

California Propositions 2020

Racial Equity Impact

The following slides review 4 California propositions on the November ballot with consideration for the racial equity impact of each proposition.

This document was prepared by the Coalition For Racial Equity, a group of concerned St. Ignatius parishioners. This document does not reflect the position of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish or the Diocese of Sacramento with regard to Proposition 16, Proposition 20, Proposition 21, and Proposition 25. St. Ignatius Parish does not endorse or oppose any ballot proposition, political party, or candidate in the 2020 General Election.

Proposition 16: Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment

My YES Vote supports this constitutional amendment to repeal Proposition 209 (1996), which stated that the government and public institutions cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting.

My No Vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thereby keeping Proposition 209 (1996), which stated that the government and public institutions cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting.

Racial Equity Impact

Reinstate equal opportunity programs that make access to education and jobs more equitable for people of color in government and public institutions.

Racial Equity Impact

Maintain current policies that limit education and job opportunities for people of color. Fails to address legacy of institutional bias in public employment, public education and public contracting.

Discrimination is already illegal under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The UC Regents have already voted to restore affirmative action and voted to eliminate current standardized testing requirements because they unfairly disadvantage students based on race, income and parental education levels. Race-neutral admissions has led to disproportionate underrepresentation of students and faculty of color.

Legacy admissions is a common form of affirmative action benefiting predominantly white students.

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/07/case-affirmative-action>

Proposition 20 Criminal Sentencing, Parole and DNA Collection State Statue, Constitutional Amendment

My Yes Vote Means

- Increased state and local correction costs likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually related to increases in county jail populations and levels of supervision.
- Stricter sentencing and parole laws for certain misdemeanors
- A YES vote repeals progress made for a restorative justice system.
- Emphasizes a more punitive system.

My No Vote Means

- No change to criminal sentencing laws currently in place that were voted in between 2011 and 2016
- No financial impact
- A NO vote means existing law would remain unchanged.

Racial Equity Impact

- Rejects bipartisan criminal justice reforms previously passed by voters and legislators.
- Longer sentences and probation negatively and disproportionately effects people of color.

Racial Equity Impact

- California Catholic Conference OPPOSES this proposition
- Does not negatively and disproportionately effects people of color with harsher sentences, felony changes and longer probation.
- Supports bipartisan Federal and State legislation for criminal justice reform.

Proposition 21: Expands Local Governments Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property

My Yes Vote Means

State law would allow cities and counties to apply more kinds of rent control to more properties than under current law. (5)

My No Vote Means

State law would maintain current limits on the rent control laws cities and counties can apply. (5)

Racial Equity Impact: Rent control provides greater protection for economically challenged renters and people of color who are disproportionately renters, from steeply increased rent. Rent control will help renters to remain in their homes.

Racial Equity Impact: Rents will continue to increase on more properties under current state, city and county laws and with a disproportionately negative impact communities of color. Steeply increasing rents disproportionately impact communities of color and put more of our brethren at risk of being unable to pay increasing rents. 64.4% of California renters are African American and 57% are Hispanic. (1) These communities are more economically challenged as a group. Unemployment rates in California for Q2 2020 are 3.4% for whites, 6.0% for African Americans and 5.4% for Hispanics. (2) Median income in Sacramento for whites is \$75,490, for African Americans, \$49,959, and for Hispanics \$59,919. (3) African Americans comprise only 5.5% of California's population but 30% of the unhoused. (4)

1) Snapshot of Tenants in California 2019, Tenants Together, California's Organization for Renter's Rights (2) Economic Policy Institute, State Unemployment by Race and Ethnicity, Q1 & Q2, August 2020 (3) Be Healthy Sacramento, 2020 Demographics (4) Homeless Policy Research Institute, State of Homelessness in California Fact Sheet (5) Official Voter Information Guide, California General Election, November 3, 2020

Proposition 25: Replace Cash Bail with Risk Assessments Referendum

My Yes Vote Means

California would be the first state to end the use of cash bail for all detained suspects awaiting trials. The proposition would uphold Senate Bill 10, replacing the state's cash bail system with risk assessments to determine whether a detained suspect should be granted pretrial release and under what conditions.

My No Vote Means

California would vote to rescind Senate Bill 10. This would reinstate the policy to have suspects pay a cash bond to be released from jail pending trial with the promise to return to court for trial and hearings.

Racial Equity Impact

Replacing the cash bail system will make the justice system more equitable for low income and people of color who lack the financial means to post bail. This will allow people without financial means who are charged, but presumed innocent, to not have to await trial in jail.

Racial Equity Impact

The cash bail system has resulted in wealth-based incarceration. Cash bail has a disproportionate impact on people of color and economically challenged people who lack the means to post bail. Retaining this system means low income and people of color may remain in in jail for months between the time of arrest and the beginning of a trial, risking loss of income, housing and inability to manage family obligations.