

2016 California Ballot Initiatives presented by



	Number	Description:	Recommendations:
	PROPOSITION 51	A bond issue to fund school construction and modernization, including Community colleges. Raises \$9 billion. First school bond initiative since 2006. Will basically maintain the current level of bond debt for the state. Bonds are the normal way to fund school construction.	Conservatives always oppose bond measures, but this will not raise taxes or significantly impact the State's debt. Supported by California Democratic Party (CADems).
	PROPOSITION 52	The state Legislature has implemented this minor fee to hospitals to meet federal requirements to help fund Medi-Cal. This measure locks that in place so it won't require a repeated vote. Keeps \$3 billion coming to CA from the federal Medicare system.	Supported by Democrats and Republicans alike, including CADems. Very little fringe opposition, and pretty much a no-brainer.
	PROPOSITION 53	A constitutional amendment to require voter approval for any large (\$2 billion +) bond to be issued. Designed primarily to stop both high-speed rail and the "twin tunnels", but would affect future projects. Put on the ballot by conservative activist Dean Cortopassi.	Opposed by CADems and Gov. Brown. May seem appealing to stop the tunnels, but stingy voters could stop other projects, like desalination, solar, transport., etc.
	PROPOSITION 54	A constitutional amendment to require all CA legislative meetings (floor sessions, committees) are filmed and posted on the net (most are now), and to require 72 hours from when a bill is written or amended to holding a final vote (except in emergencies.)	Opposed by CADems as it may prevent important bills from getting passed due to amendments at the end of session. Many provisions are already being considered by the legislature and may become law anyway.
	PROPOSITION 55	Extends the 2012 income tax increase to 2030, to help fund education—K-12 and community colleges—and some healthcare programs. The tax was levied on the wealthiest Californians (couples making over \$500,000 annually) to shore up funding.	Supported by CADems. Without the extension, many programs may need to be cut due to decreased funding. Republicans oppose, of course.
	PROPOSITION 56	Adds a \$2.00 per pack tax on cigarettes and includes vaping materials in the tax for the first time. Funds healthcare and tobacco cessation programs, and insures existing programs aren't cut due to lower smoking rates. Raises CA's low .87 tax to more common state levels.	Supported by CADems, naturally opposed by tobacco companies and Republicans. Another step toward reducing smoking, especially the new vaping craze hitting younger people.
	PROPOSITION 57	Makes parole easier to obtain for non-violent criminals who've completed their primary sentence, and says judges decide when juveniles can be prosecuted as adults. Also allows inmates to earn credit for good behavior and educational achievements while in custody.	Supported by CADems, and should save state funds from incarceration, and encourage rehabilitation. Critics say some offenses deemed non-violent are anything but.
	PROPOSITION 58	Gives more options for teaching non-English speaking kids. Current law puts ESL kids into English immersion programs so they can be taught in English-only courses immediately. This Prop. would allow districts to decide to teach other subjects in bilingual classes while kids are also learning English, as the district and parents decide, and situation allows.	Supported by CADems, and gives more flexibility and choice in teaching based on community and individual needs. Conservative opponents favor the current approach.
	PROPOSITION 59	Simply urges our legislators in Washington to push for and support a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to overturn <i>Citizens United</i> and other Court decisions granting unlimited money from corporations to campaigns; says corporations are not people.	Supported by CADems, and Derek Cressman, who spoke at the ARDems club in June. Republicans say it is just a waste of time (because of course they hate the idea.)
	PROPOSITION 60	Requires condom use in adult films, and other medical safeguards. Duplicates some existing laws, which are not well enforced. Real purpose may be to drive porno film production from California, but nobody is stating that. Holds producers liable for violations.	Opposed by CADems, but they and other opponents are using false claims to make their argument. If you want safer conditions for adult film "actors", or just want them to move to another state, it is worth supporting.
	PROPOSITION 61	Mandates that state agencies (Medi-Cal, etc.) pay no more for prescription drugs than the U.S. Veterans Affairs department does. Possible outcomes - state patients pay less for drugs, veterans pay more for drugs, or some drugs are no longer available to state agencies.	No position from CADems, but supported by Sac. Dems, Bernie Sanders, Robert Reich and many others Dems and progressives. A good idea to reign in drug prices, but may have unintended consequences.
	PROPOSITION 63	Makes ammunition sales like gun sales—requiring background checks and reporting; bans all large capacity gun magazines, and puts a process in place for convicted felons who can no longer possess guns to turn them in or otherwise dispose of them while prohibited.	Supported by CADems, and goes along with several new gun laws recently passed. Not sweeping gun control, but progress. Naturally opposed by NRA and Republicans.
	PROPOSITION 64	Makes recreational marijuana legal in the state, and sets up a framework of regulation related to producing, selling and buying cannabis. Pot could only be sold in specialized shops (not drug or liquor stores) to age 21 and over. Similar to liquor laws but more restrictive. Despite claims by opponents, marijuana TV ads would still not be permitted!	Supported by CADems, introduced by Gavin Newsom. If you favor legalization, or just want to stop the costly incarceration of marijuana violators, this is a good measure—improves on models of OR and CO laws.
DEATH PENALTY	PROPOSITION 62	Eliminates the death penalty as the maximum sentence, replacing it with life without possibility of parole. Saves money by eliminating the costly process for death row inmates, including multiple appeals and the prison death row process. Mandates prisoners work while incarcerated and contribute to victim restitution funds.	Supported by CADems. Since death penalty hasn't actually been used in CA for years, saves money that is still being used in the process.
	PROPOSITION 66	Streamlines the death penalty process to speed up appeals and remove barriers to carrying out the sentence. Not clear on how effective it would be since court mandated appeals process is still in place, and efforts to eliminate bottlenecks could result in an innocent person being executed prior to an overturned sentence.	Opposed by CADems, supported by CA Republican Party and many law enforcement individuals.
PLASTIC BAGS	PROPOSITION 67	Confirms the statewide ban on plastic giveaway grocery bags law that was passed by the Legislature. Prohibits stores from providing free, single-use bags to customers, and encourages the use of reusables, charging at least 10 cents to buy them at checkout.	Supported by CADems and environmental groups, opposed by the "American Progressive Bag Alliance", an industry organization.
	PROPOSITION 65	States that if a law like Prop. 67 (above) passes, the funds collected by stores in selling reusable bags must go to a new state environmental fund. If both pass, and 67 gets the most yes votes, it will override 65. If 65 gets more yes votes, it will apply to 67, but may possibly cancel it out, depending on potential court rulings!	No position by CADems, supported by CA Republican Party. Opposed by "Californians Against Waste" who state this this measure is intended to confuse the issue.

The California Democratic Party supports the propositions above in blue, opposes those in red, and takes no position on those in green. This does not represent any official endorsements by the American River Democrats, but is an analysis by Ken Kiunke for educational purposes only.