

Summary of the California Propositions
November 3, 2020 General Election



The California Catholic Conference has taken positions on two ballot measures, opposing both Proposition 14 and 20. Visit our Election Page - <https://cacatholic.org/elections> - for more information on these and all the propositions on the November ballot.

	<p>Issues \$5.5 billion in bonds for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), a state program created in 2004 to fund stem cell research projects, including research involving embryonic stem cells. Proposition 14 also makes changes to the governance structure and programs of the CIRM, including increased efforts and new positions to improve patient access to stem cell treatments.</p> <p>Proposition 14 OPPOSE</p> <p>A YES vote on Proposition 14 means the state could sell \$5.5 billion in general obligation bonds to fund CIRM operations and additional grants.</p> <p>A NO vote on Proposition 14 means the state could not sell such bonds.</p> <p>The California Catholic Conference strongly recommends a NO vote based on moral and ethical objections to using human embryonic stem cells as the raw material for experimentation and inadequate financial accountability and oversight of taxpayer funds.</p>
Proposition 20 OPPOSE	<p>Makes changes to policies related to criminal sentencing charges, prison release, and DNA collection by repealing Prop 47 (2014) and Prop 57 (2016), both supported by the California Bishops. This proposition amends state law to (1) increase penalties for certain theft-related crimes, (2) change the existing nonviolent offender release consideration process, (3) change community supervision practices, and (4) require DNA collection from adults convicted of certain misdemeanors.</p> <p>In the past decade, California voters and lawmakers have enacted more than a dozen bills or ballot initiatives that have prioritized local public safety programs over long prison sentences. These changes have helped the state comply with the federal lawsuit on prison conditions and reduced the prison population by more than 40,000 people while crime rates have remained historically low. The criminal justice reforms have fueled a policy shift reallocating resources toward rehabilitative programs to prepare people in prison to return to the community and expanded trauma recovery services to help crime victims heal.</p> <p>Proposition 20 would repeal this progress and emphasize a more punitive rather than restorative justice system in California.</p> <p>A YES vote on Proposition 20 means the aforementioned changes to state law would be enacted.</p> <p>A NO vote on Proposition 20 means existing law would remain unchanged.</p> <p>The California Catholic Conference strongly urges a NO vote on Proposition 20 based on its dismantling of decades of progress on reforming and improving the criminal justice system.</p>

	<p>Changes the way commercial property taxes are calculated - When Proposition 13 passed, it limited the increase to property tax that a county could require each year. It did this for both residential and commercial property. Counties are allowed to raise property taxes to market value if a property is sold. However, over time, residential property is sold more often than commercial property resulting in residential homeowners assuming a larger percentage of the tax burden compared to commercial property owners.</p> <p>Proposition 15</p> <p>This proposition requires commercial and industrial properties, as well as vacant land not intended for housing, commercial agriculture, or protected open space to be taxed based on their market value (what it could be sold for today), as opposed to their purchase price (which is the standard under existing law). Most of the new revenues from this shift would be allocated to cities, counties, special districts, and schools.</p> <p>A YES vote on Proposition 15 means commercial and industrial properties, and the other properties mentioned above, would shift to a “market value” assessment in a phase-in beginning in 2022-23.</p> <p>A NO vote on Proposition 15 means such properties would continue to be assessed for property tax purposes based on their purchase price.</p>
Proposition 16	<p>Allows the use of affirmative action - Repeals Proposition 209 (1996), which says that the state cannot discriminate or grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, education, or contracting.</p> <p>In 1996, Proposition 209 eliminated affirmative action by amending the California Constitution to prohibit the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.</p> <p>A YES vote on Proposition 16 means the California Constitution would reinstate affirmative action.</p> <p>A NO vote on Proposition 16 means the provisions of the California Constitution enacted by Proposition 209 in 1996 would remain in effect.</p>
Proposition 17	<p>Restores the right to vote to people convicted of felonies who are on parole - This proposition amends the California Constitution to permit an otherwise eligible person who is on parole for the conviction of a felony to register to vote and to vote. Proposition 17 further provides that an individual disqualified from voting while serving a state or federal prison term shall have their right to vote restored upon the completion of their prison term.</p> <p>A YES vote on Proposition means the California Constitution would be amended to allow a person who is on parole for the conviction of a felony to vote.</p> <p>A NO vote on Proposition 17 means an individual would continue to not be eligible to vote until they have completed their parole for a conviction of a felony.</p>

	Allows 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primaries and special elections - This proposition amends the California Constitution to permit a 17-year-old who will be 18 by the time of the next general election to vote at any primary or special election held prior to that general election.
Proposition 18	A YES vote on Proposition 18 means 17-year-olds would be able to vote in primary or special elections if they will be 18 by the time of the general election. A NO vote on Proposition 18 would maintain the current rule that an individual must be at least 18 years old to vote in any local, state, or federal election.
Proposition 19	Changes tax assessment transfers and inheritance rules - Makes a number of changes to California property tax laws. Most notably, Proposition 19 allows “base year value transfers” for disabled taxpayers and those over the age of 55, as well as a victim of a wildfire or other natural disaster, regardless of the replacement property’s value or location, so long as the replacement property is purchased or constructed within two years of the date the original property is sold. Proposition 19 also limits or reduces existing rules that exempt parent-child or grandparent-grandchild exclusions from change in ownership rules affecting property taxes. A YES vote on Proposition 19 would enact the above-mentioned (as well as other) changes to California’s property tax laws. A NO vote on Proposition 19 means the existing property tax rules would remain in place.
Proposition 21	Expands local governments' power to use rent control - “Rent control” laws limit how much landlords can increase rents for housing from one year to the next. This proposition allows cities and counties to apply local “rent control” laws to more properties than under current law. A YES vote on Proposition 21 would allow cities and counties to apply local rent control laws more broadly to more types of properties. A NO vote on Proposition 21 means existing limitations on local rent control laws would remain in place.
Proposition 22	Considers app-based drivers for companies such as Uber and Lyft to be independent contractors and enacts several labor policies related to app-based companies - This proposition establishes different criteria for determining whether app-based transportation (rideshare) and delivery drivers are “employees” or “independent contractors” under state employment laws, and would classify such drivers as independent contractors where certain criteria are met. A YES vote on Proposition 22 means that app-based transportation and delivery drivers are independent contractors where certain criteria are met. A NO vote on Proposition 22 means the determination of whether such drivers are employees or independent contractors would continue to be made under existing law.

	Requires physician on-site at dialysis clinics and consent from the state for a clinic to close - This proposition establishes minimum staffing and other requirements for outpatient kidney dialysis clinics. Proposition 8 in 2018 also dealt with dialysis clinics. The proposition did not pass in 2018 and is being offered again by its proponents.
Proposition 23	A YES vote on Proposition 23 means kidney dialysis clinics would be required to operate under the new requirements. A NO vote on Proposition 23 means kidney dialysis treatments could continue to operate under existing rules and standards.
	Expands the provisions of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency to implement and enforce the CCPA - This proposition amends existing state law related to the protection of consumer personal information, and creates a new state agency to enforce consumer privacy laws.
Proposition 24	A YES vote on Proposition 24 means these changes would be enacted and would generally go into effect in January 2023. A NO vote on Proposition 24 means existing law related to consumer privacy would remain in effect unchanged.

The California Catholic Conference (CCC) is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in California. We advocate with policy makers and the public to advance the Catholic vision of human life and dignity, the good of society, and concern for those who are poor and vulnerable. We educate Catholics and the general public. We empower Catholics to put their faith into action consistent with Catholic teaching.

