



Take Your Moral Values to the Polls

Christians may reach many different conclusions about voting based on our common faith principles. Our interdenominational board has engaged in study and prayerful discernment to reach these recommendations on the propositions on California's 2016 ballot. We hope they are useful to you in making your decisions.

For much more detailed analysis than is possible here, go to www.ChurchIMPACT.org.

Proposition 51 - School Bonds - YES

This \$9 billion bond act rectifies our long-standing neglect of the critical infrastructure housing our school children. Students of color and those in poverty bear the largest burden of trying to be educated in what can be horrid conditions.

Proposition 52 - State Fees on Hospitals, Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds - YES

Continuing this existing fee, as Prop. 52 proposes, will bring hospitals more in federal funds for Medi-Cal than it costs them, and continue to provide health services for low-income Californians.

Proposition 53 - Revenue Bonds - NO

This would require a statewide vote on any state bond issue over \$2 billion, even when the revenue bonds have no effect on the state budget, credit rating, or taxes.

Proposition 54 - Legislature. Legislation and Proceedings - YES

This will end last-minute secret deals in the Capitol and make the lawmaking process more public.

Proposition 55 - Tax Extension to Fund Education and Health Care - YES

This proposition will extend part of the tax increase on the highest earners that voters approved in 2012 to support schools and health care. It will do a great deal to prevent a repeat of the fiscal meltdown that resulted in teacher layoffs, overcrowded classrooms, longer college waits for completion, and cutbacks in health care services.

Proposition 56 - Cigarette Tax to Fund Health Care, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement - YES

This will raise the excise tax on tobacco wholesalers and extend it to e-cigarettes. The funds will replace some of the state revenue lost due to decreases in smoking and also increase funding or smoking-reduction programs, tobacco enforcement, and health care.

Proposition 57 - Criminal and Juvenile Sentencing - YES

This proposition makes rehabilitation priorities for non-violent offenders, abolishes life-without-parole for juvenile offenders, and takes other steps to reduce criminal recidivism.

Proposition 58 - English Language Education - YES

This proposition repeals the requirement that immigrant children be in English-only classes in all subjects, which creates serious barriers to overall educational success. It leaves the determination of English-only, bi-lingual education, or a mix of the two up to local schools, which will be required to engage with parents on what options exist.

Proposition 59 - Campaign finance: voter instruction - YES

This asks the California congressional delegation to find a way, including by a constitutional amendment, to overturn the Supreme Court *Citizens United* ruling and other judicial precedents that have expanded the influence of unlimited corporate money in election campaigns.

Proposition 60 - Adult Films. Condoms - YES

This requires adult film production company owners to have performers wear condoms, pay for sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing, post the regulation about condoms at each film site, and obtain state health license. Adult film performers are 64 times more at risk for HIV and other STDs than the general public.

Proposition 61 - State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards- YES

This sets the purchase price of Medi-Cal and other state-paid-for drugs at the same rate that the Veterans Administration pays. It could set a trend for further required negotiation by all sectors, which is one reason Big Pharma is spending so much to defeat it.

Proposition 62 - Death Penalty - YES

This replaces the death penalty with life in prison without possibility of parole. Every mainline Protestant denomination, the Catholic Church, and many other faiths oppose the death penalty as an act of state violence and vengeance. The death penalty falls heavily on people of color while white people convicted of the same crimes escape. It has cost California \$5 billion to execute 13 people since 1978.

Proposition 63 - Firearms. Ammunition Sales - YES

This proposition will require permits to buy or sell ammunition, make it easier to remove guns from people convicted of violent crimes, tighten reporting of sales, loss and theft of fire arms, and ban the sale of large-capacity magazines (above 10 rounds of ammunition) to most people.

Proposition 64 - Marijuana Legalization - YES

This proposition allows people 21 years old or older to possess, cultivate, or transport small amounts of marijuana for personal use and permits local governments to regulate and tax commercial production and sale of marijuana, a step toward stopping the violence and death of the drug wars and end discriminatory drug sentencing.

Proposition 65 - Carry-out Bags. Charges - NO

This is a cynical ploy to turn grocers and environmentalists against the plastic bag ban in Prop. 67.

Proposition 66 - Death Penalty. Procedures - NO

Given that 156 people have been released from death row proven innocent, the last thing state should do is to reduce appeals and escalate the speed of executions, as Prop. 66 proposes.

Proposition 67 - Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags - YES

This simply keeps the existing law banning non-reusable plastic bags. We think this is a critical moment to change our throw-away society into one that cares more for creation.

**California Council of Churches IMPACT
4044 Pasadena Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821
916-488-7300**

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