

2020

PROPOSITIONS

Content Warning: Mild References of Sexual Violence

FOR

Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative

AGAINST

Supports issuing \$5.5 billion for the state's stem cell research institute

- Prop restores health and quality of life for Californians and families suffering from chronic disease and injury.
- Need support to continue human trials and discoveries, overcome numerous obstacles or complications, and ultimately serve to improve the life and reduce the suffering of every one of us
- Aims to make stem cell therapy more affordable and acceptable

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Authorizes \$5.5 billion to fund grants from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine to educational, non-profit, and private entities for: stem cell and other medical research, including training; stem cell therapy development and delivery; research facility construction; student and physician training and fellowships; and associated administrative expenses.
- Dedicates \$1.5 billion to research and therapy for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, epilepsy, and other brain and central nervous system diseases and conditions.

Opposes issuing \$5.5 billion for the state's stem cell research institute

- Considered a bailout for the CIRM, which was given 3 billion dollars in 2004 and has spent the money to bankruptcy.
- Prop doesn't resolve longstanding lack of oversight and accountability
- Bad time to impose new costs on residents due to COVID-19
- Will take around a decade to implement
- No room in the budget

FOR

Tax on Commercial/Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding

AGAINST

Supports this constitutional amendment to require commercial and industrial properties, to be taxed based on their market value, rather than their purchase price.

- In status quo, large companies that make absurd amounts of money pay property taxes based on fair market value, which doesn't make sense considering their success
- Protects small businesses and house owners

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Increases funding for K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local governments by requiring commercial and industrial property be taxed based on current market value, instead of purchase price.
- Exempts from taxation changes: small businesses, residential properties; agricultural land; and industrial properties with value of \$3 million or less.

Opposes this amendment, thus continuing to tax commercial and industrial properties based on a property's purchase price, with annual increases equal to the rate of inflation or 2 percent, whichever is lower.

- COVID is killing these companies right now, it's not the time to increase taxes for these companies, regardless of size
- A better bill would look to closing corporate loopholes
- Potential slippery slope to increasing household taxes

FOR

Repeal Prop 209 Affirmative Action Amendment

AGAINST

Supports this constitutional amendment to repeal Proposition 209

- Vote yes on proposition 16 to dismantle racism baked into institutions
- Proposition 209 was an attack on attempts to level the playing field for women and POC, it should be repealed
- Makes little sense to exclude consideration of race in admissions when the aim of universities' process is to fully understand and evaluate each applicant through multiple dimensions

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Permits government decision-making policies to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to address diversity by repealing article I, section 31, of the California Constitution, which was added by Proposition 209 in 1996.
- Proposition 209 generally prohibits state & local governments from discriminating against/granting preferential treatment to, individuals or groups on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity, in the operation of public employment, education, or contracting.
- Does not alter other state and federal laws guaranteeing equal protection and prohibiting unlawful discrimination.

Opposes this constitutional amendment to repeal Proposition 209

- The current ban on the consideration of race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in public education, public employment, and public contracting would remain in effect.

PROP 17*

FOR

Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole

AGAINST

Supports this constitutional amendment to allow people on parole for felony convictions to vote.

- Prop. 17 restores a citizen's right to vote after they finish their prison term—aligning California with other states. A recent parole commission report found that citizens who complete their prison terms and have their voting rights restored are less likely to commit future crimes.

BALLOT SUMMARY

- The California Constitution currently disqualifies people convicted of felonies from voting until both their imprisonment and parole are complete. The ballot measure would amend the state constitution to allow people with felonies who are on parole to vote.

Opposes this constitutional amendment, thereby continuing to prohibit people who are on parole for felony convictions from voting.

- Allows criminals convicted of murder, rape and child molestation to vote before paying their debt to society.
- Denies justice to crime victims.

PROP 18*

FOR

Primary Voting for 17 Year Olds

AGAINST

Supports this constitutional amendment to allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primary elections and special elections

- Could increase interest and voter participation among youth
- Many of them already work, pay taxes, and are allowed to join the military — so why not vote?

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primaries and special elections

Opposes this constitutional amendment, thereby continuing to prohibit 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primary elections and special elections.

- 17 year olds are still minors
- They are not in situations conducive to independent thought or voting without undue pressure from their immediate superiors

PROP 19*

FOR

Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties

AGAINST

Supports this constitutional amendment to impose tax assessment transfers, allocating money to wildfire agencies

- Will incentivize seniors stuck in oversized homes to downsize and free up inventory in the housing market
- Closing inheritance tax break will provide budget boost to local governments and state firefighting efforts, especially important during this time because of COVID-19

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Tax assessment transfers: Eligible homeowners (55+, disabled, or effected by wildfires) can transfer their tax assessments to different homes of the same or lesser market value, up to 3x
- Impact on inherited properties: Eliminates the parent-to-child & grand parent-to-grandchild exemption in cases where the child or grandchild doesn't use inherited property as principal residence
- Increases firefighter budget

Opposes this constitutional amendment to impose tax assessment transfers

- Is an attempt by real estate interests to raise millions of new tax revenues
- Increases already numerous benefits of those who were lucky enough to buy a home years ago while skewing tax breaks further away from people who don't own a home or who may be struggling to buy one
- It is an altered version of the 2018 ballot's rejected Prop 5

PROP 20

FOR

Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection

AGAINST

Supports this ballot to recategorize certain types of theft as wobblers (chargeable as misdemeanors or felonies); and require DNA collection for certain misdemeanors.

- Tough on crime and a legal tool to keep neighborhoods safe
- Right now, California non serious and nonviolent crimes include drugging and r*ping someone, spousal abuse, a drive-by shooting, and domestic violence. Passing redefines these as violent crimes, which is imperative to setting stricter jail sentences

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Limits access to parole programs for non-violent offenders who have completed the full term of their primary offense, by eliminating eligibility for certain offenses.
- Authorizes felony charges for specified theft crimes currently chargeable only as misdemeanors
- Requires persons convicted of specified misdemeanors to submit DNA to statewide sample base

Opposes this ballot to recategorize certain types of theft as wobblers (chargeable as misdemeanors or felonies); and require DNA collection for certain misdemeanors.

- Disproportionately affects Black/Latinx population
- Will swell prison populations/costs

FOR

PROP 21

Low Rent Control Initiative

AGAINST

Supports this ballot initiative to allow local governments to enact rent control on housing that was first occupied over 15 years ago

- Could tackle homelessness
- Could bring stability to seniors, families, and working Californians
- Will allow California cities to pass sensible limits on rent increases and protect families, seniors and veterans from skyrocketing rents

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Allows local governments to establish rent control on residential properties over 15 years old. Allows rent increases in rent-controlled properties of up to 15 percent over three years at start of new tenancy
- Exempts individuals who own no more than two homes from new rent-control policies
- Prohibits rent control from violating landlords' right to fair financial return

Opposes this ballot initiative, thereby continuing to prohibit rent control on housing and housing units such as single-family homes

- Will worsen California's housing crisis
- Undermines the strongest statewide rent control law in the nation, costs jobs, reduces home values, stops new housing from being built, and eliminates homeowner protections while providing no protections for renters, seniors, veterans, or the disabled.

FOR

PROP 22

App Based Drivers as Contractors & Labor Policies

AGAINST

Supports this ballot initiative to define rideshare and delivery drivers as independent contractors

- Designating ride-share workers as set shift employees could limit availability and affordability of these services
- Current law for independent contractors denies companies the ability to provide workplace protections
- Difficult for rideshare and delivery service companies to implement many customer and public safety protections

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Classifies drivers for app-based transportation (rideshare) and delivery companies as "independent contractors," not "employees," unless the company: sets drivers' hours, requires acceptance of specific ride and delivery requests, or restricts working for other companies.

Opposes this ballot initiative, meaning CA Assembly Bill 5 of 2019 could be used to decide whether these drivers are independent contractors or employees

- Corporations can refuse to offer workers minimum wage, social security, normal reimbursements for their costs, overtime pay, and the right to organize
- Steals protections and pay employees are entitled to under current law
- Last-ditch effort to permanently take control of all terms and conditions of employment of their workers

FOR

PROP 23

Dialysis Clinic Requirements Initiative

AGAINST

Supports on-sight physicians while patients are treated at chronic dialysis clinics

- Small businesses and the working families and communities they support will have a fighting chance to survive.
- This prop will put the brakes on runaway energy costs and protect small businesses until they have had an opportunity to rebound from the slumping economy.

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Initiative to require chronic dialysis clinics to: have an on-site physician while patients are being treated; report data on dialysis-related infections; obtain consent from the state health department before closing a clinic; and not discriminate against patients based on the source of payment for care.

Opposes on-sight physicians while patients are treated at chronic dialysis clinics

- A repackaged version of the 2018 ballot's Prop 8 and another attempt to regulate dialysis centers
- Supported by a large labor union trying to use a statewide election to go after the kidney dialysis industry
- Targets clinics resisting union organizing efforts

FOR

PROP 24

Consumer Personal Info Law and Agency

AGAINST

Supports expanding California's consumer data privacy laws

- Current laws are outdated, need to update with the ever-changing ways corporations use our data
- Allows consumers to limit the use of their sensitive info to stop profiling them based on race, location, sexual orientation, health status, or religion
- Stronger rights to personally enforce privacy laws and will have the protection of a privacy commission

BALLOT SUMMARY

- Initiative to expand the state's consumer data privacy laws, including provisions to allow consumers to direct businesses to not share their personal information; remove the time period in which businesses can fix violations before being penalized; and create the Privacy Protection Agency to enforce the state's consumer data privacy laws

Opposes expanding California's consumer data privacy laws

- Would allow businesses to create new 'pay for privacy' schemes
- Undermines existing privacy regulations
- Allows corporations to sell the personal information of small-business owners, which are typically Latinx/Black/Asian
- Allows continued use of "neighborhood scores" and "digital redlining," allowing lenders to refuse loans or charge much higher interest rates

PROP 25

FOR

Replace Cash Bail w/ Risk Assessments

AGAINST

- Supports replacing cash bail with risk assessments for detained suspects
- Status quo unfairly favors rich people
 - Biases lead to lower bails for some groups (Example: Brock Turner)

BALLOT SUMMARY

- This Referendum would uphold Senate Bill 10 which would replace cash bail with risk assessments for detained suspects awaiting trials to make recommendations for conditions of release

- Opposes replacing cash bail with risk assessments for detained suspects
- Racially-biased computer algorithms will decide who gets stuck in jail and who goes free
 - Algorithms have been proven to discriminate against the poor, minorities and people who live in certain neighborhoods

*: California Constitutional Amendment