

# Vote with the League | Ballot Recommendations



Voting recommendations for state ballot measures  
for the November 5, 2024 General Election

Online at [bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs](https://bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs)



## **PROP 2 SCHOOL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACILITY BONDS**

**SUPPORT**

Prop 2 would supplement local bond funds by authorizing \$8.5 billion in state bonds for construction and modernization of K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion for community colleges. All children in California deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide them with a 21st century education. Research shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and lower suspension rates. There has been no new bond money going to school facilities since 2016, and there is a massive need for modernization of old and construction of new educational facilities across the state.

Passage of Prop 2 is critical to our children's health, safety, and educational progress. At the same time, the measure's funding formula is not equitable. Except in a few hardship cases, all districts are required to pay 40% or 50% of the cost of a project - with funds being much harder and more expensive to raise in property-poor districts. This inequity hits hardest in rural districts and those with higher numbers of Latine, English learner, and low-income students. Prop 2 slightly lowers the contribution required from poorer districts, but the impact is minimal. While the League of Women Voters of California urges the state to create an equitable funding formula that addresses the dire needs of our most underserved students, we support Prop 2 because providing no funding would hurt all students.

[Vote YES on Proposition 2](#)

## **PROP 3 FREEDOM TO MARRY**

**SUPPORT**

Despite the existence of modern legal safeguards guaranteeing marriage equality, California's Constitution carries the shameful stain of language declaring that only marriage between a man and a woman will be recognized by the state. Prop 3 would enshrine marriage equality in the California Constitution. This upholds our state's values of fairness, equality, and non-discrimination and ensures permanent protection for the rights of all individuals to marry the person they love, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or race. Constitutional provisions offer strong, enduring safeguards against discriminatory laws and political shifts, providing consistent legal recognition and benefits for same-sex couples. While U.S. Supreme Court decisions have made California's prohibition unenforceable, the current Court has shown that it is willing to upend decades of precedent and revoke hard-earned rights.

Prop 3 reinforces California’s commitment to equality and dignity, setting a precedent that personal freedoms and civil rights are foundational and non-negotiable, thus promoting a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations. Voting for Prop 3 is a vote for justice, recognizing that love and commitment should be honored and protected for everyone in our diverse community and that we must protect the fundamental right to marry for same-sex and interracial couples.

[Vote YES on Proposition 3](#)

**PROP 4      CLIMATE PROTECTION PROJECT BONDS      SUPPORT**

The bonds for “safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, and protecting communities and natural lands from climate risks” would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion for much-needed climate and environmental projects. Prop 4 is vital for mitigating the escalating costs of climate change and safeguarding our state's future. This bond will provide essential funding for projects that improve water quality and supply, protect against wildfires, and enhance the resilience of our natural ecosystems. It will also allocate at least 40% of its funding to low-income communities which are vulnerable to a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and lack adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

The economic toll of climate change is immense, with billions spent on disaster response, health impacts, and infrastructure repair. We have an urgent need for proactive measures to combat increased wildfire risks, sea-level rise, and severe droughts. By funding critical projects, Prop 4 will enhance resilience, protect communities, and ensure California continues to lead in environmental stewardship and innovation. This investment is essential for a sustainable and prosperous future.

[Vote YES on Proposition 4](#)

**PROP 5      LOWER VOTING THRESHOLD ON LOCAL HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS      SUPPORT**

Prop 5 would reduce the voting margin necessary to approve local bonds and taxes for affordable housing, transportation, parks and other public infrastructure, from 66.7% to 55%. The constitutional amendment is essential to eliminate the anti-democratic supermajority vote requirement that hinders the approval of local housing and infrastructure bonds. The current two-thirds supermajority vote threshold stifles progress by making it extremely difficult to secure necessary funding for vital projects. Lowering the voting threshold to 55% enhances democratic participation and allows communities to address urgent housing shortages and infrastructure needs more effectively.

By empowering local governments to act quickly, Prop 5 promotes economic growth, improves quality of life, and ensures timely investment in essential public services and facilities. The League of Women Voters of California has signed the formal [ballot arguments](#) in support of the measure.

[Vote YES on Proposition 5](#)

**SUPPORT**

**PROP 6      END SLAVERY IN CALIFORNIA ACT**

Prop 6, the End Slavery in California Act, is long overdue and both a moral imperative and practical necessity. Morally, it addresses a profound injustice embedded in the state's constitution, which permits involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime. This archaic exception allows for modern-day slavery. Due to persistently large racial disparities in arrest and sentencing, this form of slavery disproportionately impacts Black and brown communities and perpetuates systemic racial and economic inequalities. Practically, abolishing this exception supports the rehabilitation and reintegration of incarcerated people by allowing them to choose meaningful educational and rehabilitative programs over forced labor. Ultimately this will reduce recidivism rates because people have a better chance to integrate into meaningful life outside of incarceration which benefits society as a whole by fostering more equitable communities. By passing Prop 6, California will right a centuries-old wrong and lead by example in upholding human rights and dignity, ensuring that our legal framework reflects the state's commitment to justice and equality.

[Vote YES on Proposition 6](#)

**SUPPORT**

**PROP 32      RAISES MINIMUM WAGE TO \$18**

California has a high cost of living and our current \$16 minimum wage is well below the estimated living wage needed to support a household's basic needs. Prop 32 would raise the minimum wage for employers that employ 26 or more people to \$18 per hour in 2025 and 2026. For businesses that employ 25 or fewer people the minimum wage would be \$17 an hour in 2025 and \$18 per hour in 2026. Prop 32 pauses inflation adjustments until 2027, giving businesses and the economy time to adjust to the new wage levels. After that, the minimum wage would go up each year based on inflation.

A minimum wage of \$18 an hour will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers. Plus, an \$18 minimum wage is likely to increase wages across the board which will increase consumer spending that will help the economy. And increased spending creates more jobs, making everyone better off.

[Vote YES on Proposition 32](#)

**PROP 33      EXPANDS LOCAL AUTHORITY TO ENACT RENT CONTROL ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY      NEUTRAL**

The League supports efforts to help resolve California’s housing crisis. We promote solutions aimed at increasing housing production in a sustainable, accessible, and equitable manner. Rent control policies are one strategy to address California’s housing challenges, offer tenant protections, and prevent displacement. Rent control may be an effective short-term solution but studies suggest that its longer-term impact may discourage construction of new housing units, as developers could find it less profitable to build rental units if the rent is controlled by law. This could stifle the building of high-density and more affordable housing and exacerbate the existing housing shortage. Because there are benefits and drawbacks to rent control, the League has chosen to be neutral on Prop 33.

**PROP 34      RESTRICTS SPENDING BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MEETING SPECIFIED CRITERIA      NO POSITION**

When the LWVC has [no position](#) relevant to a ballot measure, we offer no analysis.

**PROP 35      PERMANENT FUNDING FOR MEDI-CAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES      OPPOSE**

Medi-Cal provides health services to over 15 million low-income Californians. Prop 35 is a well-meaning but misguided effort to try to provide more and steady funding for Medi-Cal and potentially improve reimbursement rates for medical providers. Prop 35 would change the temporary tax that helps fund Medi-Cal to a permanent tax on Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and require the tax proceeds to be used to support only Medi-Cal and other health programs - making that money unavailable for other priorities and making it difficult to respond to future changes to Medi-Cal that might be mandated by the federal government. The League of Women Voters of California is generally opposed to "ballot-box budgeting," which limits the legislature's flexibility to make budgetary decisions and adjust priorities based on emerging and essential needs. Budgetary decisions should be made by the legislature, not by earmarking funds through ballot initiatives. Earmarking can undermine the state's fiscal stability and its ability to effectively respond to changing conditions. While there is no organized opposition to the measure, Governor Newsom has [expressed concerns](#) that it hamstrings the state’s flexibility.

Another problem is that Prop 35 could inadvertently decrease overall revenue. This is because the proposition imposes a low cap on taxes collected from non-Medi-Cal enrollees. This cap is designed to prevent the tax from becoming overly burdensome on non-Medi-Cal health plans, but it also introduces a potential risk. If the federal government changes the rules to require a greater share of the tax to come from commercial enrollees, this cap could limit the amount of total revenue that can be collected, potentially reducing the overall effectiveness of the tax.

[\*\*Vote NO on Proposition 35\*\*](#)

**PROP 36 INCREASE PENALTIES FOR THEFT AND  
DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**OPPOSE**

Prop 36 would erode criminal justice reform in California by reversing key advances aimed at reducing mass incarceration and promoting rehabilitation. It would impose stricter sentencing laws that disproportionately impact people of color and those with low-income, exacerbating existing racial and socioeconomic disparities in the criminal justice system. Harsher sentencing for minor offenses, like drug possession and retail theft, would take California back to the days when we had unconstitutionally overcrowded prisons. The increased penalties are draconian. For example, if someone gives or sells a controlled substance like psychedelic mushrooms or peyote to someone who suffers a major injury from using it, they could be sentenced to state prison instead of county jail and required to serve a longer term.

By shifting money from treatment and rehabilitation to prisons, Prop 36 would undermine programs that reduce recidivism and support reintegration into society. Emphasizing punishment over rehabilitation detracts from effective and humane criminal justice policies, and increased incarceration rates will lead to higher costs for taxpayers without improving public safety. Prop 36 would perpetuate a cycle of incarceration by reducing mental health and substance use disorder treatment, victim services, reentry assistance, programs to prevent school truancy and dropout, and crime prevention programs that prevent recidivism.

[\*\*Vote NO on Proposition 36\*\*](#)