeconomic status of students, the wealth of the district, the size of the district, and other considerations. Districts can apply for matching funds to apply to renovation or new construction projects with an intent to ensure that public education structures provide all learners with safe environmental conditions.

A similar bond measure for \$15 billion failed in 2020 after only receiving 47% of the vote. Proposition 2 needs a simple majority of voters to renew this funding stream for public school facility maintenance and upkeep.

Equity and Proposition 2

Proposition 2 was placed on the ballot by an overwhelming majority of the state legislature. However, 30 allied equity and community-based

organizations and impacted school districts opposed the legislation, arguing that the matching formula and first-come first-served funding process favors better-resourced districts. To their point, studies have shown that the matching fund formula has delivered four times as much in state bond funds to wealthy districts as low-wealth districts. The passage of Proposition 2 would lock in an inequitable distribution system for the \$10 billion over the next 5-10 years until another bond is passed.

What voting YES on Proposition 2 means

Research indicates that student learning is boosted when education facilities are modernized, climate-controlled, and have updated electrical infrastructure. Voting YES on Proposition 2 will provide a meaningful funding stream to allow more students to have access to technology and classroom environments that will improve learning outcomes. Yet, due to the equity concerns identified above, it is not clear whether this funding will reach students who need it the most.

Due to delays in repair and renovation, many districts have resorted to repurposing gymnasiums as cafeterias and using auxiliary classrooms. Recent data shows that over one-third of California students are enrolled in a school that doesn't meet minimum facility standards. These conditions can diminish student access to technology, adequate learning space, and physical education classes. Voting YES on Proposition 2 will provide more districts with the resources they need to expand facilities and ensure comprehensive learning opportunities for students.

What voting NO on Proposition 2 means

Passing Proposition 2 would hold off other, more equitable school funding bond opportunities for another 5-10 years. An alternative to voting yes for this bond would be to support education equity advocates in pursuing legislative and legal avenues to make the funding and distribution rules more equitable and serve the highest-need school districts.

Top supporters of Proposition 2

AB 247, which qualified Prop 2 for the ballot, was authored by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, overwhelmingly passed both chambers of the legislature with bipartisan support, and received support from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Proposition 2 has received support from many school districts in the state, including the nation's second-largest public district, Los Angeles Unified School District, which has an enrollment of over 660,000 students. It has also been popular with education administrators and leaders and has earned the support of the California Teachers Association, Association of California School Administrators, California School Boards Association, California School Nurses Organization, and Community College League of California.

Proposition 2 is funded by two committees: the Coalition for Adequate School Housing and the Community College Facility Coalition Issues Committee, both with significant contributions from construction-related companies and contractors.

Top opponent of Proposition 2:

Proposition 2 is opposed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, which generally opposes raising public revenue to pay for critical infrastructure, programs, and services, including bonds that have been popular with voters.

Proposition 3: Marriage Equality

Overview

In 2008, California voters passed Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that defined the only valid and recognized marriages in the state as those between a man and a woman, with 52% of the vote. It was overturned by the state Supreme Court in a decision that went into effect in 2013 and was further overruled by the federal Supreme Court in 2015 when same-sex marriage was legalized nationally in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision but remains in the state constitution. Proposition 3 would formally repeal Proposition 8, remove the constitutional language indicating that marriage is between a man and a woman, and affirm the fundamental right to marry.



Why voting YES on Proposition 3 matters

While marriage equality is protected nationally, LGBTQIA+ communities continue to be targeted by discriminatory legislation across the country. A YES vote would reaffirm California's commitment to protecting the rights of these communities.

The Supreme Court's current right-wing majority has vocalized their interest in overturning the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision and recently voted in favor of a website designer's refusal to create online wedding pages for LGBTQIA+ couples because she claimed it infringed on her right to free speech. A YES vote would ensure that marriage equality is protected in California even if the Supreme Court eventually overturns the national legalization.

To date, Nevada is the only state that has amended its state constitution to create protection for marriage equality. A YES vote will make California a progressive leader on this issue and create significant protections for the 2.7 million state residents who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Top supporters of Proposition 3

ACA 5, which qualified Prop 3 for the ballot, was authored by State Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Evan Low, passed both chambers of the legislature with bipartisan support, and has received vocal support from Gov. Gavin Newsom and several other elected officials.

The Yes on 3 Freedom to Marry campaign is led by an executive committee of many LGBTQIA+ and progressive groups: ACLU of Northern California, Equality California, Human Rights Campaign, TransLatin@ Coalition, and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California. Courage California endorsed Proposition 3 and serves on the campaign steering committee.

Top opponents of Proposition 3

California Capitol Connection, a Baptist lobbying group, led the opposition to ACA 5 and argues that the Bible defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

The opposition has also been supported by other groups with religious affiliations, including the California Family Council, The American Council of Evangelicals, the Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee, Freedom in Action, and Real Impact.

Notably, Proposition 3 has not encountered resistance from many of the groups that worked

tirelessly to pass the discriminatory Proposition 8 sixteen years ago. Prop 8 was supported by various religious groups, including the Roman Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the San Diego branch of the Church of Scientology. These groups have not issued a stance or made significant financial contributions to deter Proposition 3.

Proposition 4: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Overview

In 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration committed to spend \$54 billion on climate protections, but some of these funds were cut to balance the state's budget. Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act, would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion to be urgently allocated across a variety of climate projects and reimbursed by taxpayers through a bond. The bill outlines allocations for these funds that include \$3.8 billion for safe drinking and groundwater projects, \$1.5 billion for wildfire protections, \$1.2 billion for coastal infrastructure efforts, \$1.2 billion to protect biodiversity, and \$450 million for extreme heat mitigation. With a focus on water, wildfire, and the coast, this funding is designed to create present-day solutions that will stop or reverse existing climate challenges and mitigate the need for more expensive projects in the future.



Why voting YES on Proposition 4 matters

Proposition 4 mandates that 40% of funding must benefit disadvantaged communities, which it defines as areas where the median household income is less than 80% of the region's average. Voting YES will ensure that the communities most negatively impacted by environmental disinvestment will benefit from these climate projects.

Along with providing benefits for water, wildfire, and coastal areas, Proposition 4 will also allocate funds to address wildlife habitat preservation, build public parks, increase sustainable farming operations, and fight air pollution. Voting YES will provide for these initiatives that will provide wide-ranging community benefits across the state.

An analysis from the California Natural Resources Agency indicates that without action today the state's climate-related expenses could rise to \$113 billion annually by the year 2050. Voting YES on Proposition 4 will allow the state to take immediate action to establish more protections and adaptability to avert high annual expenses in the coming decades.

Top supporters of Proposition 4

SB 867, which moved Proposition 4 forward to the ballot, was introduced in February 2023 and authored by Sen. Ben Allen, Sen. Josh Becker, Assm. Eduardo Garcia, Sen. Lena Gonzalez, Sen. Monique Limón, Sen. Anthony Portantino, Sen. Henry Stern, and Assm. Lori Wilson. It received over 82% support in final floor votes in both the Assembly and the Senate.

Proposition 4 has the support of many environmental, labor, and justice groups, including Clean Water Action, CALFIRE Firefighters,

National Wildlife Federation, Community Water Center, The Nature Conservancy, Coalition for Clean Air, Environmental Defense Fund, California Coastal Protection Network, California Water Impact Network, and WateReuse California. Courage California endorsed Proposition 4.

Top opposition to Proposition 4

Proposition 4 is opposed by some Republican legislators and the anti-tax Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Proposition 5: Local Government Financing: Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure

Overview

At the local level, the California Constitution currently requires that general obligation bonds and special taxes for both affordable housing and public infrastructure projects earn a two-thirds supermajority vote, or 67%, to pass. Proposition 5 seeks to reduce that vote threshold to 55% of the popular vote to provide local governments with a better opportunity to move forward on these local service and development projects using public funds. The bill also establishes accountability standards to require annual, independent audits of the use of funds, and create citizen oversight committees to evaluate spending.



Why voting YES on Proposition 5 matters

Over the last several years, California has seen a growing population of unhoused people, chronically high housing costs, and the highest

rate of poverty in the country. Each issue is directly tied to a lack of affordable housing development across communities. Reducing the vote threshold to a more attainable level by voting YES on Proposition 5 would improve the likelihood that local governments could pass funding measures to address these issues.

Since Proposition 39 passed in 2000, local school districts have been able to pass bond measures with the lower 55% requirement. The effectiveness of this vote threshold reduction establishes a strong precedent for the changes proposed in Proposition 5. Voting YES on Proposition 5 would expand this principle to fund housing and infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure improvements, like upgrades to roads, water systems, public parks, and libraries, improve the quality of life in a community and increase existing property values. Voting YES on Proposition 5 would make it easier for municipalities to fund projects to expand broadband access, improve public safety, amend water sanitation and quality, protect property against flooding and sea level changes, and build hospitals.

Top supporters of Proposition 5

Proposition 5 was authored in the state legislature as ACA 1 and ACA 10 by Assm. Cecelia Aguiar-Curry, Assm. Marc Berman, Assm. Matt Haney, Assm. Alex Lee, and Assm. Buffy Wicks. It received only Democratic support in both the Assembly and the State Senate.

Proposition 5 has the endorsement of many groups, including the California Association of Housing Authorities, California State Association of Counties, California Transit Association,

California State Council of Laborers, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Urban Counties of California. It has also received the support of several cities, including Camarillo, Davis, Gustine, Laguna Beach, Lathrop, Lodi, Moorpark, and San Luis Obispo.

Top opposition to Proposition 5

Proposition 5 has been heavily opposed by the California Business Roundtable and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association.

Misinformation about Proposition 5

Opponents of Proposition 5 claim that it is a direct attack on Proposition 13, which passed in 1978 and restricted property tax increases by capping a homeowner's general levy tax to just 1% of their home's assessed value. This is FALSE. Proposition 5 modernizes the process by which a passing vote can be achieved for specific categories of funding, but does not repeal Proposition 13.

Opponents claim that Proposition 5 will make California less affordable for working families and renters. This is FALSE. Creating an easier process for municipalities to fund housing and infrastructure development will increase the availability of housing units and effectively draw down an inflated cost of living that has been exacerbated by housing scarcity.

Proposition 6: Slavery

Overview

California's state constitution outlaws slavery but maintains language that allows for involuntary servitude to be used as punishment for a crime. Proposition 6 would repeal that language, and replace it with language that clearly outlaws the use of involuntary servitude under any circumstances, and allows the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to instead issue credits to incarcerated people for the acceptance of voluntary work assignments during their incarceration. This bill was strongly supported by the Legislative Black Caucus, which included it as part of a larger package designed to move the state forward on reparations.



Why voting YES on Proposition 6 matters

The current policy further enriches prisons by allowing them to require inmates to work for wages as low as eight cents an hour. Voting YES on Proposition 6 will eliminate forced labor in the state prison system, and provide for more dignity in the earning capacity and rehabilitation process of incarcerated people.

The incarcerated population in California is disproportionately made up of Black and Latino men. Voting YES on Proposition 6 will disrupt the ongoing legacy of slavery and exploitation that has historically impacted these populations.

Voting YES on Proposition 6 will allow incarcerated people to exercise more autonomy in shaping their rehabilitation and pursuit of voluntary work experience during their time in the prison system.

Voting YES on Proposition 6 would join California with over 30 other states that have struck down the archaic practice of involuntary servitude in their state constitutions.

Top supporters of Proposition 6

ACA 8, the bill associated with Proposition 6, was authored by Asm. Lori Wilson, and introduced in February 2023. It received over 82% support in final floor votes in both the Assembly and the Senate.

Proposition 6 has the support of many social justice advocacy organizations, including ACLU California Action, the California Immigrant Policy Center, and the League of Women Voters California. It has also received the endorsement of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Courage California endorsed Proposition 6.

Misinformation about Proposition 6

While there has been no public opposition to Proposition 6, there have been some expressed concerns from Republican lawmakers that this bill would result in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation being required to compensate incarcerated people at minimum wage rates for their voluntary work contributions. This is FALSE. AB 628, a new law related to Proposition 6, directly contradicts this argument, stating that it does not require that the state supply minimum wage to incarcerated workers. AB 628 dictates that the Department of Corrections would have the authority to set compensation standards within the prison system.

Proposition 32: Raises Minimum Wage

Overview

In 2016, the California state legislature passed SB 3 to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2023 and mandated adjustments for inflation tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). SB 3 also established unique timelines for businesses to provide wage increases based on the number of people employed. Proposition 32 would follow a similar format to continue to increase the statewide minimum wage to \$18 per hour by 2026, with a required CPI-based increase after \$18/hour has been reached. The proposition also includes a provision that allows the Governor to delay the increases up to two times in response to an unexpected economic downturn.



Why voting YES on Proposition 32 matters

While California maintains a higher minimum wage than other states, the current standard still puts minimum wage-earning workers far below the state's average cost of living. Voting YES on Proposition 32 will move California forward in closing this socioeconomic gap for workers.

Some industries in the state have secured union-negotiated wage increases over the last few years, including a move to \$25/hour for healthcare workers, and \$20/hour for fast food workers. Voting YES on Proposition 32 will advance the earning power of workers who do not benefit from the protection and advocacy of labor unions.

Static wages can make it difficult for individuals and families to maintain stable housing, healthcare, and access to quality food. These limitations can

have long-term impacts on the health and safety of households and communities. Voting YES on Proposition 32 will help to level the playing field and mitigate some of these challenges across the state.

Recent estimates have shown that the minimum wage would be over \$25 per hour if it had kept pace with economic productivity since the 1960s. Voting YES will move California closer to providing this realistic living wage to workers.

Top supporters of Proposition 32

The Yes on California Living Wage Act is leading support for Proposition 32, with funding from entrepreneur and anti-poverty advocate Joe Sanberg. The proposition was originally targeted for the 2022 general election, but the campaign missed a deadline, postponing the proposition to 2024.

Top opposition to Proposition 32

The California Republican Party has formally opposed Proposition 32, citing concerns about the negative financial impacts on business within the state.

Some business leaders have been critical of Proposition 32, expressing concerns that allowing political winds to determine this element of economic growth is irresponsible. They argue that markets should dictate wage growth and that this increase will squeeze business owners and shift the cost burden to consumers.

Proposition 33: Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property

Overview

In 1995, the state legislature passed the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which prohibited rent control in single-family homes, condominium units, and newly built rental properties. In cities that already had rent control in place at the time of Costa-Hawkins, like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Berkeley, the definition of 'new' was back-dated to those earlier ordinances. Proposition 33 would repeal Costa-Hawkins, allow municipalities to reestablish rent limits on any housing in their jurisdiction, and prohibit the state from limiting any later establishment or expansion of rent control. Similar ballot initiatives, Proposition 10 in 2018 and Proposition 21 in 2020, each failed by a margin of nearly 20 points.



Why voting YES on Proposition 33 matters

California is experiencing a faster rate of increase in homelessness than any other state in the country. Recent data shows an annual increase of up to 7% in statewide homelessness between 2022 and 2023 and partially attributes this ongoing crisis to increasing rents and housing unaffordability. Voting YES on this initiative will allow local governments to prevent homelessness and support unhoused neighbors by putting measures in place to regulate costs in the housing market and strengthen renter protections.

Community development and growth are aided by the long-term investment in the housing security of

residents who establish a personal network, professional ties, and social connections in a neighborhood. Voting YES on this initiative will help to ensure that individuals and families investing in their local community will not be priced out of their homes by unchecked rental price increases.

Recent Zillow data indicates that rental costs across the state have increased by as much as 40% since the start of the pandemic in 2020. This data includes striking increases in inland regions of the state that have previously been considered more affordable, including 39% in Bakersfield, 38% in Fresno, and 37% in Riverside. Voting YES on this initiative will limit these inflated year-over-year rental cost increases across the state.

Top supporters of Proposition 33

This Justice for Renters initiative is sponsored by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and their associated initiative, Housing Is a Human Right. These organizations work at the intersection of health, social equity, and human rights, and have been strong advocates of communities impacted by the unsustainable increase in housing costs within the state. They sponsored the previous ballot measure efforts to repeal Costa-Hawkins. Notably, AHF has a track record of being a problematic landlord, especially as one the biggest landlords in Skid Row in Los Angeles.

Additional endorsers of this effort include Pomona United Stable Housing Coalition, and Housing Now! California, Healing and Justice Center, SLO Rent Coalition, Oakland Tenants Union, ACCE, and IE Votes. This initiative has also received the endorsement of many elected leaders, including Rep. Ro Khanna, Rep. Barbara Lee, Assm. Alex Lee, State Sen. María Elena Durazo, and many local mayors and council members.

Stakeholders in support of this initiative raised \$13.9 million as of the first quarter of 2024, with the majority of those dollars contributed directly by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Top opposition to Proposition 33

Committees in opposition to this initiative, Californians for Responsible Housing and Californians to Protect Affordable Housing, have raised \$2.9 million as of the first quarter of 2024. These committees have received direct sponsorship, and the majority of their funding, from the California Apartment Association, which represents landlords, including corporations that own rental properties.

Misinformation about Proposition 33

Stakeholders who oppose this initiative claim it will reduce housing supply by forcing landlords to convert their rental apartments into sellable condos and creating local housing ordinances that make affordable housing development more difficult. This is FALSE. While this initiative would limit corporate landlords from imposing skyrocketing rent increases on families, it does not dictate that rents must be held below market rate, and does not suggest that local building or development standards would be directly impacted.

Objectors have also argued that this initiative would impose rent control on privately owned residences, limiting an owner's ability to set the rent for their property. This is FALSE. This initiative does not contain special restrictions for private owners but would make them subject to the same equitable market rate expectations that apply to rental apartment owners.

Proposition 34: Restricts Spending by Health Care Providers Meeting Specified Criteria

Overview

Proposition 34 is a real estate industry effort targeting the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) to keep the organization from funding future ballot initiatives.



The initiative seeks to create a new category of state entities called “prescription drug price manipulators”, and to place tight restrictions on the requirements those organizations must meet to maintain their tax-exempt status. The initiative defines prescription drug price manipulators as any entity that is an active participant in the federal 340B drug price discount program, is licensed to act as a healthcare provider in the state, contracts with Medi-Cal as a provider, has contributed over \$100 million over the last 10 years to initiatives unrelated to direct patient care, and has owned multi-family properties that have received a minimum of 500 government violations. If passed, Proposition 34 would require organizations designated as prescription drug price manipulators to both spend a minimum of 98% of their revenues from the federal prescription drug program on direct patient care activities and abstain from any conduct that could be viewed as in opposition to public health and safety. In addition, Proposition 34 would codify the Medi-Cal Rx program, which was established in 2019 via an executive order from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

In recent years, the AHF, which meets all of the criteria for a “prescription drug price manipulator”, has provided extensive funding and advocacy support to ballot initiatives intended to support low-income housing development. Proposition 34, supported by a variety of actors with real estate interests, would curtail this organization’s capacity to distribute its funds in support of affordable housing initiatives.

Why voting NO on Proposition 34 matters

Real estate interests, and their benefactors, across the state are responsible for rental increases that have exceeded 35% in some regions of the state since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Voting NO on Proposition 34 will ensure that organizations like AHF can continue to allocate funding to disrupt the cynical and greedy business practices of the real estate industry.

The California Apartment Association and similar groups frequently provide financial support to state and local initiatives and candidates. Voting NO on Proposition 34 will prevent the creation of a new and narrow restricted category of funder and would rebuke a hypocritical attempt by a wealthy industry lobbyist to restrict their opposition.

Top opposition to Proposition 34

The stated target of Proposition 34, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, has publicly opposed the initiative, arguing that their efforts to purchase single-occupancy hotels and other multi-unit structures have resulted in the permanent housing of over 1,000 people over the years and has been instrumental in supporting California’s unhoused population. Notably, recent investigations have revealed that many of AHF’s housing units are in disrepair and have not been properly maintained.

Consumer Watchdog and the National Organization for Women have also come out in opposition to Proposition 34.

Top supporters of Proposition 34

California Apartment Association is the lead sponsor of Proposition 34 and the associated Protect Patients Now campaign and has dishonestly framed the initiative as a patient care protection measure. In their view, limiting AHF's political spending will require the organization to reinvest funds in low-income patient care, and will prevent them from overcharging the government for prescription drugs through the Medi-Cal Rx program. In reality, their sponsorship of Proposition 34 is a direct attack on a political opponent, and they have not prioritized patient protection in any way before this ballot measure. The California Apartment Association has contributed over \$11 million in support of Proposition 34.

Proposition 34 has also received support from the California Republican Party, ALS Association, and San Francisco Women's Cancer Network.

Proposition 35: Provides Permanent Funding for Medi-Cal Health Care Services

Overview

In 2023, the state legislature passed AB 119 to re-impose a tax on managed care organizations (MCO) in the state that had been dormant since 2012. MCOs provide health insurance coverage to their enrollees at a fixed monthly cost, and the tax is based on the number of monthly enrollees that a given MCO has. Commercial plans pay a lower rate (\$1.75/member) than Medi-Cal health plans (\$274/member). The renewed tax is in effect through December 2026. Proposition 35 would make the tax permanent and place a ceiling on the amount of tax commercial health plans would be required to pay (\$2.75/member).



Why voting NO on Proposition 35 matters

Proposition 35 would redirect billions of dollars that support the Medi-Cal program and the state general fund to specified provider rate increases, and effectively reduce Medi-Cal investments by \$1 billion to \$2 billion a year, including in the current 2024/2025 budget.

In the 2024/2025 state budget signed by Governor Newsom, important health groups and services – including emergency department physician services, abortion care and family planning, ground emergency medical transportation, community health workers, private duty nurses, and adult and pediatric day health centers – receive investments and Medi-Cal rate increases. Children who qualify for Medi-Cal but are at risk of automatic disenrollment (80% annually) because of

administrative or procedural issues are also supported for continued coverage in the state budget. If Prop 35 passes, these groups will not receive any of the MCO tax funds, which will go to rate increases in other areas.

Top supporters of Proposition 35

Proposition 35 has received support from a wide array of healthcare stakeholders, including the California Hospital Association, California Medical Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, and the Coalition to Protect Access to Care. Healthcare providers have supported the expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility in the state, and view this initiative as an opportunity to further expand the services they provide and the patient population they engage with and prevent state leaders from repurposing the funds, as Governor Newsom has sought to do.

Proposition 35 has also received the support of the California Republican Party and the California Democratic Party. AB 119 received bipartisan support when it was passed in 2023, earning over 85% of the vote in final floor votes in both the Assembly and the Senate.

Supporters have raised over \$19 million for Proposition 35, including donations from California Hospitals Committee on Issues, and Global Medical Response Inc.

Top opposition to Proposition 35

While there is not currently a committee working in opposition to Proposition 35, many health equity advocates – including the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, California Alliance for Retired Americans, The Children’s Partnership, and Courage California – oppose this ballot

measure based on the short-term and long-term threats to community-focused health care programs and services.

Proposition 36: Allows Felony Charges and Increases Sentences for Certain Drug and Theft Crimes

Overview

In 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47 with over 59% of the vote to reclassify some non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, including low-value shoplifting, grand theft, forgery, fraud, and the personal use of illegal drugs. This change effectively reduced the state’s prison burden and allowed the government to divert funds previously used for incarceration to rehabilitation and re-entry programs. Proposition 36 would make changes to Proposition 47 by increasing the sentence for possession of certain quantities of illegal drugs, adding fentanyl to the list of illegal drugs that can warrant a felony charge, and making low-value property theft a felony for repeat offenders.



Why voting NO on Proposition 36 matters

Proposition 36 would upend the progress that Proposition 47 established to increase community investment in mental health services, substance use treatment, and diversion programs, cutting \$850 million over the next decade for these local safety programs. Voting NO will ensure that California remains focused on rehabilitation and re-entry programs for individuals involved in low-level crime.

A fiscal analysis of Proposition 36 estimates that it will ultimately cost taxpayers more than \$26 billion

in the next decade in court costs and the expense of housing an increased prison population – the biggest prison spending increase in California history. Voting NO will allow these critical funds to continue to be spent on truancy, youth services, rehabilitation, and substance use treatment programs.

Recent data suggests that criminalizing personal drug use is largely ineffective, and tends to disproportionately impact marginalized groups. Additionally, it often results in destabilizing long-term consequences like the disruption of family relationships, and difficulty in accessing employment opportunities and public assistance. Voting NO on Proposition 36 will maintain the misdemeanor status for these crimes while continuing to support social programs in addressing the root causes of addiction and criminal behavior.

Top opposition to Proposition 36

Gov. Gavin Newsom and top legislative leaders oppose Proposition 36 and recently signed a package of bills targeting retail theft and drug use into law.

Proposition 36 is opposed by many racial justice, public safety, and progressive stakeholders, including the California Black Legislative Caucus, California Black Power Network, Action for Safety and Justice, Initiate Justice Action, and ACLU Northern California. Courage California opposes Proposition 36 and serves on No on Prop 36 committees.

Top supporters of Proposition 36

Proposition 36 has received the support of many law enforcement agencies, including the California Sheriff's Association, San Francisco Police Officers Association Issues PAC, Kern County Prosecutor's Association PAC, California District Attorneys Association, and Association of Deputy District Attorneys PAC. These groups view this initiative as a way to reduce crime rates and curb drug use by returning to the problematic theory that crime can be collectively deterred through the establishment of strong punitive consequences.

Proposition 36 has also received the support of San Francisco Mayor London Breed and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, conservative Democrats who both lead cities in the Bay Area where drug use and property crime have been significant political issues over the last several years. It has also received the support of the California Republican Party.

Supporters have raised over \$9 million, and include business stakeholders who have made exaggerated claims of being negatively impacted by the low-value theft and property crime that Proposition 36 seeks to reclassify – claims that have since been retracted and refuted by more accurate data. Donors include Target Corporation, Walmart, 7-Eleven, American Petroleum and Convenience Store Association, and California Fuels and Convenience Alliance.



WHO WE ARE

Our mission is to defend and extend economic justice, human rights, and corporate and political accountability through public education, strategic research, and innovative leadership-development training.

Courage California Institute empowers Californians by providing the resources needed to courageously participate in the democratic process and create change for the betterment of their families and communities.

Exercising your right to vote shouldn't be confusing, intimidating, or inaccessible for any eligible voter. We believe that in order for California to have a truly equitable and representative democracy — everyone must have access to trusted, reliable, and unbiased information and tools to help voters better understand the elections, the various roles of our local and state elected officials, and how to confidently vote their values at the ballot box.

Democracy in the U.S. can represent and serve all residents when ALL communities have the power to use their voice and be heard by leadership.

Voter Tools

To access our voter tools, visit couragecaliforniainstitute.org/voter-tools.

We provide voter tools that help you:

- Register to vote
- Check your Voter Registration
- Request an Absentee Ballot
- Get election reminders