

A photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento, featuring a prominent dome and classical architectural details like columns and a pediment. The building is set against a clear blue sky with some trees in the foreground.

ROSE INSTITUTE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT VIDEO VOTER SERIES

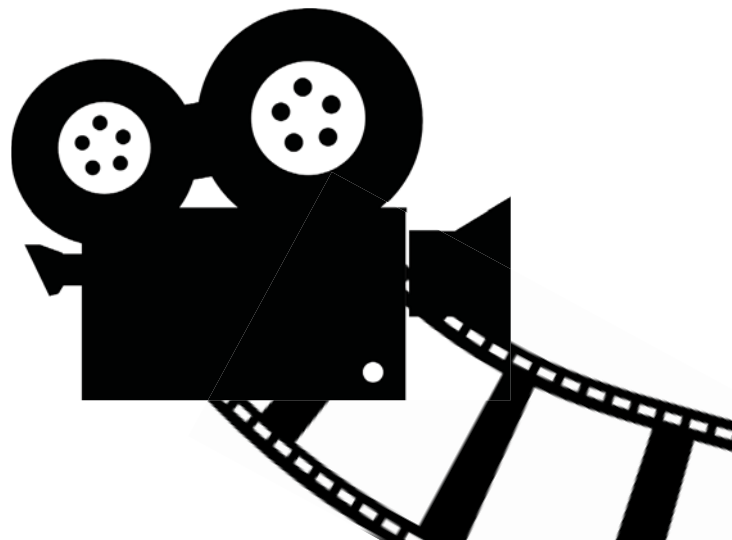
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A GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES BY TIMOTHY PLUMMER '17

California voters will be confronted with seventeen ballot propositions this November. The Rose Institute of State and Local Government's *Video Voter: A Guide to California Ballot Measures* is designed to help voters make informed decisions on each of these measures. The non-partisan project explains each proposition with an accessible, online educational video and written analysis. The videos and written summaries make clear what a yes or no vote means, present major arguments for and against the measure, and identify main supporters and opponents. *Video Voter: A Guide to California Ballot Measures* is available at www.RoseInstitute.org.

Four kinds of measures appear on the ballot this year: initiative statute, initiative constitutional amendment, advisory question, and referendum. The first type, initiative statute, is a law proposed by citizens and enacted or rejected via direct popular vote. Most of the propositions this year are initiative statutes, including a requirement for the use of condoms on pornographic film sets, a repeal of the death penalty, and the legalization of marijuana. The second kind of ballot measure is an **initiative constitutional amendment**, which is an amendment to the California Constitution proposed by citizens and approved or rejected by popular vote. Prop.

53, which would require the state to get voter approval before issuing revenue bonds for certain very large projects, is an initiative constitutional amendment. Some measures on the ballot contain both constitutional and statutory provisions. The third type of ballot measure, **legislative advisory question**, asks the citizens to vote on a non-binding question. This year, the Legislature has asked voters to register their opinion on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, a U.S. Supreme Court decision that limits the government's ability to restrict independent political expenditures. Finally, the ballot contains one **referendum**, which allows voters to approve or reject a statute already enacted by the Legislature. Prop. 67 asks voters to decide the fate of a statute that



prohibits grocery and other stores from providing customers with single-use plastic bags.

Propositions can be placed on the California ballot in two ways. The first is through citizen petition. Proponents must obtain signatures equivalent to 5 percent of the votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election for initiative statutes and referendums and 8 percent for initiative constitutional amendments. Due to low turnout in the 2014 gubernatorial race, this election cycle has the lowest signature requirement since 1982. The number of signatures required is 585,407 for an initiative constitutional amendment and 365,880 for an initiative statute or referendum. The second way measures reach the ballot is by legislative referral, whereby the Legislature asks voters to approve or reject a ballot measure. The Legislature can do this with constitutional amendments, bond measures, and statutes. Only two of this year’s seventeen ballot measures –Prop. 58 and Prop. 59—were placed on the ballot by the Legislature.

Ken Miller, Associate Director of the Rose Institute and a member of the Government Department at Claremont McKenna College, supervised the project. He notes that California has a long history of direct democracy and that the large number of measures on the ballot this year makes it challenging for voters to be informed on all of them. “This is a wonderful opportunity for the Rose Institute to do something to help voters learn about all the many ballot propositions. At the same time, it is great for our students to research these ballot measures and really understand how this process works in California.”

Professor Miller worked in partnership with Bob Stern, retired co-founder and president of the Center for Governmental Studies, a California-based political think tank. Cameron Grimm, of the Office of Public Affairs and Communications at CMC, filmed and produced each of the videos. Joanne Young and Lorraine Wang from CMC also contributed to the final product. CMC sophomore Alec Lopata led a team of nine undergraduate students to research and produce *Video Voter: A Guide to California Ballot Measures*. Watch the videos and learn more at www.RoseInstitute.org.

Pictured Below: Alec Lopata '19, Project Manager
Photo Credit: Cameron Grimm



Pictured Above: Grace Lee '17, Research Assistant
Photo Credit: Cameron Grimm

HEALTHCARE



Watch the videos to learn more at www.RoseInstitute.org

| Proposition | Description | Supporting | Opposing |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| 52 | Locks in the state's current hospital fee program, which helps California secure federal Medicaid funds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA Hospital Association CA Chamber of Commerce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEIU-UHW Californians for Hospital Accountability and Quality Care |
| 60 | Places new regulations on California's adult film industry, including a requirement that performers wear condoms and other protective devices during filming. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDS Healthcare Foundation American Sexual Health Association California State Association of Occupational Health Nurses For Adult Industry Responsibility (FAIR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener California Democratic and Republican Parties Free Speech Coalition Adult Performer Advocacy Committee (APAC) |
| 61 | Requires California to buy certain drugs at prices no higher than the prices paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AIDS Healthcare Foundation California Nurses Association AARP California | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major pharmaceutical companies California Medical Association Various veterans groups |

| Proposition | Description | Supporting | Opposing |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| 57 | Gives nonviolent felons greater opportunities for early release and parole, and gives judges, rather than prosecutors, power to decide whether to try juveniles in adult court. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gov. Jerry Brown LA Police Chief Charlie Beck CA State Law Enforcement Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 of the state's 58 district attorneys, 26 sheriffs, many law enforcement associations, numerous Republican elected officials. |
| 62 | Abolishes the death penalty in California and makes the state's most severe sentence life in prison without possibility of parole. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson |
| 63 | Establishes new, more restrictive regulations on guns and ammunition in California. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence California Democratic Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Rifle Association California Republican Party California Rifle & Pistol Association |
| 64 | Legalizes marijuana for general use in California and would tax and regulate the marijuana industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Policy Alliance ACLU of California | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Hospital Association California Police Chiefs Association |
| 66 | Makes it easier for the state to enforce the death penalty. Competes with Proposition 62, which would abolish capital punishment in California. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA District Attorneys Association CA Correctional Peace Officers Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom Former LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa |

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Watch the videos to learn more at www.RoseInstitute.org



TAXES AND STATE BORROWING

| Proposition | Description | Supporting | Opposing |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| 53 | Gives voters the right to vote on state-issued revenue bonds totaling more than \$2 billion for a project, such as the state's high-speed rail project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean Cortopassi, a wealthy Central Valley grower California Republican Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Jerry Brown California Chamber of Commerce |
| 55 | Extends the temporary increase in the state personal income tax for high earners that voters approved in 2012 and provides additional money to public education and health care programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Democratic Party California Teachers Association California Hospital Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Republican Party California Taxpayers Association California Chamber of Commerce |
| 56 | Raises the tax on all tobacco products in California by \$2 and uses most of the new revenues to fund health care and smoking prevention programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Hospital Association California Medical Association American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network California Democratic Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Taxpayers Association California Republican Party R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Phillip Morris USA |

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ENVIRONMENT

| Proposition | Description | Supporting | Opposing |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| 65 | Uses proceeds from state-mandated sales of reusable bags to fund environmental programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The American Progressive Bag Alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Californians Against Waste |
| 67 | Prohibits stores from providing customers single-use plastic bags and would require stores to charge customers a minimum of 10 cents for each paper or reusable bag. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental organizations Grocery store industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Progressive Bag Alliance Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association |

EDUCATION

| Proposition | Description | Supporting | Opposing |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| 51 | Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for construction and renovation of facilities at K-12 schools, vocational education programs, and community colleges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Industry • Construction Trade Unions • Democratic Party • Republican Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Jerry Brown • California Taxpayers and Educators • Opposed to Sprawl and Developer Abuse • California Taxpayers Action Network |
| 58 | Makes it easier for public schools to provide bilingual education programs by overturning Prop. 227, the English-only measure voters approved in 1998. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Teachers Association • California Democratic Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Unz • California Republican Party |

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OTHER MEASURES

| Proposition | Description | Supporting | Opposing |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| 54 | Requires the legislature to publish bills online for 72 hours before final votes and expand access to audiovisual recordings of proceedings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles T. Munger • California Common Cause • California NAACP • California League of Women Voters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Democratic Party • California Labor Federation |
| 59 | Advisory question asking voters whether they support the reversal of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010) and related court rulings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Common Cause • California Labor Federation • U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Senator Jeff Stone • Assemblymember K.H. Achadjian • League of Women Voters of California |