



BALLOT MEASURES 2020

Some important information

Brought to you by the LWVDV and St. Mary's College

Proposition 15 (*Initiative Constitutional Amendment*)

**INCREASES FUNDING FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES BY
CHANGING TAX ASSESSMENT OF
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY**



PROPOSITION 15

- Commercial and industrial properties, *except those zoned commercial agriculture*, to be taxed based on market value at time of sale.
- Regular reassessment on properties valued at \$3 million or more.
- Smaller businesses valued at \$3 million or less – property taxes remain based on purchase price.
- Revenue increases from reassessments – go to K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local governments.
- California State Legislature responsible for passing phase-in laws.
- Reassessment to occur no less than every three years. Appeals process available.

Background:

In 1978 – Prop. 13 passed:

- Relieved homeowners from escalating property taxes.
- Unintended consequences – revenues to schools and local government slashed in half.
- Past 40 years, commercial property tax revenue has shrunk due to gaping change-of-ownership loophole.
- Loophole used by large corporations.
- Commercial property loophole costs State between \$8 billion and \$12 billion annually in lost revenue.



Fiscal Impact of Prop. 15

Net increase in annual
property tax revenues of
\$7.5 to \$12 billion.

40 % – schools

60 % – local governments.

YES ON PROPOSITION 15

- Restores \$7 to \$12 billion a year to schools and vital community services, without raising taxes on homeowners, renters, agricultural land, or small businesses.
- 50% of revenue raised by measure will come from properties that have not been reassessed since before 2000.
- Closes loophole for big corporations – leveling playing field for small companies that make up 90% of commercial properties.
- Prompts development of vacant urban land by increasing taxes on speculators who hold onto empty properties due to low taxes on them.
- Provides \$3 million exemption relief to small, local, minority and women-owned businesses hit hard by COVID-19.
- There is phase-in period for new property taxes on commercial property so changes won't occur all at once.

NO ON PROPOSITION 15

- *Legislature* should try to close corporate loophole – rather than asking voters to approve massive change to popular property tax law.
- No taxpayer protections, cost controls, accountability measures or transparency requirements – not even cap on administrative expenses.
- *Real* problem of inequity in property taxes –not disparity between residential and commercial property. It's disparity between taxes by long-time property owners and taxes by newly purchased owners — an inequity for *both* residential and commercial properties.
- Protections for small businesses aren't strong enough – most are renters and higher property taxes passed on to them from owners of buildings.
- Proposition 15 exempts agricultural land from annual reassessments – but doesn't exclude fixtures and improvements, such as irrigation systems, barns, fences, silos, etc.

Supporters of Proposition 15

Joe Biden

Bernie Sanders

Elizabeth Warren

Kamala Harris

Cory Booker

Ro Khanna

Barbara Lee

Pete Buttigieg

Beto O'Rourke

Nancy Skinner

California Democratic Party

Green Party of California

ACLU of Northern and Southern California

California Federation of Teachers

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

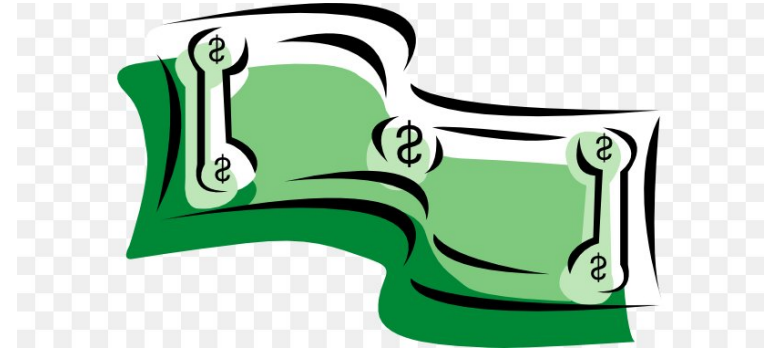
Opponents of Proposition 15

- No on Prop 15 – Stop Higher Property Taxes and Protect Prop 13
- Protect Prop 13, No on 15
- Stop Higher Taxes Committee
- Family Farmers Against Prop 15 – Stop Higher Food Taxes
- California Business Roundtable
- California Taxpayer Association

Financial Support for Proposition 15

\$43 million:

- Schools and Communities First
- Million Voter Project Action
- California Teachers Association
- SEIU California
- Chan/Zuckerberg Advocacy



Financial Support Against Proposition 15

\$30 million

- Stop Higher Property Taxes and Save Proposition 13
- Protect Proposition 13, No on 15
- Long Point Development
- Vornado Realty Trust
- Family Farmers Against Proposition 15

Proposition 16

(Legislative Constitutional Amendment)

**ALLOWS DIVERSITY AS A FACTOR IN PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND
CONTRACTING DECISIONS.**

- Would repeal Prop. 209 from California Constitution.
- Would allow public schools and agencies to take race and other immutable characteristics into account when making admission, hiring or contracting decisions.

1996 – Prop. 209:

- Prohibited discrimination and preferential treatment in public employment, public education, and public contracting based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.
- Banned use of affirmative action regarding race or sex.

RESULT OF PROP. 209:

An immediate drop in Black and Latino enrollment at state's elite public universities.

Fiscal Impact:



There are no direct Fiscal Impacts from Proposition 16, as the measure doesn't require any changes to current policy or programs.

Yes on Prop. 16

- It will help minorities, through affirmative action, participate more fully in economy.
- Recent pandemic has brought attention from around world to fix racial problems. Continuing current policy means ignoring problem.
- Repealing Prop. 209 is needed because it failed to restore fairness and reward meritocracy by eliminating *all* preferences in **college admissions**. It did *not* consider preferences based on alumni parents, geographic balance or proficiency in sports.
- Repealing Prop. 209 is needed because it failed to prevent **cities and counties** from giving bidding preferences to local businesses or prevent elected officials from giving requests for proposals to buddies and campaign contributors.

NO ON PROP. 16

- This proposition would mean a return to race-based economic and school admission policies by repealing Prop. 209.
- Using race as a classification – judging based on ancestry instead of merit and essential qualities – demeans dignity and worth of people.
- Proposition 16 would result in more racism by hurting one minority group to benefit another.
- Better to strengthen institutions by improving education system so all students have access to quality education, with opportunities to economically disadvantaged.

SUPPORTERS OF PROP. 16

Governor **Gavin Newsom**

Senators **Dianne Feinstein** and **Kamala Harris**

Representatives **Mark DeSaulnier, Ro Khanna, Barbara Lee, Karen Bass**, and more

Mayors **Libby Schaff** and **Eric Garcetti**

Secretary of State **Alex Padilla**

Some of supporting organizations are: **ACLU California, Anti-Defamation League, California NAACP Conference, NextGen, Equality California, Kaiser Permanente**, and more

OPPONENTS OF PROP. 16

Republican State Senators **Ling Ling Chang** and **Melissa Melendez**

Former Republican U.S. Senator **Tom Campbell** and former Republican State Senator **Bob Huff**

Ward Connerly, Chairperson of Proposition 209 in 1996

American Civil Rights Institute, Chinese American Civic Action Alliance, and American Freedom Alliance and Students for Fair Admissions

Contributions *FOR* Prop. 16

\$ 12.5 million– Yes on 16, Opportunity for All Coalition



Contributions *AGAINST* Prop. 17

\$960,000 – Californians for Equal Rights

Proposition 17

(Legislative Constitutional Amendment)

**RESTORES RIGHT TO VOTE AFTER
COMPLETION OF PRISON TERM.**

Background:

- Voting rights vary by state –19 other states allow convicted felons on parole to vote.
- In **1974, Prop. 10** restored right for felons to vote *after* completion of imprisonment and parole.
- Currently, nearly 50,000 Californians on parole cannot legally vote.

Fiscal Impacts of Prop. 17

- County costs – likely hundreds of thousands of dollars for voter registration and ballot materials.
- State costs – one time increase likely in hundreds of thousands of dollars to update voter registration cards and systems.
- Actual costs – will vary, depending on how many people on parole register to vote.

YES ON PROP 17

- Once people complete prison sentences, they should be encouraged to re-enter society and have a stake in their community and be allowed to vote.
- California spends billions of dollars on prison system – with intention and promise to rehabilitate people – yet when released they are still treated like criminals. Is there a true belief in ‘rehabilitation?’
- 50,000 Californians have completed prison sentences and are on parole – they pay taxes at local, state and federal levels yet are prohibited from voting at any level of government.
- They are neighbors, family members, and colleagues and should have the opportunity to fully participate in society.

NO ON PROP 17

- Those committing crimes like murder, voluntary manslaughter, and rape – particularly heinous crimes – should complete parole to full extent, without voting rights.
- Completed parole period allows for adjustment and safe entry back into society, at which time they can then vote.
- The proposal represents a ‘criminal *in*justice,’ because former criminals would not be made fully accountable for their behavior.
- Losing their right to vote is part of their punishment.

SUPPORTERS OF PROP. 17

Senator Kamala Harris

Assemblymembers Scott Weiner, Shirly Weber and Kevin McCarty

Secretary of State Alex Padilla

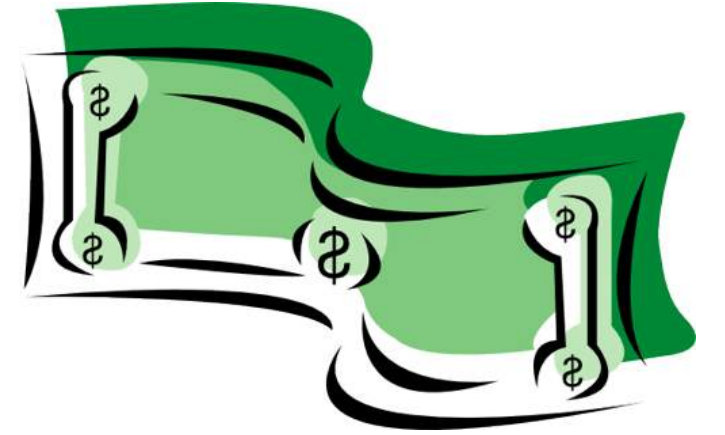
ACLU of California

OPPONENTS OF PROP. 17

Republican State Senator Jim Nielsen, of Tehama

Republican State Senator Melissa Melendez, of Lake Elsinor

The Election Integrity Project California



Prop. 17:

There are no financial contributions listed at this time either *for* or *against*

PROP 20 Restricts parole for non-violent offenders. Authorizes felony sentences for certain offenses currently treated only as misdemeanors

- Rolls back sentencing and parole reforms enacted by Props 47 and 57
- Changes some crimes from misdemeanor to felony so longer jail times
- Some offenses that now allow an inmate to get parole if they've completed full term for their primary offense, will no longer qualify for parole
- Judges must change parole status if felon violates parole three times
- Requires some convicted of misdemeanor to submit DNA





BUDGET IMPACT on state and local

- **Increased correctional costs** in tens of millions a year due to increases in **theft-related penalties and changes in parole**
- **Increased court related costs** of few million dollars a year due to **court filings and parole revocation processing**
- **Increased law enforcement costs** of about a couple million dollars a year due to **collecting and processing DNA**

YES on 20

- Makes our system tougher on crime.
- Allows prosecutors to charge repeat or organized petty theft as a felony
- Violent offenders aren't eligible for early parole.
- Would require some people convicted of misdemeanors to submit a DNA sample to a state-wide agency

NO on 20

- Rolls back humane and effective prison reforms to reduce prison population
- Supporters of Prop 20 are trying to scare people.
- Recent laws allow greater chance of parole for good behavior which is a shift toward rehabilitation.
- Decrease in prison population saves money which could be used for other programs

Supporters and Opponents

- Supporters: Assemblyman Jim Cooper, The Orange County Board of Supervisors, The Association for LA Deputy Sheriffs, Peace Officers Research Association
 - **FUNDING**: \$4.5 million, including \$2 million from the CA Correctional Peace Officers Association
- Opponents: Jerry Brown, SEIU, ACLU of Northern CA
 - **FUNDING**: \$5.6 million from two PACs, Committee for CA Issues PAC and CA Public Safety and Rehabilitation. \$1.25 is from the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation and \$2 million from Patty Quillin

PROP 21 - Expands local governments' authority to enact rent control on residential property

- Replaces 1995 Costa –Hawkins Housing Act, which was enacted to manage local regulations on rental markets. Costa-Hawkins exempts some properties from rent control, such as those built after 1995 and condos with titles.
- Prop 21 would exempt residences built within the last 15 years
- It would exempt condos only if owner has no more than two properties.
- These changes result in fewer exemptions from rent control



Current situation under Costa-Hawkins:

- Landlords can increase rent to market rates when tenant moves out
- If tenant stays, landlords can increase rents 5% plus inflation each year

With Prop 21:

- In rent controlled cities, landlords allowed to increase rents by 15% total over three years following vacancy
- Allows financial return while limiting rent increases

Some additional background

- Before Costa Hawkins in 1995, landlords could raise rates as high as they wanted when a tenant moves out, even with eviction
- Under Costa Hawkins, landlords can increase rents to market rates when a tenant moves out, which can still be a big spike
- Proposition 21 was put on the ballot to limit dramatic rent increases



BUDGET IMPACT on state and local governments

- Potential reduction in state and local tax revenues of tens of millions of dollars due to decreased taxes on rental revenue and property value
- Depends on actions of local communities

YES on 21

- Allows cities and counties to apply more kinds of rent control to more properties
- Makes rental housing more affordable
- Allows more lower income residents to continue living in a home without fear of excessive rent increases

NO on 21

- Keeps owners from improving property
- Can result in rents below market value and discourage investors from investing in rent controlled properties
- Might encourage shift from rental apartments to condos for sale, thus decreasing rental market

Supporters and Opponents

Supporters include:

- Senator Bernie Sanders and Rep Maxine Waters
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and AFSCME
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation and its president, Michael Weinstein
- ACLU of Southern CA
- LA Tenants Union
- **FUNDING for support: \$24 million**, almost all from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation whose president, Michael Weinstein, wrote this initiative

Opponents include:

- Avalonbay Communities, Inc.
- Essex Property Trust, Inc.
- Promethius Real Estate Group
- CA Seniors Advocates League

FUNDING for opposition: From a PAC called “**Californians for Responsible Housing**”

\$41.5 million \$6.6 m from Essex Property Trust Inc,
\$5.6 million from Equity Residential and
\$4.4 million from Avalonbay Communities, Inc.

PROP 25 - Referendum to Overturn a 2018 Law that Replaced Money Bail System with a System Based on Public Safety Risk.

- Upholds 2018 Senate Bill 10, which allows accused to be released before trial without bail if deemed not a risk.
- Most misdemeanor offenders would be cited and released within 12 hours. Detention is based on risk.



Some additional background

- Criminal suspects pay a cash bond to be released from trail before trial. This is repaid to suspects, regardless of outcome of trial
- County superior courts set bail amounts. Agents who offer cash bail bonds charge about 10 %
- In 2018, SB10 replaced this bail bond system with a pretrial assessment division.
- This bill is on hold pending the outcome of Proposition 25. If Prop 25 passes, SB10 will replace bail bond system with risk assessment system.



Budget Impact on state and local governments

- Mid-hundreds of millions of dollars a year due to cost of risk assessments.
- At the same time there would be a decrease in county jail costs, possibly in the high tens of millions of dollars annually, with fewer suspects awaiting trial.
- There may be more money in local economy as people would spend money on goods rather than bail.

YES on 25

- The bail bond industry should not be a for-profit business
- Holding persons who are not a risk and may not be guilty is inhumane
- The current cash bail system is unequal. The poor are often kept in jail while awaiting trial while the rich are set free.
- If a suspect seems to be a risk, he or she will be kept in jail.
- This is a good way to reduce prison overcrowding.

NO on 25

- SB 10 is too soft on crime
- SB 10 allows flight risk
- There are no proven criteria to determine whether someone is a “risk”.
- Bail offers an incentive for people to return for trial

Supporters and Opponents

- **Supporters**: End Predatory and Unfair Money Bail PAC, Congresswoman Karen Bass, Senator Toni Atkins, more than 20 other legislators; the California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association and the California Medical Association
 - **FUNDING**: Total: \$8.33 million dollars \$500,000 comes from Action Now Initiative and the rest from individuals, SEIU and Next Gen California
- **Opponents**: Californians Against the Reckless Bail Scheme, the American Bail Coalition, Triton Management, California Bail Agents Association, The Crime Victims United of California, Asian, Black and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California Small Business Association.
 - **FUNDING**: \$9.0 million. The top ten donors are bail bond businesses or companies providing insurance to bail bond business



We have done our best to give you a researched overview of this proposition, but please be aware that there will continue to be updates and additional information.

We encourage you to visit these websites

[For more information](#)

www.ballotpedia.org – accurate, objective, up-to-date information

www.sos.ca.gov – provides official “Voter Information Guide” with detailed analyses and information about supporters and opponents

www.easyvoter.org – short summaries with pros and cons

www.VotersEdge.org - Allows you to see which groups are supporting or opposing a measure

Thank you very much, and remember to vote!