2020
STUDENT VOTER GUIDE

PROP 14: STEM CELL RESEARCH
PROP 15: BUSINESS PROPERTY TAXES
PROP 16: RESTORING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
PROP 17: LETTING PAROLEES VOTE
PROP 18: VOTING AT AGE 17
PROP 19: PORTABLE PROPERTY TAX BREAK
PROP 20: CRACKDOWN ON CRIME
PROP 21: RENT CONTROL
PROP 22: GIG WORKER BENEFITS
PROP 23: KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINIC RULES
PROP 24: MORE DATA PRIVACY
PROP 25: ABOLISHING CASH BAIL
PROP 14: STEM CELL RESEARCH

WHAT

PROP. 14 WOULD GENERATE FUNDING TO KEEP THE STATE’S OWN STEM CELL AGENCY, THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE, OPEN AND EXPAND ITS RESEARCH CAPACITY, INCLUDING DEDICATING $1.5 BILLION FOR ALZHEIMER’S, PARKINSON’S, STROKE, EPILEPSY, AND OTHER BRAIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DISEASES. FUNDS WOULD ALSO BE ALLOCATED FOR OTHER RESEARCH, MEDICAL TRAINING, BUILDING NEW RESEARCH FACILITIES, AND EXPANDING TREATMENT ACCESS.

HOW

THE STATE WOULD SELL INVESTORS BONDS WORTH $5.5 BILLION, AND TAXPAYERS WOULD THEN PAY BACK THOSE BONDS, WITH INTEREST, OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS.

COST

ESTIMATED COST: $7.8 BILLION

SUPPORT:

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
THE LATINO CANCER INSTITUTE
THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON’S RESEARCH
SICKLE CELL DISEASE FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF REGENTS

OPPOSE:

JEFF SHEEHY, BOARD MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
PROP 15: BUSINESS PROPERTY TAXES

WHAT
PROP 15 RAISES PROPERTY TAXES ON BIG BUSINESSES TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

HOW
CURRENTLY, OWNERS PAY PROPERTY TAXES BASED ON THE PRICE THEY ORIGINALLY PAID FOR THAT REAL ESTATE, OFTEN TIMES AN AMOUNT MUCH LESS THAN WHAT IT’S WORTH TODAY. IF THIS MEASURE PASSES, PROPERTY TAXES FOR MANY LARGE BUSINESSES WOULD BE ELEVATED TO THE PROPERTY’S CURRENT, LIKELY HIGHER, VALUE, RESULTING IN $6.5 TO $11.5 BILLION, 60% OF WHICH WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR CITIES, COUNTIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS, AND 40% FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

COST
INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES WORTH MORE THAN $3 MILLION PROVIDING $6.5 BILLION TO $11.5 BILLION IN NEW FUNDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOLS. NOT (DIRECTLY) AFFECTED: HOMEOWNERS, AND BUSINESSES WITH UNDER $3 MILLION IN CALIFORNIA PROPERTY. FARM LAND WOULD BE EXEMPT.

SUPPORT:
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
JOE BIDEN
MARK ZUCKERBERG

OPPOSE:
CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CALIFORNIA NAACP
CALIFORNIA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
HOWARD JARVIS TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
PROP 16: RESTORING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

WHAT

PROP. 16 RESTORES AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN CALIFORNIA, WHICH MEANS THAT UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES COULD FACTOR IN ONE’S RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETHNICITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN MAKING HIRING, SPENDING, AND ADMISSIONS DECISIONS.

HOW

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HAS BEEN ILLEGAL IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1996, WHEN VOTERS APPROVED A PROPOSITION BANNING IT. PROP. 16 DOES NOT CREATE RACIAL QUOTAS IN UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS, WHICH WERE BANNED BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IN 1978.

COST

NO DIRECT FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE AND LOCAL ENTITIES. POSSIBLE FISCAL EFFECTS WOULD DEPEND ON FUTURE CHOICES BY STATE AND LOCAL ENTITIES TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES OR PROGRAMS THAT CONSIDER RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETHNICITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, AND PUBLIC CONTRACTING.

SUPPORT:

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

OPPOSE:

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY
CALIFORNIANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS
CHINESE AMERICAN CIVIC ACTION ALLIANCE
STUDENTS FOR FAIR ADMISSIONS
PROP 17: LETTING PAROLEES VOTE

WHAT

PROP. 17 WOULD ALLOW PEOPLE ON PAROLE IN CALIFORNIA TO VOTE. IT ALSO WOULD ALLOW PAROLEES TO RUN FOR OFFICE IF THEY ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE AND HAVEN’T BEEN CONVICTED OF PERJURY OR BRIBERY.

HOW

CALIFORNIA CURRENTLY PROHIBITS STATE PRISONERS AND PAROLEES FROM VOTING. PEOPLE SERVING THEIR SENTENCES IN COUNTY JAILS CAN VOTE, UNLESS THEY ARE TRANSFERRING TO A STATE OR FEDERAL PRISON, OR THEY ARE SERVING TIME FOR A PAROLE VIOLATION.

COST

INCREASED ANNUAL COUNTY COSTS, LIKELY IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS STATEWIDE, FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND BALLOT MATERIALS. INCREASED ONE-TIME STATE COSTS, LIKELY IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS AND SYSTEMS.

SUPPORT:

CALIFORNIANS FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN CALIFORNIA

OPPOSE:

CRIME VICTIMS UNITED OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT CALIFORNIA
PROP 18:
VOTING AT AGE 17

WHAT
PROP. 18 WOULD ALLOW 17-YEAR-OLDS TO VOTE IN PRIMARY AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS IF THEY WILL BE 18 AND ELIGIBLE BY THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HOW
CURRENTLY, VOTERS MUST BE 18 TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL ELECTION. THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WOULD ALSO ALLOW 17-YEAR-OLDS WHO QUALIFY TO VOTE UNDER THIS PROPOSITION TO SEEK OFFICE, BECAUSE REGISTERED VOTERS CAN RUN FOR ELECTED POSITIONS.

COST
INCREASED COSTS FOR COUNTIES, LIKELY BETWEEN SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND $1 MILLION EVERY TWO YEARS, TO SEND AND PROCESS VOTING MATERIALS TO ELIGIBLE REGISTERED 17-YEAR-OLDS. INCREASED ONE-TIME COSTS TO THE STATE IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO UPDATE EXISTING VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEMS.

SUPPORT:
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
CALIFORNIA SCHOOLBOARDS ASSOCIATION
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
SECRETARY OF STATE ALEX PADILLA

OPPOSE:
ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT CALIFORNIA
HOWARD JARVIS TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
PROP 19: PORTABLE PROPERTY TAX BREAK

WHAT

PROP 19 WOULD GIVE CALIFORNIANS AGE 55 OR OLDER A PROPERTY TAX BREAK WHEN BUYING A NEW HOME. TO FUND THAT NEW TAX BREAK, IT WOULD CURTAIL A SEPARATE TAX BREAK CALIFORNIANS MAY RECEIVE ON HOMES INHERITED FROM PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS.

HOW

WHEN CALIFORNIANS PURCHASE A NEW HOME, THEIR PROPERTY TAXES TYPICALLY INCREASE GREATLY, BECAUSE PROPERTY TAXES HERE ARE BASED MOSTLY ON THE VALUE OF ONE’S HOME WHEN IT WAS PURCHASED, NOT ITS CURRENT MARKET VALUE. FURTHERMORE, UNDER CURRENT LAW, A CALIFORNIAN WHO INHERITS A HOME CAN STILL PAY PROPERTY TAX LOCKED IN AT THEIR PARENTS' RATES. PROP. 19 WOULD REQUIRE THAT ADULT HEIRS WHO WANT TO KEEP THEIR LOW PROPERTY TAX BILL WILL NEED TO LIVE IN THEIR INHERITED HOME.

COST

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOLS COULD GAIN TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE PER YEAR, WHICH COULD GROW OVER TIME TO A FEW HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR. REVENUE FROM OTHER TAXES COULD INCREASE BY TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR THE STATE, A MAJORITY OF WHICH WOULD BE SPENT ON FIRE PROTECTION.

SUPPORT:

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CALIFORNIA NURSES ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM

OPPOSE:

HOWARD JARVIS TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
PROP 20: CRACKDOWN ON CRIME

WHAT

PROP. 20 WOULD INCREASE PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY CRIMES AND REPEATED PAROLE VIOLATIONS AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SOME CONVICTED FELONS TO QUALIFY FOR EARLY PAROLE AND RELEASE FROM PRISON.

HOW

PROP. 20 WOULD GIVE PROSECUTORS FLEXIBILITY TO CHARGE SOME PROPERTY CRIMES OF MORE THAN $250, SUCH AS “SERIAL SHOPLIFTING” AND CAR THEFT, AS FELONIES RATHER THAN MISDEMEANORS. IT WOULD INCREASE PENALTIES FOR FORMER INMATES WHO VIOLATE THE TERMS OF THEIR SUPERVISED RELEASE THREE TIMES, MAKING IT MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE SENT BACK TO JAIL OR PRISON. IT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COLLECT DNA SAMPLES FROM PEOPLE CONVICTED OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS, INCLUDING SHOPLIFTING, FORGERY, AND ILLEGAL DRUG POSSESSION, TO BE STORED IN A STATE DATABASE. AND PROP. 20 WOULD DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FELONIES THAT DISQUALIFY PRISON INMATES FROM BEING ABLE TO APPLY FOR EARLY PAROLE CONSIDERATION.

COST

INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL CORRECTIONAL COSTS LIKELY IN THE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY, PRIMARILY DUE TO INCREASES IN COUNTY JAIL POPULATIONS AND LEVELS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION. INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL COURT-RELATED COSTS THAT COULD BE MORE THAN SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS NOT LIKELY TO BE MORE THAN A FEW MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY RELATED TO COLLECTING AND PROCESSING DNA SAMPLES.

SUPPORT:

CALIFORNIA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM COOPER
REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLYMEMBER VINCE FONG

OPPOSE:

ACLU OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
PROP 21: RENT CONTROL

WHAT
PROP. 21 WOULD ALLOW CITIES TO PASS RENT CONTROL MEASURES ON NEARLY ALL RENTAL HOUSING, AS LONG AS IT IS MORE THAN 15 YEARS OLD.

HOW
LAST YEAR, CALIFORNIA ENACTED A LAW CAPPING ANNUAL RENT INCREASES AT AROUND 8%. BUT ANOTHER, OLDER STATE LAW DOES NOT ALLOW CITIES TO ENACT THEIR OWN STRICTER RENT CONTROL LAWS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES OR RENTAL HOUSING FIRST OCCUPIED IN THE PAST 25 YEARS, NOR CAN CITIES PREVENT LANDLORDS FROM RAISING RENT ON NEW TENANTS TO MARKET RATES.

THERE ARE STILL A FEW EXEMPTIONS IN PROP. 21: CITIES STILL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CAP RENT INCREASES BY LANDLORDS WHO OWN NO MORE THAN TWO SMALL PROPERTIES SUCH AS SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES OR CONDOS.

COST
OVERALL, A POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN STATE AND LOCAL REVENUES IN THE HIGH TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

SUPPORT:
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
EVICTION DEFENSE NETWORK
VERMONT SEN. BERNIE SANDERS

OPPOSE:
CALIFORNIA APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA SENIORS ADVOCATES LEAGUE
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
PROP 22: GIG WORKER BENEFITS

WHAT
PROP. 22 WOULD EXEMPT APP-BASED TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY COMPANIES FROM A NEW STATE LAW REQUIRING THEM TO TREAT WORKERS AS EMPLOYEES.

HOW
STATE LAW REQUIRES FORMER CONTRACT WORKERS IN MANY INDUSTRIES TO BE CLASSIFIED AS EMPLOYEES AND OFFERED BENEFITS SUCH AS OVERTIME PAY, HEALTH CARE, PAID SICK LEAVE, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION. IF PROP. 22 PASSES, COMPANIES SUCH AS LYFT, UBER, DOORDASH, AND INSTACART WOULD INSTEAD KEEP WORKERS CLASSIFIED AS CONTRACTORS AND BE ABLE TO OFFER NARROWER BENEFITS.

COST
MINOR INCREASE IN STATE INCOME TAXES PAID BY RIDESHARE AND DELIVERY COMPANY DRIVERS AND INVESTORS.

SUPPORT:
CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CALIFORNIA NAACP
CALIFORNIA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
UBER, LYFT, INSTACART AND DOORDASH

OPPOSE:
CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
GIG WORKERS RISING
JOE BIDEN
KAMALA HARRIS
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
PROP 23: KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINIC RULES

WHAT
PROP. 23 WOULD REQUIRE KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINICS TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PHYSICIAN PRESENT DURING ALL OPERATING HOURS AND TO REPORT INFECTION DATA TO THE STATE. IT ALSO WOULD REQUIRE THAT OPERATORS OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEFORE CLOSING A CLINIC, AND PROHIBIT CLINICS FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST PATIENTS BASED ON INSURANCE TYPE.

HOW
ABOUT 80,000 CALIFORNIANS DEPEND ON KIDNEY DIALYSIS. TWO YEARS AGO, A LABOR UNION INTRODUCED A BALLOT INITIATIVE THAT WOULD HAVE LIMITED CLINICS’ PROFITS. AFTER A VERY EXPENSIVE BATTLE, VOTERS ULTIMATELY SIDED WITH THE DIALYSIS COMPANIES.

COST
INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COSTS LIKELY IN THE LOW TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

SUPPORT:
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
UNITED HEALTH CARE WORKERS

OPPOSE:
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
DAVITA
FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE
PROP 24: MORE DATA PRIVACY

WHAT
PROP. 24 WOULD ALTER CALIFORNIA’S DATA PRIVACY LAW.

HOW
PROP. 24 WOULD PERMIT CONSUMERS TO INFORM BUSINESSES ABOUT HOW TO LIMIT THE USE OF THEIR SENSITIVE DATA; PROHIBIT BUSINESSES FROM HOLDING ONTO A CONSUMER’S DATA FOR LONGER THAN NECESSARY; ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO FINE COMPANIES FOR VIOLATING CHILDREN’S PRIVACY RIGHTS; AND CREATE A NEW STATE AGENCY TO ENFORCE THE PRIVACY LAW.

COST
INCREASED STATE COSTS OF AT LEAST $10 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR A NEW STATE AGENCY TO OVERSEE AND ENFORCE CONSUMER PRIVACY LAWS.

SUPPORT:
COMMON SENSE MEDIA
CONSUMER WATCHDOG

OPPOSE:
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA
DOLORES HUERTA
PUBLIC CITIZEN
PROP 25: ABOLISHING CASH BAIL

WHAT
PROP. 25 WOULD CHANGE HOW PEOPLE GET OUT OF JAIL WHILE AWAITING TRIAL, MAKING CALIFORNIA THE FIRST STATE TO REPLACE CASH BAIL WITH AN ALGORITHM.

HOW
CURRENTLY, WEALTHY RESIDENTS CAN AFFORD CASH BAIL, WHILE POORER PEOPLE EITHER PAY BAIL BOND COMPANIES OR AWAIT TRIAL WHILE IN JAIL. IF PASSED, PROP. 25 WOULD UPHOLD A 2018 LAW THAT AIMED TO ELIMINATE CASH BAIL AND REPLACE IT WITH AN ALGORITHM TO ASSESS A PERSON’S RISK FOR NOT APPEARING AT TRIAL.

COST
INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL COSTS POSSIBLY IN THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR A NEW PROCESS FOR RELEASING PEOPLE FROM JAIL PRIOR TO TRIAL, DECREASED COUNTY JAIL COSTS POSSIBLY IN THE HIGH TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

SUPPORT:
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

OPPOSE:
CALIFORNIA BAIL AGENTS ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

SOURCES: ADAPTED FROM CALIFORNIA OFFICIAL VOTER GUIDE AND CAL MATTERS 2020 ELECTION GUIDE