PROPOSITION GUIDE

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas’ power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community-informed research to achieve reproductive justice.

Votando por Igualdad Viviendo por Actualizar (¡VIVA!) is a civic engagement project that harnesses and amplifies our communities’ voices, challenging traditional civic participation models by engaging ALL members of our families regardless of age or documentation status.

Paid for by California Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

PROPOSITIONS AT-A-GLANCE:

Proposition 51: NO
Proposition 52: NEUTRAL
Proposition 53: NO
Proposition 54: NO
Proposition 55: YES
Proposition 56: YES
Proposition 57: YES
Proposition 58: YES
Proposition 59: NEUTRAL
Proposition 60: NO
Proposition 61: NEUTRAL
Proposition 62: YES
Proposition 63: NO
Proposition 64: NO
Proposition 65: NO
Proposition 66: NO
Proposition 67: YES

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Proposition 51: BOND FOR BUILDINGS & UPGRAADING SCHOOLS
This measure authorizes $9 Billion in bonds for new construction and modernization of K-12 and Community Colleges. Although the schools in our communities are in need of repair and renovation, this proposition does not address the immediate needs of students in low-income schools. It does not guarantee that any of the $9 billion bond will go to the neediest schools and instead prioritizes school districts with more resources. On top of that, Prop 51 places the state in deeper debt with ridiculous interest rates forcing the state to pay $8.6 billion more in interest.

Proposition 52: VOTER APPROVAL FOR CHANGES TO HOSPITAL FEES
This measure would permanently extend an existing fee imposed on most private hospitals that is scheduled to end Jan. 1, 2018. The measure would require that all funds generated from the hospital fee be allocated to Medi-Cal only and require voter approval for any diversions of the funds in the future. It would also make it harder for the California Legislature to make any changes by requiring a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature to end the fee.

Proposition 53: VOTER APPROVAL OF REVENUE BONDS
This measure requires statewide voter approval to borrow funding (bonds) over $2 billion for infrastructure projects. These bonds, paid back from revenue generated by the projects, such as highway tolls and water fees. The problem with requiring voter approval is that communities who have nothing to do with projects will be given the same vote as those who are directly impacted by projects, eliminating local control for local projects. It also fails to contain exemptions for natural and man-made disasters which could delay our response to state emergencies.

Proposition 54: ADVANCE NOTICE FOR STATE LEGISLATION
This measure would amend the state constitution to require that state legislation be printed and available online for public review at least three days before a vote, with exceptions for public emergencies. While we are in favor of greater government transparency, corporate interests with more resources can easily mobilize to influence and undermine progressive policies.

Proposition 55: TAX 1% TO FUND EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE
This measure would extend 2012’s Proposition 30 to have a marginal tax rate increase of 1-3% on those making more than $250,000 a year until 2030. The increase in taxes will go to K-12 Education and Medi-Cal in the California budget--both of which ensure the dignity, health and wellness of our communities.

Proposition 56: CIGARETTE TAX TO FUND HEALTHCARE
This measure would increase the cigarette tax by $2.00/pack and other tobacco-related products, including e-cigarettes. A portion of the revenue will go to support health care programs for low-income Californians. Funding from Prop 56 will advance the health and wellness of our communities by improving existing healthcare programs and pay for cancer research and stopping the marketing of cigarettes to young people.

Proposition 57: CRIMINAL SENTENCING & JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS
This measure allows for earlier parole consideration for people convicted of non-violent felonies, and allows sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior, or educational achievements. It also requires that juveniles have a hearing before a judge before being sentenced as an adult. This measure is a first clear step in moving towards comprehensive reforms that reduce prison overcrowding and shift from relying on the criminal justice system as the only solution to the needs of our communities.

Proposition 58: ALLOW MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION
This measure would repeal English-only instruction in public schools and give local school districts the control to develop and implement their own multilingual programs. Adopting this approach only strengthens our education system by upholding values of diversity and inclusion.

Proposition 59: TAKE CORPORATE MONEY OUT OF POLITICS
This measure would support allowing the state’s elected officials to use their authority to overturn the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision, potentially through an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. While we strongly support the elimination of corporate influence on our governmental process that was enacted through Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (2010), this proposition is more symbolic than action-oriented. We leave it up to you to decide your position!

Proposition 60: ADULT FILMS & CONDOMS
This measure requires the use of condoms and other protective measures during the filming of pornographic films, as well as requiring pornography producers to pay for certain health requirements and checkups. Proposition 60 is written in such a way that can put private couples at risk for lawsuit for filming personal videos.

Proposition 61: PRICING STANDARDS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
This measure requires the State to pay the lowest price possible for prescription drugs, based on the amount paid by the federal U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. We strongly believe in reducing prescription drug prices and saving taxpayer money, but some potential challenges and price hikes from big pharmaceutical companies on veterans leaves us hesitant to fully support this measure.

Proposition 62: REPEALING DEATH PENALTY
This measure bans the death penalty and replaces it with a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Proposition 62 is a long overdue step in the right direction given the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on communities of color coupled with the high risk of executing innocent people.

Proposition 63: REGULATION ON AMMUNITION SALES
This measure bans possession of large capacity ammunition magazines and requires individuals to pass background checks to purchase bullets. Gun violence is an issue that needs to be comprehensively addressed, but this measure would also overturn key elements made by Prop 47 and revert misdemeanors back to felonies.

Proposition 64: LEGALIZE MARIJUANA
This measure legalizes nonmedical marijuana for adults 21 and older. People with convictions for marijuana related crimes would be eligible for resentencing or cleared records. Retail sale would be taxed at 15% and can result in up to $1 billion for drug education, prevention and treatment. Clearing previous marijuana convictions is a good thing, but arrest rates for youth of color, especially 18-21 year olds, have risen dramatically in Colorado post-legalization. We don’t want to risk supporting a measure that potentially gives law enforcement more “authority” to continue over-policing communities of color.

Proposition 65: DECIDING WHO KEEPS FUNDS FROM REUSABLE BAG FEES
Requires that fees charged for paper or reusable bags, currently kept by retailers, be used for state environmental programs. We support the complete ban of plastic bags (See Prop. 67), but we think this measure is an attempt to decrease political support for Prop. 67 and increase confusion by plastic bag manufacturers since they are the main supporters of this measure.

Proposition 66: SPEEDS UP DEATH PENALTY PROCESS
This measure limits the appeals and petition process challenging death penalty convictions, making the timeline between conviction and execution quicker. We oppose any measure trying to reduce the protections of prisoners and support the complete repeal of the death penalty (See Prop. 62).

Proposition 67: STATEWIDE PLASTIC BAG BAN
This measure would uphold and ratify Senate Bill 270, passed in 2014, which bans single-use plastic bags at grocery and other stores. Plastic bags and other types of plastic pollution have a negative impact on our environment and as communities we have a responsibility to move towards sustainable efforts.