



2020

VOTER
GUIDE



Vote your Reproductive Justice Values!



[Para ver la guía en español, oprima aquí](#)

Hola! The recommendations offered in this voter guide were developed using a Reproductive Justice (RJ) lens and center the well-being of our families and communities. Once voters approve a proposition, a new law may go into effect, a Constitutional Amendment may be made or an existing law may be repealed - all outcomes which can have a lasting impact on our communities.

Prop 14	Neutral	NEUTRAL on bonds to fund stem cell research
Prop 15	YES	YES to investing in public education and local government services
Prop 16	YES	YES to restoring affirmative action to address systemic racism and ender discrimination
Prop 17	YES	YES to fighting voter suppression and restoring voting rights
Prop 18	YES	YES to full voting rights for young people
Prop 19	NO	NO to expanding the inequities in California's property tax system
Prop 20	NO	NO to increasing prison terms for our communities
Prop 21	YES	YES to supporting rent control
Prop 22	NO	NO to exploiting gig workers
Prop 23	YES	YES to establishing basic requirements for dialysis clinics
Prop 24	NO	NO to misleading consumer data privacy laws
Prop 25	YES	YES to ending California's cash bail system



PROPOSITION 14 - BONDS TO FUND STEM CELL RESEARCH

WHAT IT DOES:

In 2004, voters passed Proposition 71 - a measure that authorized \$3 billion in bonds for stem cell research. This money has been mostly spent, so Proposition 14 would authorize an additional \$5.5 billion in bonds to provide funds in the form of grants for stem cell research.

WHY NEUTRAL?

While CLRJ supports ethical medical research and recognizes that stem cell research in particular can be helpful for finding treatments and cures for various diseases impacting our communities, currently, this type of research is well-funded by the federal government and the private sector and does not warrant state funding. Amidst uncertainty of our state budget due to COVID-19, now more than ever we must prioritize state funds be invested in programs our communities desperately need, including: housing support, education, and other social services. Furthermore, while stem cell research may yield incredible benefits, there are no guarantees that these benefits will be made affordable or made available in an equitable manner for everyone.

PROPOSITION 15 - YES TO INVESTING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

WHAT IT DOES:

In 1978, voters passed Proposition 13 - a law that froze property taxes, creating devastating revenue losses to local governments and schools. Before Proposition 13, local property taxes were the main source of K-12 funding. If passed, Prop 15 would provide much needed funds for public schools and local agencies by making corporations pay taxes on what their properties are currently worth, not what they were worth when they first bought the property.

WHY SUPPORT?

Quality education and living in healthy communities with thriving economies are basic human rights and RJ values! Prop 15 is a critical first step in holding up these rights. For the past 40 years, corporate property owners like Chevron have been getting away with tax evasion and paying shamelessly low property taxes as a provision of Prop 13. As a result, our state has lost billions of dollars in revenue, denying our schools and communities crucial resources. It is time that corporations pay their fair share of taxes!



PROPOSITION 16 - YES TO RESTORING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC RACISM AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION

WHAT IT DOES:

In 1996, voters passed Proposition 209, banning affirmative action and critical programs that helped reduce racial and gender inequities at state institutions including public universities, public employment and public contracting. If passed, Prop 16 would restore these programs and allow a person's or group's race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin to be considered in opportunities for employment, contracting, and education.

WHY SUPPORT?

Dismantling systemic racism and gender discrimination is RJ work! Prop 16 is a vital and concrete step to begin removing barriers and ensure that women and people of color have equal access to jobs, promotions, and educational opportunities. This includes:

- Fighting wage discrimination for women of color -- Black women get 61 cents for every dollar earned by a White man and Latinas just 42 cents - that's the worst pay gap in the nation for Latinas.
- Ensuring access to government contracts-- affirmative action bans have led to an annual loss of \$1 billion in revenue for businesses owned by women and people of color
- Ensuring all California students have equal access to higher education -- Latinos are 54 percent of public school 12th graders in California, but just 25 percent of UC undergraduates.

California is one of only eight states that bans affirmative action - it is past time to restore programs that fight against discrimination and accurately reflect and celebrate the state's rich cultural, linguistic, racial and ethnic diversity in all its public institutions and contracts.

****CLRJ proudly endorses Prop 16!**



PROPOSITION 17 - YES TO FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION AND RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS

WHAT IT DOES:

The California Constitution currently prohibits people with felony convictions from voting while they are in prison or on parole. Proposition 17 will allow Californians who are on parole the ability to vote. Currently, people who have been convicted for felonies are only able to vote once they are no longer on parole.

WHY SUPPORT?

- Fighting voter suppression is RJ work! Nearly 50,000 Californians living in and contributing to their communities who have completed their prison sentence are denied ability to vote for representatives and issues that impact their daily lives and future well-being.
- This is an important step to address the systematic disenfranchisement of communities of color and integrate them back into the community, where they are already paying taxes, raising families, and holding down jobs.
- According to an estimate from 2016, two thirds of people on parole in the state are Latino or Black. It is important that more members of our communities be able take back their voice and their right to vote.

****CLRJ proudly endorses Prop 17!**

PROPOSITION 18 - YES TO FULL VOTING RIGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WHAT IT DOES:

Proposition 18 will allow pre-registered voters who are 17 years old, who will be 18 years old by the next general election, the ability to vote in primary or special elections.

WHY SUPPORT?

Prop 18 is important as it will allow 17 year olds to participate in a full election cycle who are already available to pre-register to vote. It is important to increase voting access for young people before general elections, particularly on issues that will impact their daily lives and future well-being.



PROPOSITION 19 - NO TO EXPANDING INEQUITIES IN CALIFORNIA'S PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM

WHAT IT DOES:

Proposition 19 would allow California homeowners who are 55 and older, have a disability, or have been impacted by wildfires or natural disasters, to take their current property taxes to new homes if they move. This would also limit the tax benefits of familial home transfers by requiring their children or grandchildren to live in the home in order to claim lower tax rates.

WHY OPPOSE?

Housing justice is Reproductive Justice! Prop 19 does not protect the vast majority of our community members who are renters, and while it may provide additional property tax savings to some homeowners, the true beneficiaries are the California Realtors. In this incredibly expensive housing market, California should invest in providing housing protections for everyone in the state and ensuring that tax breaks are also available for people who don't own a home or who may be struggling to buy one.



PROPOSITION 20 - NO TO INCREASING PRISON TERMS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

WHAT IT DOES:

Proposition 20 would allow prosecutors to charge repeat or organized petty theft as a felony, expand the list of crimes that would prevent incarcerated people from early parole consideration, require probation officers to seek tougher penalties for those who violate their parole terms several times, and expand collection of DNA samples for certain misdemeanors (like minor traffic tickets).

Prop 20 would reverse some hard won legislative and voter-approved changes including reducing punishments for people who violate their parole terms (AB 109 in 2011), recategorizing some non-violent crimes as misdemeanors (Prop 47 in 2014) and giving incarcerated people convicted of certain non-violent offenses a chance for early release (Prop 57 in 2016).

WHY OPPOSE?

Racial justice is Reproductive Justice! Prop 20 would disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other communities of color, as we are incarcerated at higher rates due to uneven policing, higher convictions and excessively punitive and lengthier sentences. In the past decade, California has taken considerable steps in moving away from its long-standing “tough on crime” approach and as a result the prison population has substantially decreased during this time. There is absolutely no need for Prop 20 - not only is the state’s crime rate at a historic low - but it is in direct opposition to community demands to defund already bloated law enforcement budgets. It is past time to prioritize and redirect that money into investing in our communities!



PROPOSITION 21 - YES TO SUPPORTING RENT CONTROL

WHAT IT DOES:

Since 1995, as a result of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, cities' ability to enact or expand rent control programs has been restricted. Proposition 21 would amend Costa-Hawkins and allow local governments at the city and county levels to pass new rent control measures or expand existing laws on almost all rental housing. This would apply to rental housing that is more than 15 years old and would exempt individuals who own up to two residential properties.

WHY SUPPORT?

Housing is a human right and RJ work! Predatory landlords and unconscionable rent hikes are the root causes of the housing affordability and homelessness crisis, where:

- Nearly 60% of Latino households lacked adequate housing;
- More than half of Latino renters and one-third of Latino homeowners were paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs;
- Latinas spent 60% of their median annual earnings on median gross rent (rent plus utilities)
- Undocumented Latina/o/x renters are more likely to experience unfair evictions and landlord harassment because they have fewer resources to fight back and often fear deportation.

Homelessness increased in LA County for the third time in four years. Children, seniors and Latinos are amongst the largest growing groups of the houseless. The following are the most recent findings from the LA Homeless Services Authority about our houseless neighbors in the county:

- 20% are in family units (often headed by a single mother)
- 17% are physically disabled
- 29% experienced domestic/intimate partner violence
- There was a 20% increase in homeless persons over age 62
- Systemic racism has caused a disproportionate number of Black people to become homeless where they make up about 9% of the total population, but represent 33% of the county's homeless population. Latinos represent about half of the county's overall population, and are 36% of the houseless population.

Prop 21 would give communities an important tool to protect the most vulnerable renters from unsustainable rent increases, gentrification, homelessness, and stability to shelter in place during this global pandemic.

****As a Tenants Together member, CLRJ proudly endorses Prop 21!**



PROPOSITION 22 - NO TO EXPLOITING GIG WORKERS

WHAT IT DOES:

Proposition 22 would classify “app-based” drivers into independent contractors (as opposed to employees), exempting companies such as Lyft, Uber, Instacart, Postmates and Doordash from having to provide standard employment protections like wage and hour restrictions.

Last year, the CA legislature passed AB 5 - a law that makes it more challenging for companies to treat their workers as independent contractors and requires companies to provide their workers’ with basic benefits and protections - such as unemployment insurance, minimum hourly wage, overtime pay and paid time off.

WHY OPPOSE:

Worker protections are an RJ value! Prop 22 was brought to us by app companies like Uber and Lyft because they want to be exempted from having to provide basic protections to their drivers and create their own rules around compensation. To date, Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Instacart, and Postmates have collectively poured over \$180 million in funding into this proposition, making it the most expensive initiative campaign in state history. Additionally, there are a number of loopholes that change the earnings and benefits the app companies are claiming Prop 22 will provide. For example, the UC Berkeley Labor Center found that drivers - 78% of which are from communities of color- could make as little as \$5.64 per hour under Prop 22, given the companies would not pay for the time that drivers are waiting between passengers or returning from trips to remote areas. While AB 5 has its flaws, it guards against the very exploitation that Prop 22 would exacerbate during a time where many Californians have lost their source of income due to the pandemic and are turning to the gig economy for work.



PROPOSITION 23 - YES TO ESTABLISHING BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR DIALYSIS CLINICS

WHAT IT DOES:

Put on the ballot by SEIU - United Healthcare Workers West, Proposition 23 would require all dialysis clinics in California to have an on-site physician while patients are being treated, would ensure patients are not being discriminated against based on the type of health insurance they have, and would require dialysis clinics to report accurate data on infections to the state and federal government to protect patients and improve health outcomes.

WHY SUPPORT?

Access to safe, reliable and quality care is an RJ value! Proposition 23 is an important step in holding large medical corporations, like DaVita, accountable. DaVita and Fresenius Medical Care own the majority of dialysis clinics in California. Previous attempts, like Proposition 8 put forth in 2018, tried to cap the profits made above 115% and require refunds to patients if it exceeded that amount. While the attempt to cap profits was unsuccessful, Prop 23 is an attempt to hold these large medical corporations accountable by establishing basic requirements to ensure low income communities of color receive the quality care they need. It would also ensure dialysis clinics can't close without State approval, which would largely protect rural and low income communities.

PROPOSITION 24 - NO TO MISLEADING CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY LAWS

WHAT IT DOES:

In 2018, California lawmakers passed the California Consumer Privacy Act, giving consumers the right to find out what data companies are collecting about them, to opt out of having it collected and to have that data scrubbed. While Proposition 24 claims to expand on this law, it will actually weaken a lot of important privacy laws we have currently in place.

WHY OPPOSE?

Proposition 24 was put on the ballot by a real estate developer and would cost the state roughly \$10 million dollars a year to create a new state agency. Not only does it create various loopholes that would weaken current privacy laws in California, it would rewrite current law that went into effect this year before assessing what actually needs to be changed.



PROPOSITION 25 - YES TO ENDING CALIFORNIA'S CASH BAIL SYSTEM

WHAT IT DOES:

Proposition 25 would replace cash bail with risk assessments for people that are detained and awaiting a trial. Unlike the other propositions in this year's ballot, Prop 25 is a veto referendum. This means that our votes will determine if a law that passed in 2018, SB 10, will be implemented or not.

SB 10 gives judges the right to determine whether someone who is arrested should be kept behind bars based on the risk they are deemed to pose to themselves or others. If SB 10 is implemented, it would make California the first state to end cash bail.

WHY SUPPORT?

Racial justice is Reproductive Justice! Black, Indigenous and Latina/o/x communities are disproportionately incarcerated and are least likely able to afford bail, which has led bail bond companies to significantly profit off of the incarceration of our communities. Doing away with the cash bail system is important, however, SB 10 definitely has some flaws. A lot of advocates believe that SB 10 needs improvements to ensure the "risk assessment" tools do not uphold racial biases that will negatively impact Black, Indigenous and Latina/o/x communities. However, CLRJ believes a YES vote would be the best option because efforts are already being made to improve SB 10 rather than face the difficult and lengthy challenges of starting from zero.

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