



VOTER GUIDE

California Ballot Initiatives 2008

YES on Prop 1A: High-Speed Train Bond Act

would allow the state to sell \$9.95 billion in bonds to create a high-speed train between San Francisco and LA, to be completed in 2030. A high-speed rail will make California travel faster and easier, reducing environmental damage and air pollution by keeping hundreds of cars off the road every day.

YES on Prop 3: Children's Hospital Bond Act

would allow the state to sell \$980 million in bonds to expand and improve the infrastructure of public and nonprofit children's hospitals. Children's hospitals serve as a safety net, providing low-cost care for critically ill children from low-income and uninsured families.

NO! on Prop 4: Parental Notification for Abortion

would require notification of a parent or guardian before a woman under age 18 could terminate a pregnancy. California voters rejected similar proposals in 2005 and 2006. It simply doesn't work to try mandating family communication by law. Parental notification would put teens at risk by pushing some young women — those who don't have safe and caring family situations — to make desperate and dangerous choices.

YES on Prop 5: Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act

would create drug rehabilitation programs for youth and re-direct many nonviolent offenders to drug treatment programs rather than prisons. This measure would reduce overcrowding and costs in the prison system and help youth get their lives on track so they can participate positively in their communities.

NO! on Prop 6: Runner Initiative

would require that young teens be sent to adult prisons for any gang-related convictions, impose harsher criminal penalties and subject recipients of public housing assistance to criminal background checks. This measure would take millions of dollars directly from health, education and environmental protection programs to support purely punitive changes that unfairly target youth and low-income families.

NO on Prop 7: Solar and Renewable Energy

would make changes to laws governing renewable energy markets and require California utility companies to produce half their power from renewable sources by 2025. While its goal is good, this measure is poorly written and risks driving small renewable energy companies out of the market and raising consumer prices. Labor and environmental groups generally oppose this measure.

NO! on Prop 8: Same Sex Marriage Ban

would amend the California Constitution to define marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. This measure would enshrine discrimination in California's Constitution, denying gays and lesbians an equal right to the bond and responsibility of marriage.

NO on Prop 9: Marsy's Law

would expand the legal rights of crime victims, forbid the early release of any inmates to relieve overcrowding and impose tighter parole restrictions. This measure would unnecessarily keep people housed in prisons longer, including nonviolent offenders.

NO on Prop 10: Alternative Fuels

would authorize \$5 billion in bonds and taxpayer dollars for the state to purchase natural gas vehicles and invest in development of alternative energy technologies. This measure over-emphasizes natural gas to the detriment of other cleaner energy solutions — it is not a wise investment of limited resources.

NO on Prop 11: Redistricting

would amend the California Constitution to create a citizen redistricting commission. A citizen commission might be less self-interested than legislators, but it would also lack any accountability. Research shows that campaign finance reform and open primaries would better reduce partisanship.

YES on Prop 12: Veterans Bond Act

would authorize \$900 million in bonds to assist veterans with homeownership.