



BLACK WOMEN  
FOR WELLNESS  
ACTION PROJECT



# CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION

*Guide*



2022



IT'S ELECTION SEASON AND THIS YEAR VOTERS ARE BEING ASKED TO WEIGHT IN ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT PROPOSITION RANGING FROM REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AMENDMENTS TO K-12 ARTS EDUCATION FUNDING. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOICES HEARD. TO HELP MAKE SENSE OF WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT, BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT HAS CREATED THIS GUIDE TO THE 2022 BALLOT.

## **OUR ANALYSIS**

Propositions and laws can deeply impact our community which is why we offer this guide. Our recommendations come from a place that centers Black women and girls in our analysis, we are unapologetic about the community we serve. If you have questions on the logistics of voting this year, please be sure to check out our voter information guide on how to vote this fall.

## **BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT**

Black Women for Wellness Action Project is the first Black women's reproductive justice 501(c)4 in the country. We are on a mission to build the political and electoral power of Black women throughout California.

## **WHAT ARE PROPOSITIONS**

Over 1,200 propositions have been put in front of California voters since 1912. California was the 10th state to adopt the initiative process in 1911. Twenty-six states have some form of citizen initiative. Propositions are a double-edge sword, on one hand they are a way for everyday citizens to supersede the legislative process and go straight to the voters to enact change; on the other hand they allow for really wealthy people and organizations to make dramatic changes to California laws.

In addition to changing laws, the proposition process serves another purpose. The California Constitution requires that general obligation bonds of \$300,000 or more be referred to voters for approval. Between 1993 and 2018, California has had 39 bond measures to vote on, and we approved 31 of them.

Any changes to a ballot initiative whether it is a bond or a proposition, requires another public vote unless specifically outlined in the proposition itself.



## **PROPOSITION 1: CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM**

### **What does it do:**

Proposition 1 would amend the California Constitution to say that the state cannot deny or interfere with a person's reproductive freedom and that people have the fundamental right to have an abortion and to choose whether or not to use contraceptives.

### **What does it mean:**

After the Supreme Court Dobb's decision, the issue of abortion access went back to the states as a state issue. Although California has very good laws on the books around reproductive access, given what's happening in the country around abortion access, there is urgency around making sure that California is protected as a reproductive freedom state regardless who is in our legislature. State constitutional amendments are very hard to amend, and this one will enshrine the right to abortion and contraceptive care in our constitutional amendment.

Although we are an enthusiastic yes for this proposition, we are a bit disappointed that the language is not more expansive in its design. Given that it is a constitutional amendment we would have loved to see more pieces around gender equity and explicit dedication to racial equity in reproductive freedom.

### **RECOMMENDATION: YES**





## **PROPOSITION 26 AND PROPOSITION 27**

**PROPOSITION 26: LEGALIZE SPORTS BETTING AT AMERICAN INDIAN GAMING CASINOS AND LICENSED RACETRACKS IN CALIFORNIA.**

**PROPOSITION 27: ALLOW ONLINE AND MOBILE SPORTS BETTING OUTSIDE OF TRIBAL LANDS.**

### **What does it do:**

Proposition 26 would legalize sports betting at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed racetracks in California. Proposition 27 would allow online and mobile sports betting outside of tribal lands

### **What does it mean:**

So have you ever seen a family fighting outside and been like I'm not sure what to do here. This is what these two propositions feel like, where several California indigenous tribes are having a very public fight about gambling.

So what's going on with these propositions? To put it plainly, both prop 26/27 expand the ways people can gamble in California. Right now, California does not allow legalized betting on sports games. These propositions are two different ways of trying to legalize sports betting. 1) is through casinos and racetracks and the other is via online through your computer or phone.

In short, we feel like more ways to gamble is just going to hurt communities in the long run. There is research showing that online gambling is addictive and can lead to a host of negative social issues.

Although we want to support tribes in California, we think there are other ways California can support all tribes with policy that isn't a constitutional amendment (not just the ones who would benefit from the gambling).

**RECOMMENDATION: NO ON BOTH**



## **PROPOSITION 28: ART AND MUSIC K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING INITIATIVE**

### **What does it do:**

Proposition 28 requires the state to allocate funding for arts education programs to K-12 public schools, including charter schools.

Distribution of funding would utilize a formula based on enrollment in preschool and K-12 and their share of low-income students enrolled statewide

### **What does it mean:**

This is a pretty straightforward proposition. It requires that the state allocate money for the arts for public schools including charter schools.

We know that art and music is important to a host of different types of development. Making sure that all public schools have access to the arts is a win for all of our children.

### **RECOMMENDATION: YES**





## **PROPOSITION 29: DIALYSIS CLINIC REQUIREMENTS INITIATIVE**

### **What does it do:**

Proposition 29 would enact staffing requirements, reporting requirements, ownership disclosure, and closing requirements for chronic dialysis clinics, including:

- Requiring clinics to have at least one physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant - with at least six months of experience with end-stage renal disease care - onsite during patient treatments;
- Requiring clinics to report dialysis-related infections to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH);
- Requiring clinics to provide patients with a list of physicians with an ownership interest of 5 percent or more in the clinic;
- Requiring clinics to provide the CDPH with a list of persons with ownership interest of 5 percent or more in the clinic; and
- Requiring clinics to obtain the CDPH's written consent before closing or substantially reducing services to patients.

The ballot initiative would also prohibit clinics from refusing to care for a patient based on the patient's form of payment, whether the patient is an individual payer, the patient's health insurer, Medi-Cal, Medicaid, or Medicare

### **What does it mean:**

This is the remix of the remix of the remix of a dialysis proposition that was introduced a couple of elections ago.

In short, our dialysis clinics are in deep need of regulation and reform. Staff are overworked, with not enough time to do the proper care and cleaning of equipment. This leads to an unnecessary amount of infection and death due to issues that are preventable.

The two major Dialysis centers have been fighting both in the legislature and through propositions for any reform to how they do business. Given the amount of influence that Dialysis money has in Sacramento, the Union of the staff workers in Dialysis centers are trying again to get reform through a ballot measure that goes straight to the people.

**RECOMMENDATION: YES**



## **PROPOSITION 30 : TAX ON INCOME ABOVE \$2 MILLION FOR ZERO-EMISSIONS VEHICLES AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVE.**

### **What does it do:**

Would require taxpayers with incomes above \$2 million annually to pay an additional tax of 1.75 percent on the share of income above \$2 million beginning January 2023 and ending January 2043. In the event that California is able to drop its statewide greenhouse gas emissions below a certain threshold, the tax could end prior to January 2043.

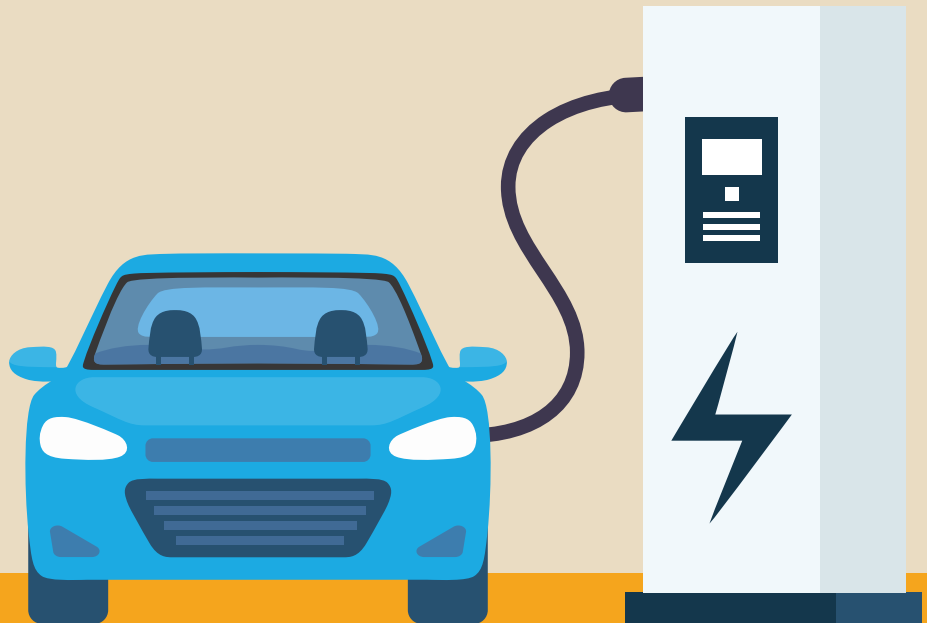
Revenue from the new tax would go to increasing funding for Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) programs and wildfire activities. New tax revenue would be distributed as follows:

- (a) 80 percent of new tax revenue would go toward ZEV programs, 45 percent of which would go toward programs that provide payments to help buy new zero-emission passenger vehicles and 35% of which would go toward installing and operating ZEV charging and fueling stations.
- (b) 20 percent of new tax revenue must be allocated to wildfire response and prevention activities such as increasing the state firefighter workforce.

### **What does it mean:**

This initiative will help fund clean vehicle infrastructure and does so by taxing only the super-rich (those making \$2 million+ a year). Not only is that good for cleaner air, but this initiative specifically locks in 40% of the funds for historically excluded communities and communities of color. Given that this is set to raise \$100 billion over 20 years, that's some \$40 billion in investments for communities of color. That's really huge.

### **RECOMMENDATION: YES**





## **PROPOSITION 31: THE FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS BAN REFERENDUM**

### **What does it do:**

Proposition 31 would uphold the contested legislation, Senate Bill 793 (SB 793).

Proposition 31 would maintain the following provisions set forth by SB 793:

- (a) Ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers through in-person stores and vending machines. The sale of shisha tobacco products are not included in this ban.
- (b) Defines flavored tobacco products as those that have flavor apart from regular tobacco flavor.
- (c) Charges a \$250 penalty for each violation.

### **What does it mean:**

So what's the deal here? California passed a bill banning the sale of flavored tobacco in stores and vending machines. This does not apply to houkkah but does apply to the corner store.

According to the analysis of SB 793, "Fueled by kid friendly flavors like cotton candy and bubblegum, 3.6 million more middle and high school students started using e-cigarettes in 2018. The disturbing rates of teen e-cigarette use continued to rise in 2019 with the overwhelming majority of youth citing use of popular fruit and menthol or mint flavors. In the last two years alone, e-cigarette use among young people surged by 135% and there are now 5.3 million young Americans who use e-cigarettes regularly."

In addition, "The CDC reports that if smoking continues at the current rate in the U.S. 5.6 million of today's youth under the age of 18 (about one of every 13) will die early from a tobacco related disease."

All to say that flavored tobacco is attracting a lot of young people to smoking and that is never something that will benefit our community.

### **RECOMMENDATION: YES**

Black Women for Wellness Action Project works to move public policy forward, elects leaders who prioritize Black women's needs, shifts culture through media and storytelling, and empowers community members to engage in the fight for equity and justice.

To learn more about our organization and join our mission contact us at:

[info@bwwactionproject.org](mailto:info@bwwactionproject.org)

323.290.5955

[bwwactionproject@org](mailto:bwwactionproject@org)