

# California 2016 Ballot Propositions

## Progressive Christians Uniting Voter Guide

**Proposition 51** – \$9 billion school bond: No position

Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for new construction/updating of K-12 public schools; charter schools and vocational education facilities; and community colleges. Total state costs of about \$17.6 billion to pay off principal and interest.

**Proposition 52** – voter approval for hospital fee: No position

Requires voter approval of changes to the hospital fee program to ensure that California uses these funds for the intended purpose of supporting hospital care to Medi-Cal patients.

**Proposition 53** – Voter approval for \$2 billion+ bonds: No position

Requires voter approval for projects that cost \$2 billion or more funded by revenue bonds. Requires that legislatively approved projects be presented on statewide ballot to voters.

**Proposition 54** – 72 hour public review of bills: No position

No bill can pass unless it has been in print and published on the Internet for at least 72 hours, except in cases of public emergency. Requires audiovisual recordings of all legislative proceedings, except closed session proceedings, and post them on the Internet. Any person can record legislative proceedings by audio or video means, except closed session proceedings.

**Proposition 55** – Maintain income tax rate: Support

Extends the temporary personal income tax increases approved in 2012 on incomes over \$250,000 for 12 years to be used for education and healthcare funding. This income tax was approved in 2012 under Proposition 30. Does not extend sales tax component of Prop. 30.

**Proposition 56** – Increase cigarette tax to \$2.00: No position

Raises from \$0.87 to \$2. In line with states like Arizona, Nevada, Washington, and Oregon. Lost funding from reduced use is expected but new tax will go first to anything lost. Also taxes e-cigarettes at equivalent rate.

**Proposition 57** – More parole opportunities: Support

Allows parole consideration for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies upon completion of full prison term for primary offense. Credits awarded for rehabilitation, good behavior, or educational achievements. Juvenile court judges shall make determination, upon prosecutor motion, whether juveniles of age 14 and older should be prosecuted and sentenced as adults.

**Proposition 58** – Bilingual education in schools: Support

Amends and repeals various provisions of Proposition 227 from 1998, which was called the “English in Public Schools” Initiative. Deletes segregated English immersion requirement and waiver provisions; instead, school districts shall provide English learners with a structured English immersion program. The bill authorizes guardians of pupils to choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child.

**Proposition 59** – Overturn *Citizens United*: Support

Requires California’s elected officials to use constitutional authority, including proposing and ratifying amendments to the United States Constitution, to overturn *Citizens United* and allow the full regulation of campaign contributions and spending.

**Proposition 60** – Require pornography condom use: No position

Requires performers in adult films to use condoms during filming of sexual intercourse. Requires producers of adult films to pay for performer vaccinations, testing, and medical examinations related to sexually transmitted infections.

**Proposition 61** – Prescription drug costs and VA: No position

Prohibits state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid for the same drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Proposition 62** – End death penalty: Support

Repeals death penalty as maximum punishment for persons found guilty of murder and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to persons already sentenced to death. Persons found guilty of murder must work while in prison and up to 60% of wages can be garnished for victim restitution fines.

**Proposition 63** – Ammunition/clip regulation: Support

Prohibits possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines and requires their disposal. Requires background check and Department of Justice authorization to purchase ammunition. Prohibits persons convicted of stealing a firearm from possessing firearms. Establishes new procedures for enforcement.

**Proposition 64** – Marijuana Legalization: Support

Legalizes marijuana and hemp under state law. Designates state agencies to license and regulate marijuana industry. Imposes state excise tax on retail sales of marijuana. Exempts medical marijuana from some taxation. Establishes packaging, labeling, advertising, and marketing standards and restrictions for marijuana products. Allows local regulation and taxation of marijuana. Prohibits marketing and advertising marijuana to minors. Authorizes resentencing and destruction of records for prior marijuana convictions.

**Proposition 65** – Bag sale proceeds for conservation: No position

Redirects money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through sale of carry-out bags into a special fund administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board to support specified categories of environmental projects.

**Proposition 66** – Streamline death penalty: Oppose

Speeds up death penalty execution and reduces administrative and appeal delays. Other voter approved measures related to death penalty are null and void if this measure receives more affirmative votes.

**Proposition 67** – Statewide plastic bag ban: Support

The law would prohibit grocery and certain other retail stores from providing single-use bags but permits sale of recycled paper bags and reusable bags. Legislative approval was previously challenged in court before placing the law's ratification on the ballot.