



# YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE. NOVEMBER 6, 2018 CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTION



ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO VOTE? October 22, 2018 October 30, 2018 November 6, 2018 Last day to register to vote in this election. Last day to request a "vote by mail" ballot. **ELECTION DAY** Your polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Esta guía también está disponible en español ■ 本指南也有中文版 Bản hướng dẫn này cũng có hằng tiếng Việt ■ 또한 이 안내서는 한국어로도 제공됩니다

Visit **easyvoterguide.org** to order copies or download this guide in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

This guide is a collaboration of the League of Women Voters<sup>®</sup> of California Education Fund and the California State Library.

# ★ Help for Voters

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HELP FOR VOTERS		
Voter's Edge California, an online election guide from the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and MapLight	You can look up your polling place by typing in your home address at the Voter's Edge California website. You can also see your entire ballot, with national, state, and local contests. Find Voter's Edge California online at <b>votersedge.org</b>	
Official Voter Information Guide from the California Secretary of State	The Secretary of State's guide also gives detailed information about the state propositions, as well as voting resources and statements from the candidates for U.S. Senate. Find the Official Voter Information Guide online at <b>voterguide.sos.ca.gov</b>	
Easy Voter Guide	Order copies or download this guide in five languages at <b>easyvoterguide.org</b>	
County Elections Offices	Find your County Elections Office online at <b>sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices</b>	

## 🖈 What's New for Voters

Missed the October 22 voter registration deadline? You can still vote in this election!

If you missed the deadline, then go to your County Elections Office or other special location. You will be able to register and vote on the same day - all the way up through Election Day.

It's 3 simple steps you can complete in one visit:

**1** Register to vote.

3. Seal your ballot in a special envelope and sign it.

NEW

## Do you live in Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento or San Mateo County?

If so, read page 11 for important changes and choices on ways to vote.

**2**. Vote.

# About the November 6, 2018 General Election

#### How the Statewide General Election Works in California

In this "general" election, voters will:

- Choose a Governor and other representatives for national, state, and local government.
- Decide if judges on the state's Supreme Court should keep their positions.
- Vote "YES" or "NO" on 11 proposed state laws.

You will also be asked to decide on local candidates and possibly local ballot measures. What's on your ballot depends on where you live. Every registered voter will get a Voter Information Guide in the mail that lists everything they can vote on.

You do not have to vote on everything. Your votes still counts even if you choose to skip some things on your ballot.

For the following offices, only the two candidates who got the most votes in the June 2018 primary election will appear on your ballot. These two candidates could be from the same political party.

#### Offices that represent everyone in California (elected for a four-year term)

- Governor The highest elected official in California: Oversees most state departments and agencies. Prepares annual state budget. Approves or rejects new state laws.
- Lieutenant Governor Next in line: Becomes Governor if the elected Governor leaves office. Has a tie-breaking vote in the State Senate. Serves on boards and commissions.
- Secretary of State Head of elections and record keeping: Coordinates statewide elections and oversees election laws. Also keeps records about new corporations and businesses and other state databases.
- Controller The state's bookkeeper: Keeps track of how the state's money is spent. Issues most checks from the state and manages collection of money due to the state. Reports on finances of state and local governments.
- Treasurer The state's banker: Manages the state's investments and assets. Coordinates the sale of state bonds.
- Attorney General The state's top lawyer: Makes sure laws are enforced the same way across the state. Manages the state Department of Justice. Oversees sheriffs and district attorneys.
- Insurance Commissioner Insurance overseer: Manages the state Department of Insurance. Enforces laws that insurance companies must follow.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction Head of public schools: Manages the state Department of Education. Provides leadership and assistance to all public schools in California. Enforces education regulations.

# Offices that represent you in national government

- U.S. Senator (6-Year term)
- Representative in U.S. Congress (2-Year term)



## Offices that represent you in state government

- State Senator (4-Year term; even-numbered districts will be voted on in this election)
- State Assembly Member (2-Year term)
- State Board of Equalization (state tax commission; 4-Year term)



# ★ California Courts and Judges



Judges in the higher courts get into office and stay in office in a different way than other elected officials. Judges for the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court are appointed and then confirmed. Voters are asked to vote on whether to keep the judge after confirmation, and again after every twelve years.

In this election, all voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on whether to keep two Supreme Court judges. Some voters will also be asked whether to keep judges at the Court of Appeals, and there will be elections for judges in some County Courts.

# 🚖 Propositions

Propositions are proposed laws presented to the public to vote on. They may also be called ballot measures. This guide has short descriptions of the eleven statewide propositions being decided by voters in the November 6, 2018 election. You may also be asked to vote on local ballot measures in this election.

- Propositions 1, 2 and 7 were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature.
- The other Propositions have been placed on the ballot by people who collected enough signatures.

A YES vote means that you support the way the proposition would change things and a NO vote means that you want to leave things the way they are now.

You do not have to vote on everything. Use this guide to choose the ones that are important to you and learn more about them.

### WHAT IS A BOND?

Bonds are a way for governments to borrow money, usually for things that last a long time like hospitals and bridges. The government sells bonds to get money now and pays them back with interest, usually over 30 years. Voters must approve most California bonds that are paid back out of the state budget's General Fund. Using money from the General Fund means the state will have less money to spend on other budget items like education and health care.



Propositions 1–4 in this election ask voters to approve bonds.

1

2

## Affordable Housing Bonds

**The way it is now:** Across the state, people are struggling to afford housing. The cost to rent or own a home in California is more expensive than in most of the country. To help provide housing to low-income and homeless residents, the state provides affordable loans to some home builders. These builders include local governments, nonprofits and some private companies. California also has a program that provides affordable home loans to military veterans.

**What Prop 1 would do if it passes:** Prop 1 would allow the state to sell \$4 billion in new bonds to pay for existing affordable housing programs. Money would go toward programs for:

- Low-income residents
  Veterans
- Housing near public transportation

Prop 1 bonds would provide housing for up to 30,000 low-income households and 7,500 farmworker households each year. Money from Prop 1 would also help 15,000 homebuyers with down payments and provide home loans to about 3,000 veterans every year.

**Effect on the state budget:** Repaying the bonds plus interest would cost the state about \$170 million each year for the next 35 years. This amount is about one-tenth of one percent of the state's current budget. The veterans' program will be no cost to the state.

**Mental Health Housing Program** 

YES People for Prop 1 say:

- California needs housing for hardworking families, seniors and people with disabilities.
- Prop 1 honors veterans by helping them buy a home when they return from service.

#### NO People against Prop 1 say:

**Legislative Statute** 

- Prop 1 would only provide housing for a small number of people.
- If California keeps borrowing money, all residents will end up paying higher taxes.

## Legislative Statute

**The way it is now:** In 2004, voters approved Prop 63 to help pay for mental health services with a special tax on people making more than a million dollars each year. Prop 63 taxes raise between \$1.5 billion and \$2.5 billion each year. Counties spend this money on many different mental health services, including housing. In 2016, state lawmakers passed a bill that created a new mental health housing program to provide homes for people with mental illnesses who are facing homelessness. The state would like to use money from Prop 63 to help pay for the new mental health housing program. This requires voter approval or permission from the courts.

**What Prop 2 would do if it passes:** Prop 2 would allow the state to sell up to \$2 billion in bonds to help pay for the new mental health housing program. Up to \$140 million from Prop 63 funds could be used each year to pay for these bonds.

**Effect on the state budget:** Prop 2 will have no effect on the state budget. The new mental health housing program will be paid for using money the state already gets from Prop 63 taxes on people making more than \$1 million dollars a year. More money would be available for mental health housing. Less money would be available for county mental health services.

#### People for Prop 2 say:

- The best way to help someone with mental illness is to get them a place to live.
- Prop 2 costs the state nothing and would provide housing for our most at-risk residents.



- Counties should make the decisions when it comes to housing for people with severe mental illnesses.
- Prop 2 will help home builders, instead of people with mental illnesses.

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## Water Bonds

#### Initiative Statute

**The way it is now:** Most of California's water comes from rain and melted snow. This water usually starts in the mountains and flows down through the areas around streams and rivers called "watersheds." Local governments spend about \$25 billion each year to protect watersheds against flood damage and provide clean water. In recent years, the state government has also spent about \$4 billion per year to support water and environmental projects. Sometimes, the state borrows money to pay for these projects. The state also uses money from California's main budget, which is called the General Fund.

**What Prop 3 would do if it passes:** Prop 3 would allow the state to sell \$8.9 billion in new bonds to pay for water and environmental projects. Money would be spent on:

- Watershed protection
   Drinking water
- Dam and reservoir repairs Flood protection
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvements

**Effect on the state budget:** Paying back the bonds plus interest would cost the state about \$430 million each year for the next 40 years. Prop 3 would save local governments a couple hundred million dollars each year over the next 20-30 years.

#### YES People for Prop 3 say:

- Prop 3 will provide safe drinking water to millions of Californians.
- Our state must prepare now for future droughts and floods.

#### NO People against Prop 3 say:

- Prop 3 does not do enough to fix the state's water shortage.
- Too much money will be spent on parks, hiking trails and wildlife.

## 4

#### **Children's Hospital Bonds**

**The way it is now:** Thirteen hospitals in our state are considered "children's hospitals." These hospitals provide specialized care to infants and children with severe injuries and illnesses. Many children receiving care in these hospitals are from low-income communities. Children with difficult health conditions may receive support from the California Children's Services (CCS) program. In the past, voters have approved two statewide bond measures to support children's hospitals. These bonds have been used for new buildings, renovations and equipment. Most of the money from these bonds will run out by the end of this summer.

**What Prop 4 would do if it passes:** Prop 4 would allow the state to sell an additional \$1.5 billion in bonds for hospitals serving children. Money could be used for construction, building improvements and equipment. To receive funding, hospitals must prove that they will use the money to help children from low-income families and those who don't have health insurance. Money from Prop 4 would go to children's hospitals and other hospitals serving children in the California Children's Services program.

**Effect on the state budget:** Paying back the bonds plus interest will cost the state about \$80 million each year for the next 35 years. This amount is less than one-tenth of one percent of the state's current budget.

#### YES People for Prop 4 say:

- Children's hospitals care for California's most needy children, no matter what their families can pay.
- Prop 4 will help keep our hospitals up to date and ready to serve more children.

#### **Initiative Statute**



- Prop 4 will require the state to borrow money and pay it back over many years.
- Instead of borrowing money, California should be looking at improving health care overall.

## Property Tax Rules

#### Initiative - Constitutional Amendment & Statute

**The way it is now:** All homeowners are required to pay property taxes based on the value of their home. When people move into a new home, they often pay higher property taxes. California has special rules to allow some homeowners to buy a new home without paying higher property taxes. These rules apply to three types of homeowners: those who are 55 years or older; those with severe disabilities; and those whose homes have been affected by a natural disaster.

What Prop 5 would do if it passes: Prop 5 would expand the special property tax rules for homeowners who are 55 years or older, those with severe disabilities, and those whose homes have been affected by a natural disaster. These homeowners would be allowed to keep paying a similar amount in property tax no matter where they move in California or how many times they move. These homeowners could move to a cheaper home and pay lower property taxes than they are now. They could also move to a more expensive home and pay a smaller increase than what the rules allow now.

**Effect on the state budget:** If people pay lower property taxes, Prop 5 would cause significant tax losses at both the state and local level. During the next few years, schools and local governments would lose over \$100 million per year. Over time, this amount would grow to about \$1 billion per year. Less money would go to schools and fire departments. The state would need to spend more money on these services. Increased state spending would be between \$100 million and \$1 billion per year.

#### YES People for Prop 5 say:

- Prop 5 will help seniors and people with severe disabilities to move without having to pay higher taxes.
- When seniors move, more homes will be available for families with children.



- Less money would go to schools and public services, like fire departments.
- Prop 5 would help wealthy seniors.
   It would do nothing to bring down the cost of rent or address homelessness.



### **Transportation Taxes and Fees**

#### Initiative - Constitutional Amendment

**The way it is now:** In 2017, state lawmakers passed a law called SB 1 to raise money for transportation in California. SB 1 increased taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel. It also created new transportation improvement fees that are paid when registering a vehicle. The state expects these taxes and fees to raise \$4.4 billion this year. In 2020, this amount will increase to \$5.1 billion. Money earned from SB 1 helps pay for road and highway repairs, safety improvements, and public transportation.

What Prop 6 would do if it passes: Prop 6 would get rid of the taxes and fees passed last year as part of SB 1. The Legislature would need to get voter approval before passing new taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel. Voters would also have to approve before transportation improvement fees and vehicle license fees could be increased.

**Effect on the state budget:** If Prop 6 passes, the state would get much less money from transportation taxes and fees. The state would lose \$2.4 billion this year and \$5.1 billion in 2020. There would be much less money available for highway and road repairs, as well as public transportation. California would also have less money for safety improvements. By requiring voter approval, Prop 6 could make it harder to raise transportation taxes and fees in the future.



- Transportation taxes and fees are too high for lowincome residents and California's working families.
- Voting yes on Prop 6 would immediately lower the price of gasoline and the cost to register a vehicle.



- Transportation taxes and fees are paying for more than 6500 projects throughout the state.
- If we don't have money to pay for important bridge and road repairs, California will be less safe.

## **Daylight Saving Time**

**The way it is now:** Federal law sets standard time zones for each area of the country. California and other western states are in the Pacific Standard time zone. Current law requires the time of each zone to move forward by one hour from early March to early November each year during a period called Daylight Saving Time. During this period, sunrises and sunsets happen one hour later. Federal law lets states choose to stay on standard time all year long, but prevents states from having year-round Daylight Saving Time.

What Prop 7 would do if it passes: Prop 7 would allow state lawmakers to vote on changing Daylight Saving Time. Lawmakers would be able to choose year-round Daylight Saving Time, if allowed by federal law. Any change would require support from two thirds of California's Legislature. Until then, Prop 7 would keep California's current Daylight Saving Time schedule.

**Effect on the state budget:** Prop 7 would have no immediate effects. Impacts on state and local government would likely be very small.

#### YES People for Prop 7 say:

- Always being on Daylight Saving Time would have positive public health effects. When people don't have to change their clocks, the risk of heart attacks and strokes goes down.
- This change would also reduce energy costs and increase work production.

#### Legislative Statute

#### NO People against Prop 7 say:

- If the sun rises an hour later in the winter this will have negative effects on schools, traffic and public safety.
- Having a different time than other western states would create confusion.

## Kidney Dialysis Clinics

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#### Initiative Statute

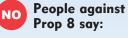
**The way it is now:** If a person's kidneys stop working, they will need a transplant or special treatment, called dialysis, to survive. Dialysis involves using a machine to filter the blood and return it back to a patient's body. In California, dialysis is usually provided by licensed dialysis clinics. Dialysis treatment is paid for by Medicare, Medi-Cal and private insurance. Private insurance companies usually pay clinics much more for dialysis treatment than Medicare and Medi-Cal.

**What Prop 8 would do if it passes:** Prop 8 would limit how much dialysis clinics can charge for treatment. Clinics would be allowed to charge for the cost of providing "direct patient care" and "quality improvements," plus an additional 15 percent. Each year clinics would have to report how much money they made, what they charged patients, and how much they spent on providing dialysis services. If clinics charge more than they are allowed, they would need to pay money back, mostly to patients' insurance companies. Prop 8 would also prevent clinics from treating patients differently based on the type of insurance they have.

**Effect on the state budget:** Budget effects would depend on how dialysis clinics react to the law. Effects would also depend on how courts and the state Department of Public Health interpret the law. State and local governments could save or lose tens of millions of dollars each year.

#### YES People for Prop 8 say:

- Prop 8 will stop dialysis companies from overcharging patients.
- This measure will lower healthcare costs for all Californians.



- California's dialysis clinics provide some of the highest quality care in the country.
- Prop 8 will force community dialysis clinics to cut services and close.

Prop 9 was removed from the ballot due to a court decision.

## **10** Local Governments and Rent Control

#### **Initiative Statute**

**The way it is now:** Several California cities have "rent control" laws that limit how much landlords can increase rents each year. State law prevents rent control on single-family homes and housing built after Feb. 1, 1995. It also prevents local governments from telling landlords what they can charge when a renter first moves in. Courts have said that landlords must be allowed to increase rents enough to be able to make some money each year.

What Prop 10 would do if it passes: Prop 10 would change state law and allow local governments to make their own choices about rent control. Cities and counties would have more power to limit how much landlords can increase rents each year. Rent control rules could apply to any type of housing, no matter when the housing was built. This would include all types of apartments and single-family homes. Rules could also make it harder for a landlord to increase rents when a new renter moves in. Local rent control laws would still need to allow landlords to make some money each year.

**Effect on the state budget:** Prop 10 has no immediate effects on state or local budgets. Effects would depend on how many cities and counties pass rent control laws and how landlords would respond. Overall, the measure would likely decrease money made from state and local taxes. Governments could see decreases in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Cities or counties that pass rent control laws will also need to spend money to enforce them. These costs will likely be paid by fees on landlords.



- The high cost of rent is hurting seniors, families and low-income residents.
- Prop 10 will allow local communities to choose whether they want rent control.



- Rent control will lead landlords to sell their property or stop renting. This will make rents even more expensive.
- Governments should not be able to tell single-family homeowners how much they can charge for rent.



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## Ambulance Employee Breaks

**The way it is now:** Many cities and counties depend on private companies to provide ambulance services. Ambulance employees are usually required to stay "on-call" during meal and rest breaks, meaning they must respond to emergency calls even while on a break. In 2016, the state Supreme Court ruled that similar kinds of workers must be given "off-duty" breaks which cannot be interrupted, even in the case of an emergency. Some ambulance employees have sued their companies claiming that they should be able to remain off-duty during breaks. Some of these lawsuits also seek extra pay for time employees were required to work during breaks.

What Prop 11 would do if it passes: If Prop 11 passes, private ambulance employees must remain on-call during their entire shift. Ambulance employees would be required to respond to emergency calls during meal and rest breaks. If an employee's break is interrupted, their employer will be required to provide another break during their shift. All breaks would be paid at an employee's regular rate. Ambulance companies would also be required to provide additional paid training and mental health services to ambulance employees. Prop 11 could also protect ambulance companies from having to pay employees who were prevented from taking off-duty breaks in the past. This measure would not apply to public ambulance employees, who typically work for local fire departments.

**Effect on the state budget:** Overall, Prop 11 would lower costs for private ambulance companies. Cities and counties that depend on private ambulance services would also save money, possibly in the tens of millions of dollars each year.

**Farm Animal Cages** 

#### YES People for Prop 11 say:

- Prop 11 protects public safety and makes sure that private ambulance companies can quickly respond to emergencies.
- Ambulance employees deserve more training and mental health supports.

#### NO People against Prop 11 say:

 No argument against Prop 11 was submitted.

#### Initiative Statute

**The way it is now:** Under current law, pregnant pigs, egg-laying hens and veal cows must be kept in certain cages and crates. These cages and crates must allow the animal to lie down, stand up, turn around and fully extend their

legs. It is also against the law to sell eggs from hens kept in cages that do not meet these rules.

**What Prop 12 would do if it passes:** Proposition 12 would create specific rules about the size of cages and crates for pregnant pigs, egg-laying hens and veal cows. It would be illegal to sell meat or eggs from animals kept in cages that do not meet these rules. In 2022, farmers would also be required to keep egg-laying hens in cage-free housing. The California Department of Food and Agriculture would enforce these rules.

**Effect on the state budget:** It could cost the state up to \$10 million each year to enforce the new rules. The state could receive less money in taxes if farmers choose to raise fewer animals. Because farmers may need to build new cages or crates, Prop 12 is also likely to increase the cost of pork, veal and eggs.

#### People for Prop 12 say:

- It is cruel and unsafe to keep animals in small cages.
- Increasing cage sizes will reduce the risks of food poisoning and farm pollution.

## People against Prop 12 sav:

- This measure does not go far enough to protect farm animals.
- Prop 12's cagesize rules would not be big enough for all types of egg-laying hens.

#### Initiative Statute

#### DO YOU LIVE IN ONE OF THESE COUNTIES? MADERA – NAPA – NEVADA – SACRAMENTO – SAN MATEO

Keep reading if you live in Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento or San Mateo County. There are big changes as to how you cast your ballot for the November general election. You will have more days and more ways to vote!

If you are already registered to vote, you will automatically receive your ballot in the mail a few weeks before the election. Most neighborhood polling places will no longer be used for voting. Instead, you have 3 choices for how to vote.



## **VOTE-BY-MAIL**

You can fill in and mail back your ballot as soon as you receive it.



## **BALLOT DROPBOX**

You can drop off your ballot at any secure Ballot Dropbox as soon as you receive it. No postage is required. See the link at the bottom of this page to find a Ballot Dropbox in your county.



## **VOTE CENTER**

You can vote in person by visiting any Vote Center in your county. At every Vote Center you can:

- Vote in person.
- Drop off your completed ballot.
- Vote with an accessible voting machine.
- Get help and voting materials in multiple languages.
- Didn't register in time? At a Vote Center you can sign up and vote on the same day all the way through Election Day.



#### WHEN VOTE CENTERS ARE OPEN

All Vote Centers will be open for at least 4 days from Saturday, November 3 through Tuesday, November 6.

Some Vote Centers will be open for 11 days starting Saturday, October 27.

## FIND A BALLOT DROPBOX OR VOTE CENTER AT VOTERSCHOICE.SOS.CA.GOV LEARN MORE AT VOTERSCHOICE.ORG

# 🚖 Easy Voter Guide



## SIGN UP

- You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older.
- You must register to get on the official list of voters in your county. The deadline to register is October 22 to vote in the November 6 election.
- You can pick up a voter registration form at your library or post office, have a registration form mailed to you by calling 1-800-345-8683, or fill out the form online at registertovote.ca.gov
- Missed the deadline? You can still register and vote in this election at special locations. Check with your County Elections Office.
- Once you are on the list, you only need to re-register if you change your address, change your name, want to change your political party, or because you are no longer in prison or on parole for a felony.

# 2

## **GET READY**

- Before you vote, it helps to learn about what you will be voting on.
- All registered voters receive two things in the mail:
  - 1) a County Voter Information Guide that lists everything that will be on your ballot along with where you vote (your "polling place")
  - 2) a second Voter Information Guide from the state about statewide candidates and measures
- In addition to this *Easy Voter Guide*, you can visit the *Voter's Edge California* website at votersedge.org for more information about everything on your ballot plus a handy way to find your polling place.





- You choose whether to vote at your polling place or use a "vote by mail" ballot.
- For voting in person on Tuesday, November 6, the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You may also be able to vote before Election Day. Check with your County Elections Office.
- To vote by mail, use the form in your County Voter Information Guide to request a "vote by mail" ballot to be sent to you. The deadline to ask for one is October 30. When your "vote by mail" ballot comes, fill it out and mail it back so *that it is postmarked no later than Election Day*. You may also drop it off at any polling place in your county on Election Day. You can sign up to get a "vote by mail" ballot for every election.

Do you live in Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento or San Mateo County? If so, read page 11 for important changes to the way you vote!

#### ABOUT THE EASY VOTER GUIDE

The Easy Voter Guide has been providing new voters and busy voters with nonpartisan information for statewide elections in California since 1994. Community reviewers help ensure the guide is easy to read and understand. The proposition explanations in this guide are based on information from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. The arguments for and against each proposition are taken from the arguments in the Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guide and other sources.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information presented in the Easy Voter Guide. Additional information made available after the guide is printed and any other corrections are posted at easyvoterguide.org. Please send questions or suggestions about this guide to easyvoter@lwvc.org.

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