Statewide Propositions, 2020 General Election  
(November 3rd)

Proposition 14
In 2004 voters in California approved the creation of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to support stem cell research. The CIRM will soon run out of funds and Proposition 14 seeks to replenish the funds by issuing state bonds (debt obligations) to support the CIRM and future stem cell research. Proposition 14 also seeks to make relatedly small changes to the oversight structure of the CIRM. The CIRM is currently overseen by an Independent Citizen’s Oversight Committee (ICOC), a 29 member committee with 3 working groups supporting the work of the ICOC. If approved, Proposition 14 will increase the membership of the ICOC from 29 to 35 and add a fourth working group. Proposition 14 will also cap bond-funded CIRM employees at 85.

- Yes vote: you support the issuing $5.5 billion in bonds for the CIRM for stem cell research and make changes to the oversight structure of the CIRM
- No vote: you oppose issuing $5.5 billion of bonds for the CIRM for stem cell research and any changes to the oversight structure of the CIRM

Proposition 15
In 1978 California voters approved Proposition 13, which capped the property tax rate at 1% on a purchase price basis, plus the rate of inflation (capped at a maximum of 2%) each year. Proposition 13 applies to all properties in California and constituted a significant reduction in taxes levied on property owners and a corresponding reduction in tax revenues for local governments. As such, under Proposition 13, residential, commercial, and industrial properties are taxed on the basis of their price at the time they were last sold, plus the rate of inflation (capped at 2%). Proposition 15 is a partial repeal of Proposition 13 and aims to change the taxable basis from the purchase price to the property’s market value, assessed once every 3 years at minimum. Proposition 15 does not apply to residential properties, agricultural properties, properties who’s occupants are at least 50% occupied by small businesses (defined as an independently owned and operated business with 50 or fewer employees), and only applies to land owners with commercial and industrial properties with a total value over $3 million. Proposition 15 will allocate tax revenue to cover California’s general fund shortfalls, with the remaining funds used for school districts and county education offices. These changes will be phased in over a 3 year period.

- Yes vote: you support changing the property tax basis on commercial and industrial properties from purchase price to a property’s market value
- No vote: you oppose the change to the property tax basis for commercial and industrial properties and prefer that these continue to be taxed on the basis of their purchase price (plus inflation)
Proposition 16
In 1996 California voters approved Proposition 209 which prohibited government agencies and public institutions from providing preferential treatment “on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.” In other words, Proposition 209 prohibited affirmative action in the “operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.” Proposition 16 seeks to repeal the prohibition on affirmative action and allow government agencies and public institutions to grant preferential treatment to particular underrepresented groups. If passed, Proposition 16 would repeal Proposition 209 and allow state government, local governments, public universities, and other public entities to develop and use affirmative action programs which grant preferences based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting, within the limits of federal law and court precedent.

- Yes vote: you support repealing the state’s ban on affirmative action
- No vote: you oppose repealing the state’s ban on affirmative action

Proposition 17
Currently, Californians convicted of felonies are not allowed to vote while they are imprisoned or on parole. Proposition 17 would allow individuals on parole with felony convictions to vote. Proposition 17 will not change the voting disqualification for individuals with felony convictions while they are still imprisoned.

- Yes vote: you support allowing for individuals with felony convictions to vote while on parole
- No vote: you oppose changing voting disqualification for individuals with felony convictions while on parole

Proposition 18
In California, in order to vote in general, primary, and special elections, a citizen must be at least 18 years old. If passed, Proposition 18 would allow 17 year old citizens to vote in primary elections and special elections if they will turn 18 on or before the next general election.

- Yes vote: you support allowing 17 year olds who will turn 18 on or before the next general election to vote in primary and special elections
- No vote: you oppose the change and favor maintaining the voting age threshold for general, primary, and special elections at 18 years of age

Proposition 19
California law currently allows eligible homeowners to transfer their property tax assessments to a different home with the same or lesser market value This allows them to move without having to pay higher property taxes. Eligible homeowners for such an assessment transfer include persons over 55 years of age, persons with severe disabilities, victims of natural disasters, and victims of hazardous waste contamination. A transfer can only be done within the same county and only one (1) such transfer is currently allowed in a person’s lifetime. Furthermore, in California, properties of $1 million or less in value which are inherited by children or grandchildren can be transferred without a property tax reassessment (properties
with a value greater than $1 million are subject to an upward adjustment in assessed value).

Proposition 19 seeks to:

1. Allow eligible homeowners to transfer their property tax assessment (to any new home of equal or lesser value) anywhere in the state, rather than only within the same county
2. Increase the total allowable number of transfers for persons over 55 years of age or with severe disabilities from one (1) to three (3)
3. Limit assessment transfers on inherited properties from parents or grandparents to children or grandchildren to apply only to properties used as the child or grandchild’s primary residence and trigger a market value reassessment on any other inherited properties not used as a primary residence
4. Dedicate 90% of all cost savings and new tax revenue generated by Proposition 19 to two newly created funds: the California Fire Response Fund (CFRF) and the County Revenue Protection Fund (CRPF)
   a. CRF will receive 75% of the funds, which will be used to fund fire suppression operations and fire station staffing
   b. CRPF will receive 15% of the funds, which will be used to reimburse county governments for any shortfalls in property tax revenues caused by the changes made by Proposition 16 to property tax procedures.

- Yes vote: you support these changes
- No vote: you oppose these changes and favor keeping the current procedures

Proposition 20
If approved, Proposition 20 would entail the following changes:

1. It would allow prosecutors to bring charges for certain types of theft and fraud crimes (including firearm theft, vehicle theft, and unlawful use of a credit card) as either misdemeanors or felonies (a status known as wobblers), rather than only as misdemeanors.
2. It would also create two new categories of crimes under state law: serial crime and organized retail crime. These new categories will also be chargeable as either misdemeanors or felonies.
3. It would require individuals convicted of crimes which were categorized as either wobblers or felonies before 2014 (such as shoplifting, grand theft, and drug possession, domestic violence, and prostitution with a minor, among others) to submit to DNA sample collection to be entered in state and federal databases.
4. In regards to parole, Proposition 20 would reclassify fifty one (51) crimes as violent, which excludes those convicted of them from parole. Furthermore, it would require parole review to take factors such as the felon's age, marketable skills, attitude about the crime, and mental condition, as well as the circumstances of the crimes committed, into consideration before granting the felon release on parole.
5. Finally, counties in California are responsible for overseeing parole supervision of non-violent, non-serious crimes and counties can, at their discretion petition a court to change the parole conditions of a parolee. Proposition 20 would require counties to
petition a court to change parole conditions for felon parolees who have violated the terms of their parole three (3) times.

- Yes vote: you support these changes
- No vote: you oppose these changes and favor keeping the current procedures and classifications

Proposition 21
Since 1995 local governments in California have been restricted from enacting rent control on residential properties occupied after 1995 and housing units with distinct property titles (such as condos, townhouses, and single-family homes). Proposition 21 seeks to allow local governments to enact rent control measures on all residential properties, exempting properties which were first occupied within the last 15 years, or owned by a natural person (not a company) who owns two (2) or fewer residential properties. Proposition 21 would also require local governments which adopt rent control measures to allow landlords to raise rental rates by 15% within three (3) years following a vacancy.

- Yes vote: you support allowing local governments to enact rent control measures on properties older than 15 years
- No vote: you oppose allowing local governments to enact rent control measures beyond what is currently allowable by state law

Proposition 22
In 2019, California voters approved a state law (AB5) classifying rideshare and gig economy workers as employees (rather than private contractors) and entitled to all the benefits required for employees by state law. Proposition 22 would specifically reclassify application-based drivers (such as DoorDash, Lyft, and Uber drivers and couriers) as private contractors, while requiring additional partial benefits and enhanced safety standards.

- Yes vote: you support reclassifying app-based drivers and couriers as private contractors
- No vote: you oppose the change and favor keeping app-based drivers and couriers classified as employees

Proposition 23
Proposition 23 would require dialysis clinics to have at least one (1) licensed physician present while patients are being treated in the clinic, except in case of a clear shortage of physicians. It would also require dialysis clinics to provide a report, certified by each clinic’s principal officer, detailing dialysis related infections to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Proposition 23 would also require dialysis clinics to inform CDPH of planned closure of a clinic and get the approval of CDPH in advance of the closure. Lastly, the proposition would forbid dialysis clinics from providing differential services or refuse care on the basis of a patient’s payment source.

- Yes vote: you support requiring dialysis clinics to have a physician present while patients are being treated, requiring reporting of dialysis related infections to CDPH and NHSN, and requiring CDPH approval for closure of clinics
- No vote: You oppose these new regulations on dialysis clinics
Proposition 24
In 2018 the California State Legislature passed the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). CCPA applies to all companies doing business in California and allows California based natural persons only (not companies) to request copies of all the data companies have collected about them, have that data deleted, and opt out of allowing those companies to sell consumers’ data to third parties. Proposition 24 (also known as the California Privacy Rights and Enforcement Act of 2020) seeks to reinforce and expand the provisions of CCPA by:
1. Removing the 30 day grace period which allows companies to correct CCPA violations without penalty
2. Allowing Californians to request that a company not share their personal information
3. Requiring that California consumers be provided with an opt-out option which will prevent their sensitive personal information (defined in law) from being used or disclosed for advertising or marketing
4. Requiring that companies obtain permission before collecting data from Californian consumers who are younger than 16 years of age
5. Requiring that companies obtain permission from a parent or guardian before collecting data from Californian consumers who are younger than 13 years of age
6. Requiring that, upon request, companies correct a California consumer’s inaccurate personal information upon the consumer's request
7. Create a new state agency (the California Privacy Protection Agency) to enforce the provisions of the CCPA
   • Yes vote: you support the expansion of the CCPA in accordance with the above provisions
   • No vote: you oppose expanding the CCPA and favor the regulations as they are currently

Proposition 25
Currently, California uses a cash bail system which requires criminal defendants to deposit (post) a certain amount of money, set by a court, in order to be allowed to leave detention while awaiting trial. At the conclusion of the trial, the defendant gets their money back, regardless of the verdict rendered at trial. The purpose of this cash bail system is to incentivize defendants to adhere to, and appear at, court appointments. Proposition 25 seeks to replace California’s cash bail system with a three tiered risk assessment system (low risk, medium risk, and high risk). The risk assessment system would determine if a detained defendant should be granted pretrial release, and under what conditions, by examining a defendant’s likelihood of committing a crime and their likelihood showing up at their court appointed date and time. Assessment standards for determining risk will be established by superior courts, which will establish pretrial assessment divisions tasked with conducting risk assessments and making recommendations for conditions of release. The state Judicial Council would ultimately decide which risk assessment tools are valid for use.
   • Yes vote: you support replacing California’s cash bail system with a risk assessment system
• No vote: you oppose implementing this risk assessment system and favor maintaining the existing cash bail system

For more information about statewide propositions on the November 2020 ballot, please visit the California Secretary of State 2020 proposition guide at https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/

Further Reading
For more information about statewide propositions on the November 2020 ballot, please visit the California Secretary of State 2020 proposition guide at https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/

News Coverage:
• KNBC Los Angeles, “List: Here Are the 12 Propositions on the November 2020 Ballot in California” by Miller Hyatt
• Los Angeles Times, “Here are the 12 propositions on California’s November ballot” by by John Myers
  Read more here: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-01/propositions-on-california-november-2020-ballot
• Mercury News, “Election 2020: A breakdown of California’s 12 ballot propositions” by Emily DeRuy
  Read more here: https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/08/30/election-2020-a-breakdown-of-californias-12-ballot-propositions/
• Politico, “California gears up for blockbuster year of ballot measures” by Alex Nieves, Jeremy B. White, and Beatrice Jin
  Read more here: https://www.politico.com/interactives/2020/california-november-ballot/
• Sacramento Bee, “California’s November ballot is set. Here are the statewide measures you’ll vote on” by Andrew Sheeler
  Read more here: https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article243899482.html#storylink=cpy
Local Measures in Santa Clara County, 2020 General Election
(November 3rd)

City Measures (A to H)

Measure A: Town of Los Gatos Finance Commission Ordinance
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
Shall the measure proposing an ordinance replacing the Town's current Finance Committee and Sales Tax Oversight Committee with a Finance Commission that would advise the Town Council on financial, budgetary and investment matters, including but not limited to, the Annual Budget, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, capital expenditures, sales tax revenue and expenditures, and other recommendations as the Town Council directs, be adopted?

Measure B: Town of Los Gatos Term Limit Ordinance
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
Shall the measure proposing a term limit ordinance to require that after serving two (2) four (4) year terms, a Town Council Member is not eligible to run for the Town Council or to be appointed to a vacancy unless a period of four years has elapsed since their last service on Town Council, be adopted?

Measure C: City of Mountain View Ordinance Amendment
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
Shall City of Mountain View Ordinance No.15.19, which prohibits parking of oversized vehicles (such as recreational vehicles, boats and large trucks) except wheelchair-accessible vans with valid disabled placard and those exempted for short duration activities (such as loading and unloading, and emergency vehicles) on narrow streets 40 feet or less in width, be adopted?

Measure E: City of Santa Clara Transient Occupancy Tax
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
To maintain and protect the level of essential city services including 9-1-1 emergency medical/disaster preparedness, police and fire protection, bicycle and pedestrian safety, roadways and storm drains, and other vital services including parks, recreation, libraries and senior services, shall a measure increasing the hotel tax rate up to 4%, generating up to approximately 7 million dollars annually, paid only by hotel/motel guests, until ended by voters, be adopted?

Measure F: City of Milpitas Use Tax, City of Milpitas Public Services Measure
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
To provide funding to maintain the City’s finances and services, including: police and fire protection, 9-1-1 emergency response, and natural disaster preparation; youth, senior, and recreation services; repairing park equipment and maintaining parks and recreation centers; and attracting and retaining location businesses; shall the measure, establishing a $0.001 sales tax, providing approximately $6,500,000 annually for 8 years, requiring independent audits, citizens’ oversight committee, all funds spent locally, be adopted?

Measure G: City of San Jose Charter Amendment
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
Shall the City Charter be amended to: expand the Independent Police Auditor’s oversight, including review of officer-involved shootings and use of force incidents causing death or great bodily injury, review of department-initiated investigations against officers, and other technical amendments; increase the Planning Commission to 11 members with Council appointing one member from each Council District and one “at-large” member; and allow the Council to establish timelines for redistricting when Census results are late?

Measure H: City of San Jose Card Room Tax
Passage threshold: Majority vote
Response options: Yes/No
To fund general San José services, including fire protection, disaster preparedness, 911 emergency response, street repair, youth programs, addressing homelessness, and supporting vulnerable residents, shall an ordinance be adopted increasing the cardroom tax rate from 15% to 16.5%, applying the tax to third party providers at these rates: up to $25,000,000 at 5%; $25,000,001 to $30,000,000 at 7.5%; and over $30,000,000 at 10%, increasing card tables by 30, generating approximately $15,000,000 annually, until repealed?

School Measures (I to R)

Measure I: San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, Parcel Tax, San Jose-Evergreen Community College District Job Training, Student Support and Affordability Measure
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To provide locally controlled funding for community colleges to attract and retain quality faculty; provide assistance with food, housing, fees, books, transportation, and internet access so students can complete their degrees; prepare students for transfer to UC and CSU schools, and career and job training, shall San Jose-Evergreen Community College District’s measure levying $18 per parcel for 9 years ($4,500,000 annually), be adopted, with citizens’ oversight, and all funds used locally?
Measure J: San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, School Bonds, San José-Evergreen Community College District Career, College Transfer, Classroom Repair, Safety Measure
Passage threshold: 55% of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To upgrade facilities preparing students/veterans for university transfer/careers like healthcare, technology, emergency response, and recruit/retain quality faculty by modernizing, repairing aging classrooms, technology, science labs; acquire construct, repair facilities, equipment, sites; shall San José-Evergreen Community College District’s measure authorizing $858,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 1.75¢ per $100 assessed valuation, raising approximately $53,000,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, with audits/no money for administrators’ salaries, be adopted?

Measure K: Franklin-McKinley School District Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To improve the quality of education and enhance student achievement, by expanding reading, counseling and tutoring programs for at-risk students; maintaining small class sizes, enhancing reading math, and science programs; retaining teachers; and expanding student access to after school programs, shall Franklin-McKinley School District’s measure levying $72.00 per parcel annually for five years, be adopted, raising $1.2 million annually, have no funds for administrators’ salaries, provide a senior citizens’ exemption and have all funds stay local?

Measure L: Campbell Union High School District Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To ensure students receive engaging distance learning instruction that accelerates learning and can safely return to in-person school with smaller class sizes to facilitate social distancing guidelines as the pandemic subsides, shall the Campbell Union High School District measure be adopted renewing an existing $85 annual parcel tax that can be ended by voters, providing approximately $4,814,485 annually, exempting senior and qualified disabled citizens, subject to independent oversight, annual audits, and local control?

Measure M: Fremont Union High School District Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To renew its existing parcel tax without increasing the annual levy, support strong academic programs in reading, writing, math, science, technology and engineering, and prepare students for college and careers by attracting and retaining high quality teachers and staff, shall the Fremont Union High School District measure to renew its existing $98 parcel tax providing approximately $5 million annually for 8 years, with citizen oversight, exemptions for seniors, and all funds benefitting local high schools be adopted?
Measure N: Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To support high academic achievement for local students and provide stable local funding to maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, history and science, retain qualified and experienced teachers, and prepare students for an excellent high school, shall Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District’s measure be adopted, extending without increasing its $164 school parcel tax for seven years raising $328,000 annually, with senior exemptions, independent citizen oversight, and all funds benefitting local students?

Measure O: Palo Alto Unified School District Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To renew expiring local school funding that cannot be taken by the State; preserve excellence in academic programs, including science, math, reading, writing, arts/music; attract/retain qualified teachers and minimize layoffs; support at-risk students; shall Palo Alto Unified School District’s measure be adopted, extending its current $836 parcel tax for six years, raising approximately $16,000,000 annually with senior exemptions, 2% annual inflation adjustment, independent citizen oversight, all funds benefiting local students?

Measure P: Evergreen Elementary School District, School Bonds
Passage threshold: 55% of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To increase student internet and computer access; upgrade school emergency preparedness; install campus security, emergency notification and communication alarms and systems; and retrofit and renovate classrooms and facilities throughout the District; shall Evergreen Elementary School District’s measure to issue $80 million of bonds be adopted with projected annual tax rates averaging less than $0.03 per $100 assessed valuation for 12 years ($7.5 million per year for bond repayment), legal interest rates, annual audits and independent oversight?

Measure Q: Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District, School Bonds
Passage threshold: 55% of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To acquire equipment/instructional technology to improve distance learning and internet access; renovate heating/cooling systems, aging restrooms; upgrade school emergency preparedness, outdated electrical wiring, handicapped accessibility; acquire, renovate, construct classrooms, equipment, sites and facilities, shall Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District’s measure authorizing $12,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents/$100 assessed value, $975,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight, no money for administrators’ salaries, pensions or benefits, and all money benefiting local schools?
Measure R: Cambrian School District, School Bonds
Passage threshold: 55% of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To repair/upgrade aging classrooms, science labs, school facilities, and instructional technology to support student achievement in math, science, engineering, technology, and arts, repair deteriorating roofs, plumbing, electrical, remove asbestos/lead pipes where needed, and upgrade classrooms/computers to keep pace with technology, shall the Cambrian School District measure authorizing $88,000,000 in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying 3 cents/$100 assessed value ($5,080,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight/all money staying local?

Special District Measures (S, T, and RR)

Measure S: Santa Clara Valley Water District Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. Shall the measure to renew the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program which ensures public health and safety by:
  • protecting drinking water supply, dams from earthquakes and climate change;
  • reducing pollution, toxins and contaminants in waterways; and
  • providing flood protection;
by renewing Santa Clara Valley Water District’s existing parcel tax without increasing rates, averaging $.006 per square foot annually as described in Resolution 20-64 until ended by voters, raising approximately $45,500,000 annually, with qualifying senior exemption, annual audits, independent citizen oversight be adopted?

Measure T: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Parcel Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To continue protecting and preserving natural open spaces without increasing tax rates by:
  • managing land and water to reduce wildfires and floods;
  • protecting land around creeks to prevent pollution and improve water quality;
  • creating urban parks;
  • preserving wildlife habitats; and, preserving family farms, and healthy food sources;
shall the measure to renew Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s existing $24 annual parcel tax with no increase, generating approximately $8,000,000 annually, until ended by voters, with oversight/audits, be adopted?

Measure RR: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CalTrain) Sales Tax
Passage threshold: 2/3 of the vote
Response options: Yes/No
To preserve Caltrain service and support regional economic recovery, prevent traffic congestion, make Caltrain more affordable and accessible, reduce air pollution with cleaner and
quieter electric trains, make travel times faster, and increase Caltrain frequency and capacity between Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties, shall the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board’s resolution levying a 30-year one-eighth cent sales tax with oversight and audits, providing approximately $100 million annually for Caltrain that the State cannot take away, be adopted?

For more information about local measures on the November 2020 ballot, please visit the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters website guide at https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Nov2020/Pages/Nov2020Info.aspx