CIPC'S GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA'S BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR 2020

8 PROPOSITIONS AFFECTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES
In the last four years, immigrants have been stripped of basic rights. This November, we have a chance to make our voices heard. The immigrant vote is the fastest growing demographic in California: One in five voters is an immigrant.

The 2020 election is just six weeks away. The issues that will impact immigrants and communities of color will play a critical role in this election. In addition to voting for candidates, the 2020 ballot will be asking you to vote on 12 statewide ballot initiatives, sometimes referred to as propositions. Ballot initiatives are one of the few ways voters can directly impact California’s law and constitution. Of the 12 ballot initiatives on the November ballot, CIPC has taken positions on eight key initiatives that will likely have a significant effect on California’s immigrant communities.

If you are able to vote, please use this guide. Vote early by mail anytime between Monday, October 5, 2020 and Monday November 2, 2020. If you choose to vote by mail, we highly recommend you complete your ballot and mail it in at your earliest convenience to help elected officials receive and count these important votes. However, ALL ballots postmarked by November 3 will be counted. You can also vote in person on Tuesday, November 3, 2020—Election Day!

If you are not sure if you are able to vote, scroll to the bottom of this guide, take a picture of the QR code, and check your voter status. If you are not registered to vote, follow the simple directions to register and make your voice heard.
**Proposition 15**

“SPLIT-ROLL” PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

- **Yes**
- **What Your Vote Means**
  - A “yes” vote supports this constitutional amendment to require commercial and industrial properties, certain sized farms and small businesses, to be taxed based on their market value, instead of their purchase price.
  - A “no” vote opposes this constitutional amendment. Commercial and industrial properties would continue to be taxed based on their purchase price.

- **In Support**
  - California Teachers Association
  - Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
  - Los Angeles Unified School District
  - San Francisco Mayor London Breed
  - Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
  - [See full list here](https://www.yes15.org/)

- **Opposing**
  - California Business Roundtable
  - The California Chamber of Commerce PAC

- **For more information, visit [https://www.yes15.org/](https://www.yes15.org/)

**Proposition 16**

REINSTATE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

- **Yes**
- **What Your Vote Means**
  - A “yes” vote would repeal Proposition 209 and allow for affirmative action in state public university admissions for prospective students and when hiring government employees.
  - A “no” vote opposes this constitutional amendment and would keep Proposition 209 in place.

- **In Support**
  - Vice Presidential Candidate Senator Kamala Harris
  - University of California Board of Regents
  - Los Angeles County Board of Education
  - Dolores Huerta Foundation

- **Opposing**
  - The Asian American Coalition for Education
  - Multiple Republican lawmakers

- **For more information, please visit [https://voteyesonprop16.org/](https://voteyesonprop16.org/)

Proposition 15 will bring in nearly $11 billion to the state budget and would increase funding for K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local governments by requiring that commercial and industrial property be taxed based on current market value, instead of purchase price. This proposition does not affect residential property.

Proposition 15 is important for immigrant families because it would create more revenues for California’s budget, which would help all of us recover from the COVID-19 crisis and have better access to schools, the safety net, and other programs that families desperately need.

Proposition 16 would repeal Proposition 209, passed in 1996, from the California Constitution. Proposition 209 banned the use of affirmative action involving race-based or sex-based preferences when it comes to public employment, public education, and public contracting.

Proposition 16 reverses a historic moment when California’s schools and government rejected the importance of equity and diversity. The proposition is important to immigrant, and first generation students and workers, because it would bring equitable opportunities, and help end discrimination against people who are traditionally underrepresented in public education and government jobs.
Currently, the California Constitution does not allow people who are on parole to vote. Proposition 17 would amend the state constitution to restore voting rights to people who served prison terms upon their release, regardless of their parolee status.

Proposition 17 is important because communities of color have been historically excluded from the voting booth and remain disenfranchised. There are over 50,000 people on parole in California and most are people of color who can’t vote even though they are raising families, working, and paying taxes. Amending the constitution to restore voting rights to people as soon as they finish their prison term would ensure that everyone returning home has a greater stake in their community and in our democracy.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

▲ A “yes” vote supports this constitutional amendment to allow people to vote when they are released from prison.

▼ A “no” vote opposes this constitutional amendment and would continue to prohibit people on parole from voting.

IN SUPPORT

▲ ACLU of California
▲ Initiate Justice
▲ Mi Familia Vota
▲ Asm. Rob Bonta
▲ Asm. Wendy Carrillo

OPPOSING

▼ Sen. Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber)
▼ Election Integrity Project California, Inc.

For more information, please visit https://yeson17.vote/

Proposition 18 would allow 17-year-olds, who will be 18 at the time of the next general election, to vote in primary elections and special elections.

Proposition 18 is important to immigrant communities because young people of color are a rapidly growing part of the electorate. In immigrant families, teenage children often help their families navigate government processes, taxes and schools. Given their important role, it is valuable to allow 17-year-olds to participate in the democratic process and encourage a lifetime of political participation and civic engagement.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

▲ A “yes” vote would allow 17-year-olds, who will be 18 at the time of the next general election, to vote in primary elections and special elections.

▼ A “no” vote would continue to prohibit 17-year-olds from voting in primary elections and special elections until they are 18 years old.

IN SUPPORT

▲ California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
▲ California League of Conservation Voters
▲ League of Women Voters

OPPOSING

▼ Election Integrity Project California, Inc

For more information, visit here.
In 2014 and 2016, voters passed Propositions 47 and 57, which made some non-violent crimes misdemeanors instead of felonies, and made it easier for some people to attain early parole. Proposition 20 would roll back these measures, by expanding the list of crimes considered “violent” in order to preclude more people from being able to obtain early parole. Proposition 20 would also give parole boards more leeway to deny parole and would expand the types of crimes that would require DNA collection.

Proposition 20 would negatively impact all communities, especially people of color who are already arrested, convicted, and incarcerated at far higher rates than white Californians. Proposition 20 would make our already flawed criminal justice system worse by imposing stricter sentencing, incarcerating more Californians, and restricting people’s access to stable housing, education, and employment.

Proposition 21 would ensure broader rent control for California residents and overturn the 1994 Costa-Hawkins Act, which instituted statewide limits on local rent control and allowed landlords to increase rent prices to market rates when a tenant moves out. The ballot measure would allow local governments to enact rent control on housing that was first occupied over 15 years ago which would significantly increase the housing eligible for rent control.

The cost of living in California is amongst the highest in the nation. This lack of affordable housing which had already led to a homelessness crisis across our state, has only grown worse during COVID-19. Proposition 21 is important to immigrant families, ensuring access to affordable housing, reducing the cost of living, and allowing for economic security.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS
▲ A “yes” vote supports this ballot initiative to allow local governments to enact rent control on housing and keep families in their homes.
▼ A “no” vote opposes this ballot initiative and continues the Costa-Hawkins Act.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS
▲ A “yes” vote would counter voter-approved criminal justice measures and add crimes to the list of violent felonies for which early parole is restricted; recategorize certain types of theft and fraud crimes as “wobblers” (chargeable as misdemeanors or felonies); and require DNA collection for certain misdemeanors.
▼ A “no” vote would keep voter-passed criminal justice Propositions 47 and 57 intact and prevent the expansion of harsher sentencing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
https://yeson21ca.org/

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
https://noprop20.vote
Proposition 22 would change current law that considers drivers for Uber, Lyft and other apps “employees” and would reclassify them as “independent contractors.” Independent contractors do not receive the same benefits and protections as employees. This proposition would therefore allow companies like Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash to deny their drivers’ basic worker protection such as state minimum wage, paid sick leave, workers compensation, and unemployment insurance. Proposition 22 would override Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5), signed in September 2019 that provides clarity on which workers are “employees” and which are “independent contractors.” It would not affect how AB 5 is applied to other types of workers. Many employees have flexible work schedules while retaining benefits. Overall, Proposition 22 would negatively impact immigrant workers and families who work for these companies by denying critical employee benefits and protections. It would also weaken parts of California law that were written to provide workers more protections.

For more information, please visit [https://calaborfed.org/no-on-prop-22-faq/](https://calaborfed.org/no-on-prop-22-faq/) and [https://nooncaprop22.com](https://nooncaprop22.com).

**WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS**

▲ A “yes” vote supports this ballot initiative to define app-based transportation (rideshare) and delivery drivers as independent contractors, and denies employee benefits to workers and the right to unionize.

▼ A “no” vote opposes this ballot initiative and denies the tech industry’s carveout from AB 5.

**IN SUPPORT**

▲ Uber, Lyft, Postmates and other gig economy companies

**OPPOSING**

▼ National leaders including residential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, Senators Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren

▼ State leaders including Controller Betty Yee; State Senators Maria Elena Durazo and Scott Wiener; Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, multiple Assembly Members

▼ California Democratic Party

▼ California Labor Federation

▼ Rideshare Drivers United

▼ Transport Workers Union of America

▼ See full list [here](https://calaborfed.org/no-on-prop-22-faq/)
Proposition 25 would end the cash bail system and replace it with a risk-based measure, or risk assessment to measure a person’s risk for not appearing at trial. Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill abolishing the cash bail system in 2018 but the bill was quickly challenged by the bail bond industry. Proposition 25 puts the current question about the bail bond system directly to the people.

Under the current system, when arrested, wealthier people are able to pay their bond and get released while lower income people pay high fees to a bail bondsman or await their trials in jail. The cash bond system is classist and racist, favoring wealthy white people.

Proposition 25 would reverse this system, replacing it with a risk assessment tool that would be used to hold people who are deemed a high flight risk before trial.

Supporters of Proposition 25 argue the cash bail system is deeply flawed and corrupt and should be demolished. Civil rights and racial justice advocates who oppose the proposition argue that while the cash bail system is flawed, it should not be replaced with an opaque risk assessment system that determines release decisions. Organizations like Dignity & Power Now and the California State Conference of the NAACP argue that we shouldn’t replace the current system with a potentially worse one. Unsurprisingly, the bail bond industry also opposes Proposition 25.

Under the cash bail system, immigrants are often assessed to be a higher flight risk and receive a higher bail amount at arraignment. Black immigrants, in particular, are assessed higher bail amounts than other immigrant communities. But given that state and city courts still have to develop their risk assessment tool, it is unclear if the new system will be any better.

**WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS**

▲ A “yes” vote upholds SB 10, which would replace cash bail with risk assessments for detained suspects awaiting trial.

▼ A “no” vote would keep the cash bail system and repeal SB 10.

**IN SUPPORT**

▲ Action Now Initiative

▲ SEIU California State Council

▲ ACLU California

▲ CHIRLA Action Fund

**OPPOSING**

▼ California State Conference of the NAACP

▼ Youth Justice Coalition

▼ Dignity & Power Now

For more information, please click here and also visit https://endmoneybailca.com/

**RESOURCES FOR REMAINING PROPOSITIONS**

This guide does not cover all of the initiatives on this year’s ballot. For more information on the following ballot measures, please visit the Secretary of State’s website here:

**PROP 14** STEM CELL RESEARCH BOND

**PROP 19** PROPERTY TAX TRANSFERS

**PROP 23** INCREASED DIALYSIS CLINIC REGULATIONS

**PROP 24** BOLSTER CONSUMER PRIVACY LAWS
DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5, 2020
California counties will begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters. This year, everyone who is registered to vote will get a mail-in ballot!

October 19, 2020
Last day to register to vote. Register to vote here.

November 3, 2020
Election Day.
Polls are open 7:00am – 8:00pm.
Find a vote center near you.

EARLY VOTING: VOTE-BY-MAIL

While we are following sheltering-in guidance during COVID-19, CIPC encourages voters to vote-by-mail as much as possible.

Voters who can vote by mail will help ensure safe physical distancing at voting locations. County elections offices will begin sending vote-by-mail ballots to California voters beginning October 5, 2020. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by November 3, 2020, and ballots returned at a secure ballot drop box must be deposited by 8:00pm on November 3, 2020.

Make sure your ballot is sealed, signed, returned by mail (postmarked by November 3, 2020 - no stamp required!) or in person (dropped off at secure drop box, polling place, voter center, or county elections office by 8:00pm on November 3, 2020). You can track your ballot by signing up at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov.

For more information on how to complete your vote-by-mail ballot, please visit here (page 3).

VOTE SAFE AT EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Early voting locations will be available in many counties for at least four days before the November 3, 2020 election. Please check information on your county here. Voting locations will offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, and language assistance.

You can help keep voting locations SAFE for voters and election workers in three ways:

1. Skip the line. Return completed ballots by mail with no stamp needed, at a secure ballot drop box, or at a voting location. Voting locations will have separate lines for voters dropping off completed ballots. Find a nearby dropbox or voting location at CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov.

2. Vote Early. If you visit a voting location in person, go before Election Day to help with physical distancing. One or more voting locations in many counties will be open for at least four days beginning the Saturday before Election Day, November 3, 2020.

3. Follow Safety Procedures. Protect your health and the health of other voters and election workers at voting locations by taking the following precautions:
   - Wearing a face covering while at the voting location.
   - Keep 2 arms length distance from other people.
   - Wash hands before and after entering the voting location.
   - Use hand sanitizer after touching doors or voting equipment.
   - Bring a ballpoint pen to avoid touching high-contact surfaces.

For more information on staying safe while voting, review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html.

RESOURCES

- Check out the Official Voter Information Guide to the November 3rd Election for additional voter information
- Register to vote here or scan this QR code to determine if you are registered to vote and if you need to register

Find your polling place

For any issues regarding your voter registration, ballot, accessing materials in a language other than English, or to report illegal or fraudulent election activity, please contact the Secretary of State's confidential toll-free voter hotline by calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or e-mail elections@sos.ca.gov.