

# A REBEL'S GUIDE



BLACK WOMEN  
FOR WELLNESS  
ACTION PROJECT

TO  
THE

# 2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS



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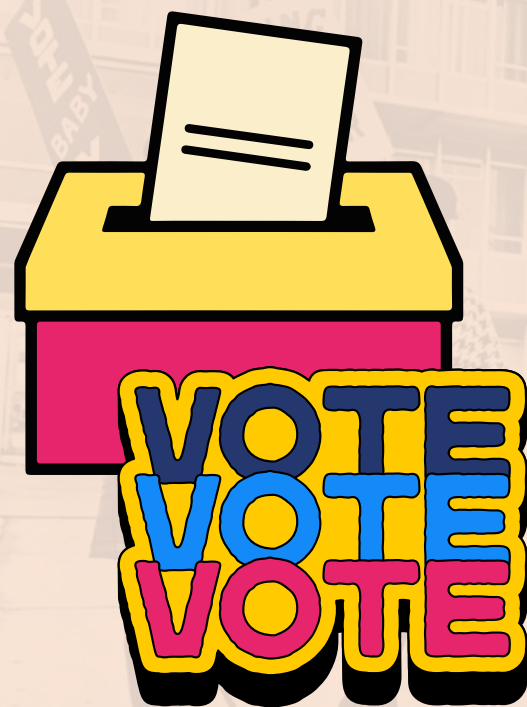
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## KEEP IN TOUCH

FOLLOW, VISIT, AND SUPPORT BWV AP



### WEBSITE

[BWVACTIONPROJECT.ORG](http://BWVACTIONPROJECT.ORG)



### FACEBOOK

[FACEBOOK.COM/BWVACTIONPROJECT](https://www.facebook.com/BWVACTIONPROJECT)



### INSTAGRAM

[@BWV\\_ACTIONPROJECT](https://www.instagram.com/BWV_ACTIONPROJECT)



### DONATE

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/BWVAP](https://bit.ly/BWVAP)

# REBEL

(Noun): A person who actively resists, defies, or rises up against established authority, control, or societal conventions.

**Black Women for Wellness Action Project (BWW AP)** is the sister organization of Black Women for Wellness (BWW).

We are a 501(c)(4) Reproductive Justice (RJ) organization unapologetically working to secure the health and well-being of Black women and girls.

**Black Women for Wellness Action Project** was born immediately following the November 2016 election. Many of us were unprepared for the results and found ourselves without a clear plan to continue our engagement with policy and programs in an unexpected political environment. In 2017, BWW AP was established in response to the growing need to protect, expand, and fight for equitable reproductive rights and justice for Black women and birthing people.

BWW AP is the first 501(c)(4) in the nation, and the only one in California, committed to realizing Reproductive Justice for Black women and girls.

We are on a mission to build and harness the power of Black women and girls throughout California to realize Reproductive Justice for ourselves, our families, and our communities. We do this through civic engagement, advocacy, leadership development, policy, and the political process.



## BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Reproductive Justice lives at the intersection of the many challenges that impact our health and well-being. BWW AP takes on these challenges through policy work focused on maternal and infant health, period poverty for girls at home (and soon abroad), the epidemic of sexually transmitted infections, and mental health, including postpartum depression. Our policy wins and challenges also center on many of the issues that intersect with Reproductive Justice: environmental justice, including oil drilling, plastics, and water; Beauty Justice, including overexposure and underprotection from toxic chemicals; and housing, labor, and education. Each of these issues impacts our ability to live healthy and well, shapes our decisions about whether and when to have children, and influences the spaces where we choose to raise them.

UNAPOLOGETICALLY WORKING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Developing and passing affirmative policy with Black communities requires:

- ✓ A strong civic engagement program
- ✓ Informed voters who are aware of the issues and are in communication with the people elected to represent us
- ✓ Elected officials who are held accountable and are from our community
- ✓ Elected officials who advocate in the rooms we are not in
- ✓ Public acknowledgment of the issues and impacts of policy



It is more than simply voting; it is action. BWW AP actively engages in the work of advancing policies that affirm our lives and securing resources that support our health.

## WHY HEALTH?

Health determines our quality of life. It is also a reflection of the values, ethics, and morals of a community, culture, and nation. The health of our community determines our financial, educational, and economic status. BWW AP focuses on health because health outcomes really expose and reflect the inequities embedded in our system.

## WHY REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

Reproductive Justice is an intersectional, human-rights framework that recognizes the right to have a child, not have a child, raise your child in safe, sustainable communities with dignity, and have bodily autonomy. Reproductive Justice recognizes the right to enjoy your body and the right to a healthy sexual life with no judgment or guilt.

Through a reproductive human rights lens, Black Women for Wellness Action Project weighs ballot propositions by how they affect access to reproductive health care, expand health care rights, and include the lives and lived experiences of Black women, girls, and gender-expansive folks.

BWW AP also researches the candidates and judges on the ballot, sharing our findings to help voters make informed decisions based on their track records, promises, and actions. We also follow the money and the associations of those seeking our votes.



## KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

|                                                                                                                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| National Voter Registration Day                                                                                                       | September 15, 2026 |
| Ballots Mailed to Active Registered Voters -                                                                                          | October 5, 2026    |
| Ballot Dropoff Locations Open                                                                                                         | October 6, 2026    |
| Voter Registration Deadline                                                                                                           | October 19, 2026   |
| Vote Centers Open in Voter's Choice Act counties*                                                                                     | October 24, 2026   |
| Election Day                                                                                                                          | November 3, 2026   |
| Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by November 10, 2026<br>Note: Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day |                    |
| Election Certification Deadline (California)                                                                                          | December 11, 2026  |

\* Voter's Choice Act (VCA) counties were established in 2016 and allow voters who live in participating counties to choose how and where to cast their ballot in-person. At these vote centers, voters are able to:

1. Vote in person
2. Drop off their ballot
3. Get a replacement ballot
4. Vote using an accessible voting machine
5. Receive assistance and voting material in multiple languages
6. Register to vote or update their voter registration

To check if you are registered in a VCA county and would like more information about the VCA, visit the Secretary of State's website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/voters-choice-act>

# VOTER REGISTRATION



PLANNING TO VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD? FIRST, MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE. YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER IF:

- You are a U.S. Citizen
- You are or will be 18 by the time of the election

You cannot register to vote if:

- You have been found to be mentally incompetent by a court
- You are not a U.S. citizen
- You're currently serving time for a felony conviction



## REGISTRATION & SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE

### HOMELESS

If you do not have a home address, you can still register to vote. The voter registration form has space for you to use a street corner, park, or shelter instead of a home address. If you stay at a shelter and can get mail there, you can use that address. Some counties also let people without a home use the county elections office as a mailing address.

### DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER

If you are in a domestic abuse shelter, you still still register to vote. Check with staff to find out the appropriate address to use when registering to vote.

### CALIFORNIA CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS PROGRAM

If you are in the California Confidential Address program, please contact Safe at Home to register to vote. The phone number is 877-322-5227.

### JUST MOVED

If you have moved and want to vote in your new city, you need to register to vote again. You can do this by filling out a voter registration form. If you moved to California, you can register at a Vote Center, online, or with a civic engagement organization. Make sure you register at least 15 days before an election.



### RE-REGISTER TO VOTE IF YOU:

- Moved to a different address (permanent or semi-permanent)
- Changed your name (including if you changed your name because of marriage or divorce)
- Changed your political party affiliation

## I'M A STUDENT, HOW DO I VOTE?

If you are eligible to vote (see voter registration requirements), you can register and vote either in the city where you attend school or at your permanent address, if it is different. You **CANNOT** vote more than once in the same election, so pick a location.

## IF YOU ARE A CALIFORNIA RESIDENT BUT GO TO SCHOOL OUT OF STATE:

If you want to vote in a California election while attending school out of state, use your California permanent or home address when registering to vote. You can request a vote-by-mail ballot and vote from wherever you are.

## TO VOTE IN ANOTHER STATE:

If you attend school outside of California and want to vote in that state, check the voter registration requirements where you attend school. Each state has its own rules for registration and voting. Visit the state or local elections office website for more information.

## IF YOU GO TO SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA:

If your permanent address is in California, you can register to vote using either your permanent address or the address where you live while attending school. Consider where you will be during the election and how familiar you are with local politics in each area. You can also vote by mail if you prefer to vote in the area where you have the best understanding of the political landscape.

**If your permanent address is out of state:** Out-of-state students who come to California for school and want to vote in a California election must register to vote using the address where they live during the school year.

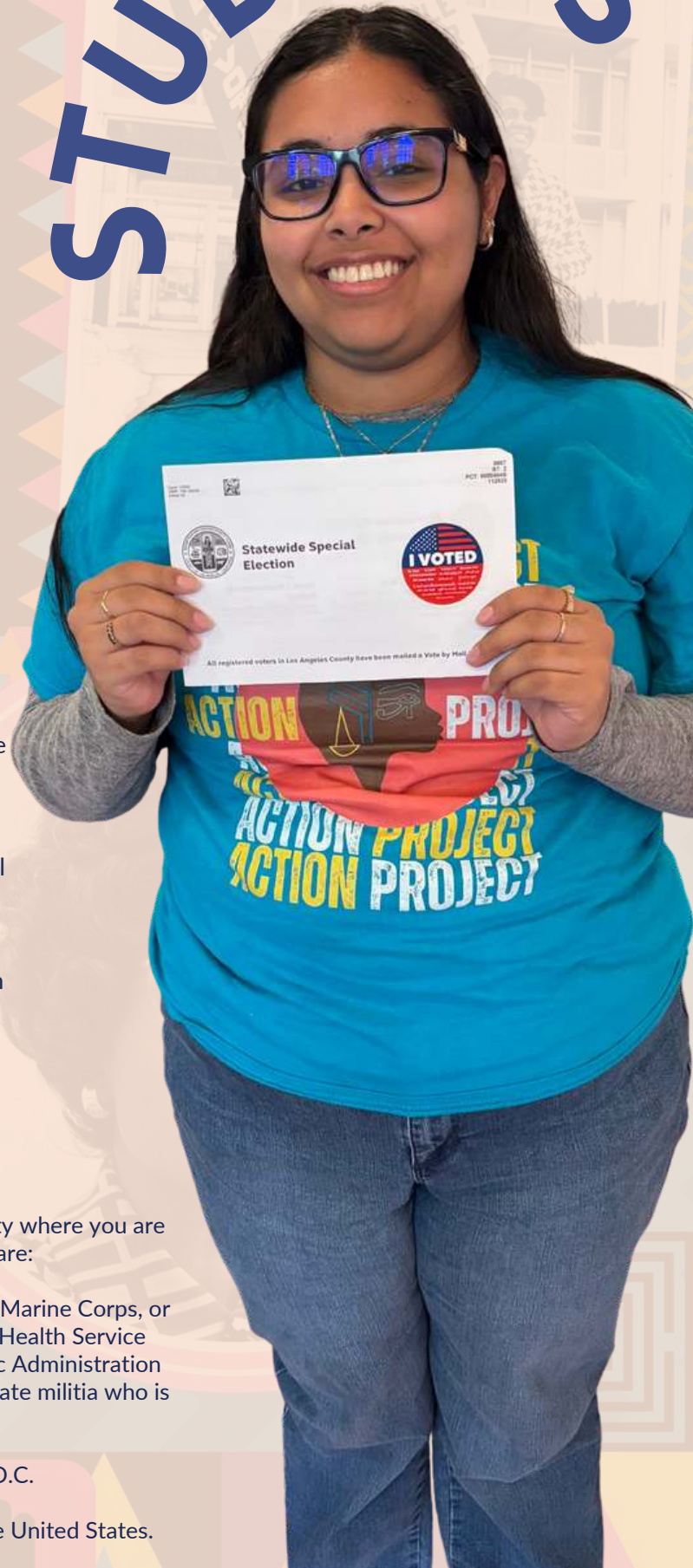
## LIVING ABROAD

I live abroad, but I am eligible to vote and want to make my voice heard in the CA elections:

If you are eligible to vote in California but are away from the county where you are registered, you may qualify as a "military or overseas voter" if you are:

- A member of the active or reserve U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; a Merchant Marine; a member of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps; or a member of the National Guard or state militia who is on active duty.
- A spouse or dependent of someone listed above.
- A U.S. citizen living outside the United States or Washington, D.C.
- A U.S. citizen attending a school outside the United States.
- A U.S. citizen working aboard a ship or other vessel outside the United States.

# STUDENTS



# HOW TO REGISTER



**If you will be overseas long-term:** Register or re-register to vote online at <http://registertovote.ca.gov/> and request a Vote by Mail ballot. This option is the more "permanent" option, if you are going to be overseas for multiple election cycles.



**If you will be overseas short-term:** Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA\*). You can obtain the FPCA from any Voting Assistance Officer at a military base or any US Embassy/ Consulate. It is recommended that you complete this form every year you request an absentee ballot. This option might be better for people who are not planning to be overseas long-term.



**If you live abroad:** If you live overseas but your permanent address is in Los Angeles - Return your completed FPCA\* to LA County by mail, fax, or email.



\* The FPCA (Federal Standard Form 76) allows Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) citizens to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. This form is also used to update your contact information.

## CONTACT THE LA COUNTY REGISTRAR



**Mail:** Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
**Vote by Mail Section P.O.**  
Box 30450 Los Angeles, CA  
90030-0450



**Email:**  
[militaryoverseasAV@rcc.lacounty.gov](mailto:militaryoverseasAV@rcc.lacounty.gov)



**Fax:** (562) 864-6786



# SYSTEM INVOLVED & INCARCERATION

## I HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP WITH THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM, CAN I REGISTER?

In California, if you have a prior felony conviction but are not currently serving a state or federal prison sentence for a felony conviction, you can register and vote.

Formerly incarcerated folks CAN vote in the state of California as long as they are not on parole, which means they can and should register. This includes people on post-release community supervision or post-sentencing probation for a felony. People who are on parole for a non-felony conviction can also register to vote.

### YOU MAY REGISTER TO VOTE IF YOU ARE:

- Incarcerated
- Awaiting or on trial for a criminal offense
- Serving time for a traffic or misdemeanor offense
- Serving time in a local jail as a condition of probation

### YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER AND VOTE IF YOU ARE:

- On probation
- On mandatory supervision
- On post-release community supervision
- On federal supervised release
- A person with a juvenile wardship adjudication
- Currently on parole with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

### PERSONS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY THAT CANNOT VOTE:

- Currently incarcerated in:
  - State prison
  - Federal prison
- Currently serving a state prison felony sentence in a county jail or other correctional facility
- Currently in county jail awaiting transfer to a state or federal prison for a felony conviction

In certain circumstances, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) may make agreements with local governments to house people incarcerated for felonies in a county jail or other correctional facility. A person serving a state prison sentence who is housed in a local jail or other facility under these circumstances is NOT allowed to register and vote.

# RESTORE YOUR VOTE



## HOW TO RESTORE YOUR VOTE IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR TIME

Your voter registration application must be received or postmarked at least fifteen (15) days before Election Day to be eligible to vote in that election.

In elections conducted by your county elections official, you can “conditionally” register and vote provisionally at your county elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline.

**For more info, visit:** <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/restore-your-vote>

# GOT IT?

## NOW HERE'S HOW TO REGISTER.



Now that you have a sense of whether you are eligible to vote, here are the ways that California residents can register to vote:

**Online:** Register at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov)

**By mail:** Fill out a paper voter registration form and return it to your local elections office.

**In person:** Register at a Vote Center or with your local elections office.

**With assistance:** Get help registering from a certified representative of your local elections office.

### I HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE BEFORE, BUT SO MUCH HAS CHANGED IN MY LIFE. IS MY REGISTRATION STILL VALID?

It's always a good idea to check your registration status. Here are some places to confirm your information, including your political party:

- Use the "My Voter Status" tool at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)
- Scan the QR code
- Call the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at: (800)345-VOTE (8683)



## RECOMMENDATIONS VS ENDORSEMENTS

**Endorsements:** When Black Women for Wellness Action Project endorses a candidate, we offer several resources because we have conducted the research, the candidate has completed a questionnaire and interview, and we are confident in their sincerity in working on behalf of Black women, girls, and our communities. We offer our name and logo, and we actively support the campaign through resources, from publishing in our water guide to canvassing and literature distribution. Opinion editorials and social media visibility are also part of our efforts to actively support and participate in the campaigns of our endorsed candidates.

**Recommendations:** For BWW AP recommendations, our board supports a candidate, but that candidate has **NOT** gone through the Black Women for Wellness Action Project endorsement process. Recommendations usually include people we have interviewed or worked with before, as well as candidates we know of from a distance. We may support their work, but we have not had the capacity to conduct a rigorous investigation or they did not go through our traditional endorsement process during the current cycle.

# BLACK WOMEN RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN CALIFORNIA

Here's a list of Black women running for office in CA. This is not a comprehensive list.

*Note: These are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute a recommendation or endorsement.*

## STATEWIDE:

- Shirley N. Weber — Secretary of State
- Nichelle Henderson — California Superintendent
- Malia M. Cohen — CA State Controller

## STATE SENATE:

- Lola Smallwood- Cuevas — State Senate District 28
- Jackie Elward — State Assembly District 12
- LaShae Sharp-Collins — State Assembly District 79
- Sade Elhawary — State Assembly District 57
- Mia Bonta — State Assembly District 18
- Tiffany Tate — State Senate District 32

## STATE ASSEMBLY:

- Lori D Wilson — State Assembly Member District 11
- Rhodesia Ranson — State Assembly District 13
- Ashley M. Brown — State Assembly District 55
- Ayanna Davis — State Assembly District 65

## CONGRESS:

- Lateefah Simon- United States Representative District 12
- Sydney Kamlager-Dove — United States Representative District 37
- Maxine Waters — United States Representative District 43

## LOCAL:

- Barbara Lee - Oakland Mayor
- Karen Bass — Los Angeles Mayor
- Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie — Long Beach City Council District 9
- Dr. Flo Cofer — Sacramento County Supervisor District 1

## JUDGES:

- Monique Langshore Wilson — Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First District, Division One
- Rashida A. Adams — Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Second District, Division Three
- Stacy Boulware Eurie — Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Third District



Shirley N. Weber



Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



Mia Bonta



Sydney Kamlager-Dove

# BWW AP CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

BWW AP researches and interviews candidates running for a range of public offices that impact Black women's health. This includes federal, state, and influential local offices. Below are our endorsements for the November 2026 General Election. These candidates have proven to be courageous leaders committed to improving the overall health and well-being of Black women, girls, and communities. They are the progressive champions and fierce advocates that we need to fight for a society where our communities are supported — one of equity and justice.



**About our endorsements:** BWW AP looks at both what candidates say and what they do in our voter endorsement process. Every candidate we endorse has answered a detailed questionnaire, interviewed with BWW AP board members, and has been researched by the BWW AP team. We are looking not only for candidates who talk the talk, but also for those who walk the walk when it comes to Black women and reproductive justice.

## THE GOVERNOR

We know the gubernatorial race is one that many Californians are still undecided about. BWW AP did not make an endorsement or recommendation for this race because we did not conduct a process for this seat.

We have uplifted voter guides from trusted partners whose assessments and evaluation criteria are generally aligned with ours. However, please note that we did not engage with any gubernatorial candidates through our endorsement or recommendation process and, therefore, do not endorse or recommend a candidate for this race at this time.

Currently, a Democrat, Xavier Becerra, and a Republican candidate are running for governor. Neither has sought our vote, inquired about our policy agenda, or reached out to our community. California is a Democratic state and must remain this way to stay consistent with our resistance to the current authoritarian regime. This is not a time to play with an office as powerful as the governor's.

As we move forward, Black Women for Wellness Action Project plans to reach out to and engage the Democratic gubernatorial candidate on future work related to our policy agenda, the state budget, and all efforts that increase the quality of life for Black women and girls.

# BWW AP CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL ELECTED OFFICE

- CA-37 - Sydney Kamlager-Dove

## STATE ELECTED OFFICE

- SD 26: Sarah Rascon
- SD 28: Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
- AD 55: Isaac Bryan
- AD 57: Sade Elhawary
- AD 61: Tina McKinnor
- AD 65: Ayanna Davis



Isaac Bryan



Ayanna Davis



Rob Bonta

## CITY ELECTED OFFICE

- LA City Attorney: Marissa Roy
- LA Mayor: No Endorsement
- LA City Council District 9: Estuardo Mazariegos

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY CONGRESS

- CA-06: Richard Pan

## BAY AREA

- AD 18: Mia Bonta

## STATEWIDE

- Attorney General: Rob Bonta
- Secretary of State: Shirley Weber
- CA State Controller: Malia M. Cohen

## U.S. CONGRESS

- U.S. Representative District 43: Maxine Waters

# REBEL'S GUIDE TO THE PROPOSITIONS



# PROPOSITION CHEAT SHEET

## **Proposition 1:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES**

## **Proposition 2:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES**

## **Proposition 3:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES**

## **Proposition 4:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES**

## **Proposition 5:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES**

## **Proposition 37:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition 38:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition 39:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition: 40**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES**

## **Proposition 41:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition 42:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition 43:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition 44:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

## **Proposition 45:**

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**

# PROPOSITION 1:

## AUTHORIZES BONDS FOR HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PROGRAMS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

What does it do: This proposition would sell off \$11.25 billion in bonds. Bonds are loans the state pays back in interest. It doesn't show up in any immediate budgets, but it does commit future budget money to repay the money. In this case, the bonds will fund more affordable housing, including a little over \$1 billion for veteran housing. The bond is expected to help fund up to 40,000 multifamily rental units, while also helping another 40,000 households buy a home.

Housing is one of California's most urgent issues. It's a high-cost state, and California has the highest median monthly housing cost in the nation, meaning Californians spend more of their monthly income on rent or a mortgage than people in any other state. The average rent in California is about \$2,770 per month, versus a \$2,100 national average. And over 3 million California renter households pay more than 30% of their income toward rent, with nearly 1.5 million Californians spending more than half their income on housing. Housing is an issue for everyone, but the burden becomes even greater when you look at income, gender, and race. 63% of Black women are rent-burdened (paying more than 30% of income on rent) and 36% are severely rent-burdened (paying more than 50%).

### REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES



We absolutely need to address the housing crisis in California. That is a no-brainer. But LA and other municipalities across California have been passing taxes, propositions, and measures for the last decade, and the crisis seems to have only gotten worse. We need more than new buildings. We also need housing policies that address housing inequity, including rent control, down payment assistance, and regulations on the housing industry that seem to be missing. If done right, with policies that go hand in hand, this proposition could be a game changer for California and could partially pay for itself if the housing market stabilizes. If executed wrong, this could end up making little to no dent in the housing crisis while leaving our children to pick up the bill.

# PROPOSITION 2:

## INCREASES STATE'S RAINY DAY FUND. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

This change to the state constitution would let California save more money in its reserve fund, up to 20% of its general fund tax revenue, double the current 10% cap.



### THE TEA:

To understand the proposition, it helps to know a little history. In 1979, Californians passed Proposition 4, often called the "Gann Initiative" after its author, anti-tax activist Paul Gann (who also did Prop 13). It caps how much tax revenue the state can spend each year using a complicated but not complicated-enough formula. It essentially puts a cap on the California budget, which sucks for budgeting. Essentially, it prevents California from saving money or even investing more into programs and infrastructure in very good revenue years.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES



An economic storm is coming, and California is ill-prepared. Every state has to have a balanced budget, meaning it can't run a deficit. So, hypothetically, if there is a madman in the White House cutting Medicaid or other social services to states, that means states are going to have to make cuts too. Between Medicaid cuts, the growing federal deficit, and other political winds, it's a safe bet for California to save a little cushion in case things get hard.

# PROPOSITION 3:

**PROVIDES PERMANENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE BY EXTENDING EXISTING TAX ON HIGH INCOMES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

What does it do: California put a tax in place in 2012, and it's set to end in 2031 unless something changes. This measure will continue the taxes.

It's a progressive income tax on high earners. The more you make, the higher the rate:

- Individuals earning over \$360,000 a year pay 10.3%
- Individuals earning over \$721,000 a year pay 12.3%
- Income levels in between pay somewhere in that range

Most of this money has gone to schools and healthcare.



## THE TEA:

This is probably one of the easiest props. We've been living with this tax for over a decade. If we do nothing, it goes away, potentially impacting our kids and healthcare. We can continue funding our schools, community colleges, and public healthcare.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES



Without this measure, we will see \$5 billion to \$15 billion leave our schools (K-12) and healthcare systems. That is something our kids and our communities cannot afford.

# PROPOSITION 4:

## REPEALS PROHIBITION AGAINST PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

This would let state and local governments in California set up public funding (tax dollars) for political candidates' campaigns, if they desire.



### THE TEA:

Back in 1988, Prop 73 amended the Political Reform Act of 1974 to ban public officers and candidates from spending or accepting public money for campaigns. It also set contribution limits and barred transferring campaign funds between candidates. Essentially, it bans most cities and the state from doing public campaign financing. Cities with their own charters, like Los Angeles and San Francisco, are exempt. This measure would undo that ban.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES



Public financing of political campaigns is a game changer for getting local candidates that care about the community. Many times, particularly in a high-cost state like California, the only way you can compete is to have a ton of money, putting grassroots-led and organized campaigns at a disadvantage. It's not a silver bullet for getting a more diverse group of candidates... but in places with public financing, we've seen far more community-centered candidates run and win.

# PROPOSITION 5:

## CHANGES RECALL ELECTION PROCESS FOR STATEWIDE 5 OFFICERS. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Right now, when there's a recall election, voters answer two questions at once: should we recall this official, and if so, who should replace them? This proposition, which came from California lawmakers, not a citizen signature drive, would split that into two separate elections. First, voters would just decide whether to recall the official. The question of who replaces them would come later, in a separate election.

The recalled official would still be allowed to run in that follow-up election, if they want to try to get their job back.

And if it's the governor who gets recalled, the lieutenant governor would step in and run things temporarily until the second election picks a new governor.



### THE TEA:

California's recall elections are a bit of a mess. Although it's a good back-pocket law if someone is acting all the way up in office, it isn't used that way today. Nowadays, it is more about political maneuvering than holding an elected official accountable to the community. This proposition cleans up the process a bit. First, it holds a recall vote. Then, if the person is recalled, another election is held to fill the seat. There is a special procedure for the Governor, outlined above.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES



# PROPOSITION 37:

## CREATES LOAN PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE-INCOME BUYERS OF QUALIFIED NEW HOMES. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

This would let California's Housing Finance Agency borrow up to \$25 billion to help people buy newly built homes and condos. It's optional; the agency wouldn't be required to do this, just allowed to.

Here's how it would work for a buyer: the state loan could cover up to 17% of a home's purchase price. Combine that with a typical mortgage, and the buyer would only need to put down 3% in cash. For an \$800,000 home, that's \$24,000 out of pocket instead of a much bigger down payment. Buyers would pay this loan back in monthly payments, but to private lenders, not to the state directly. To qualify, you'd need to earn no more than twice the median income for your area.

### REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO



There are way better ways to help buyers into homes than a pseudo public-private loan. Many states have programs that are grants or forgivable loans funded by state/federal appropriations, or loans you don't have to pay back until you move/sell the home or finish paying your mortgage. It also doesn't lower the home cost; it just uses public-backed loans to subsidize it. California can do better.

# PROPOSITION 38:

## AUTHORIZES BONDS FOR IMMUNOLOGY MEDICAL RESEARCH. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Proposition 38 would let the state borrow \$8.4 billion (through a bond) mostly to pay for research into fighting cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and other diseases that immunotherapy treatments can target.

Half that money would go to a research institute connected to the University of California. The other half would go to a group of selected public universities and nonprofits doing similar research.

There's a payback provision built in too; any drugs developed using this funding would have to be sold to Californians at a 20% discount. And 10% of whatever revenue those drugs bring in would go back into the state's general fund.

### REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO 👉

This is a straight-up cash grab by one of California's billionaires who put this on the ballot. A CalMatters investigation found that the criteria in this ballot measure appear written narrowly enough to exclude every institute in the state except one: the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy, whose co-founder is the person financing this ballot measure. All the other grants, meaning the other half of the money, would go to grants through the California Department of Public Health.

# PROPOSITION 39:

**PROHIBITS CITIZENS FROM VOTING UNLESS THEY PRESENT GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

This measure would require voters to show a government-issued ID when they vote in person at the polls. It would also require election officials to verify that every registered voter is a U.S. citizen. For people who vote by mail, they'd need to include the last four digits of a government ID number, like a driver's license number, on their ballot.



## THE TEA:

Voter ID laws aren't new; some 24 states have some form of voter ID laws on the books, and because of that, we actually have lots of data. Research shows that voter ID laws disproportionately impact people of color and low-income folks, and drive down voter turnout. Many times, younger people, particularly college students, go out of state and don't change their driver's license to the current state they are in, or have a driver's license at all. Voter ID laws are a clear Reproductive Justice issue that can directly impact our ability to participate in an election.

**REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO**



# PROPOSITION: 40

## IMPOSES A ONE-TIME TAX ON CERTAIN TAXPAYERS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

Proposition 40 would create a one-time 5% tax on the roughly 200 Californians who were billionaires at the start of this year.

The measure is sponsored by SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West and supported by Sen. Bernie Sanders, but opposed by the California Teachers Union, Planned Parenthood of California, and the California Medical Association (California chapter of the AMA). Estimates suggest this proposition would raise about \$100 billion over five years.

That money is slated to go toward healthcare, with smaller amounts set aside for food assistance and education.

There's also a catch: if either Proposition 41 or Proposition 42 gets more "yes" votes than Prop 40, Prop 40 would be canceled out, even if Prop 40 passed.

### REBEL RECOMMENDATION: YES.



To be honest, this really only impacts about 200 people, but opponents think it would drive those 200 people out of the state. We are not sure that will actually happen... nobody is staying in California because of the tax break.

# PROPOSITION 41:

**PROHIBITS NEW STATE TAXES THAT EXCLUDE REVENUES FROM STATE SPENDING LIMIT. REQUIRES AUDITS FOR NEW STATE SPECIAL TAXES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

This proposition would make it harder to pass new “special taxes,” or taxes earmarked for a specific purpose, by adding an extra review step before voters see them.

**How it would work:** Before any special tax proposal could go on the ballot, the state auditor would have to review it first and assess whether the program that would receive the money could instead cut its own spending by 10% or more each year (feeling dodge-y, huh?).

It also changes how these taxes interact with the Gann Limit, the spending cap we talked about earlier. Any new special tax that voters approve would now count against that spending cap. That matters because if it pushes the state over the cap, it could trigger automatic refunds, taking money the state would otherwise use to fund other programs.

And again, there is the override clause: if this measure gets more votes than Proposition 40, the billionaire wealth tax, Prop 40 gets canceled out.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO



We are not fans of doing legislation by ballot measure, and actually believe there should be fewer propositions in general, but this is another billionaire scheme to make it harder to pass tax reform via ballot.

# PROPOSITION 42:

## PROHIBITS NEW STATE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AND CERTAIN RETROACTIVE STATE TAXES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Proposition 42 does two things:

It is designed to make it much harder for California to ever create a wealth tax. It would ban new taxes on simply owning things like investment accounts, business ownership stakes, or personal property, the kind of assets that currently only get taxed when you sell them or when they earn you income, not just for holding onto them.

Bans retroactive taxes, a new tax couldn't reach back and bill someone based on where they lived or what they did before the law took effect.



### THE TEA:

California lawmakers have tried and failed to pass a wealth tax bill twice before through the legislative process, including a 2023 proposal that would have taxed net worth above \$1 billion at 1.5%. Prop 40/41/42 represents that fight moving from the legislature onto the ballot directly, and Prop 42 is designed to close the legislative door permanently.

### REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO



Big money is trying to push their will onto not only Californians of today, but Californians of tomorrow by banning the legislature from moving a wealth tax. Shame. This is another one that is tied to Prop 40; if it passes with more votes, it cancels Prop 40.

# PROPOSITION 43:

## LIMITS VOTERS' ABILITY TO RAISE REVENUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

This would make it harder for local tax measures to pass when regular citizens, rather than local government, put them on the ballot.

Right now, there's a gap in the rules: if a city or county government proposes a special local tax, it already needs two-thirds of voters to approve it. But if citizens gather signatures and put a special tax on the ballot themselves, it currently only needs a simple majority (50%+1) to pass.

This measure would close that gap, raising the bar for citizen-initiated tax measures to that same two-thirds threshold, so both paths would require the same level of support.



### THE TEA:

Amendment 22 (ACA 22) was written by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks. The legislature put it on the ballot on June 25, 2026, with strong bipartisan support (68-2 in the Assembly, 35-1 in the Senate). Essentially, it was a compromise in which state lawmakers negotiated with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (a longtime anti-lax group) to get the group to drop a different, even more restrictive tax measure they were planning to put on the ballot instead.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO



There needs to be a better way to put measures on the ballot. This measure addresses that issue when it comes to local taxes, but it still feels icky because it could make it harder for local governments to raise the money they need.

# PROPOSITION 44:

## REQUIRES COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS TO SPEND 90% OF REVENUE ON PROGRAM SERVICES. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

This would require community health clinics that serve low-income patients — known as safety-net clinics — to spend at least 90% of their yearly revenue on patient care and related services. That leaves no more than 10% for things like administrative costs and executive pay.

The state attorney general would spell out exactly what kind of spending "counts" toward that 90% and what doesn't. If a clinic doesn't meet the 90% threshold, the state could fine it.



### THE TEA:

Roughly 2,000 safety-net clinics in California serve more than 7 million patients a year. Most are private nonprofits; the rest are run by public entities like counties. In 2024, these clinics served roughly 440,000 Black patients.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO



This does everything but be transparent, and could cause some clinics to not function well. Although it sounds good at first, it really ties clinicians' hands and forces them to do what they need to do to keep their doors open. This includes clinics in the reproductive health space, like women's health specialists and Planned Parenthood.

# PROPOSITION 45:

## MODIFIES ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

This would be a major overhaul of California's landmark environmental law, called CEQA – the California Environmental Quality Act – the law signed by Governor Reagan back in 1970 that requires developers to study how big projects might affect things like wildlife, air quality, traffic, and noise before building. It also explicitly includes reservoirs, desalination plants, forest thinning, hospitals and medical centers, public transit, and solar, wind, and battery storage facilities. So it covers a lot.

### It would make two changes:

1. A 365-day deadline on environmental reviews for those "essential" projects.
2. A 270-day deadline for courts to rule on lawsuits that challenge projects under this environmental law.



### THE TEA:

The goal is essentially to let developers build what they want with very little community input, and if passed, Proposition 45 would allow streamlined development of industrial projects we don't want in our community, like data centers.

This proposition undermines the environmental process that is a landmark to California. There has been a lot of talk that CEQA and other environmental protections slow innovation and building, but it's essentially a lazy argument. There is absolutely a way to build things quickly without undermining key protections for land and air. CEQA often acts as a tool of last resort for our EJ friends to protect people.

BWW AP has a deep history in environmental justice because we know that everything from what we breathe, eat, and put on our bodies to where we live is deeply connected to our ability to have and raise our families with dignity.

## REBEL RECOMMENDATION: NO



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

## BE JUDGE-Y GUIDE

**HOW TO BE JUDGE-Y** | As a voter, we want you to feel empowered when you cast your vote, and we welcome you to do your own research to ensure that each candidate you vote for aligns with your values. While we know candidates who qualify for appointment or the ballot must meet minimum requirements, that doesn't tell us enough about how they might rule from the bench. We have to dig deeper to make the most well-informed decision we can. Here are some things to consider as you evaluate the judicial candidates on your ballot:

### WHO ROCKS WITH THEM?

Look at the organizations, community members, and others whose views and values you respect and align with who have given their endorsement. Are they endorsed by the police? A mission-driven organization that fights for causes that you stand for? A news outlet that you respect and rely on for sound information?

### WHO HAVE THEY SERVED?

Understand which communities and stakeholders have benefited from their legal work. This can give us insight into their mission, passions, and philosophy, which will be reflected in how they rule from the bench.

### WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO OFFER?

Consider the diverse perspective they will bring to the bench.

### WHAT ARE THEIR PEERS SAYING?

There can be some good tea here. Check the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) ratings.



You will see that most candidates receive a qualification rating from LACBA, which is the main professional organization for L.A.'s legal community. These ratings are an important resource that looks at more than bar admission and years of service. However, it is important to note that while the evaluation committee uses a mix of qualitative and quantitative data to aid their ratings, there is critique of the lack of transparency around their deliberations, especially when assignment of these ratings is based on several stated metrics that include

In even numbered years, California voters may have the opportunity to vote on judges for the Superior Courts, also known as a county's Trial Courts. While the current landscape shows that Courts at all levels materially affect our lives, Superior Court Judges rule in criminal and civil cases on issues ranging from traffic violations to dependency cases to small claims to divorce, among many others. This means that our communities are most likely to encounter and engage with judges at this level, and they therefore determine whether we have to pay that hefty fine for the traffic citation, whether a child is removed from their family's home, the terms of your divorce, and who and for how long someone is incarcerated. So who occupies these seats is critically important to our community's lives.

With the November 3rd General Election, voters are being asked to select a candidate in the run-off between the top two votegetters from the Primaries. For the June 2nd Primary Election, voters registered in Los Angeles County were asked to select Superior Court judges in 15 races. Judges running in a contested race who earned the majority (over 50%) of the vote in the primary won outright. In the races where no candidate received a majority of the vote, the top two candidates advanced to the general election ballot. In four (4) of the top 15 races, no candidate earned a majority of the vote.

This guide outlines Black Women for Wellness Action Projects's pick for the four (4) L.A. Superior Court Judicial races. While we do not offer recommendations for judicial races in all 58 of California's counties, in this guide we offer some tips on how you can assess judicial candidates, so that whether you vote in L.A. or a different county, you can make the best decision for yourself!

About L.A. Superior Court | Judges of the Los Angeles County Superior Court hear all civil and criminal cases across the legal spectrum, including family law, dependency, probate, mental health, traffic, misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency, small claims, and felonies. The Court's Presiding Judge assigns judges to a particular department, and they hear cases in their departmental practice area. The Court runs several innovative programs designed to provide rehabilitative, collaborative, and restorative justice to qualified defendants, including Veterans' Court, Drug Court, and Homeless Court. The Los Angeles County Superior Court is the nation's largest trial court. It includes over 400 judges in 36 courthouses and serves a population of over 10 million people.

## **ACTION PROJECT REBEL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Our Rebel recommendations for LA Superior Court Judges highlight candidates with track records, reputations, and stated judicial philosophies that align with Reproductive Justice (RJ) values and work to address, disrupt, and dismantle the related issues that adversely impact the health and well-being of our community. We expect these candidates' expansive understanding of justice will help protect against assaults on our community's dignity and better protect our rights.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES, PLEASE  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.BWWACTIONPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.BWWACTIONPROJECT.ORG)**

Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 64: Rhonda A. Haymon

Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 65: Justin Allen Clayton

Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 87: Anthony (A.J.) Bayne

Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 131: David Ross

# CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT AND APPELLATE COURT JUDGES

This year's General Election includes races for two (2) California Supreme Court judges and sixty-two (62) California Appellate Court judges. These are retention races, meaning these are people who have run to keep their seats as a Supreme Court or Appellate Court judge, and they are uncontested (no one is running against them). Everyone in California votes for the same two (2) Supreme Court judges. Each California voter will vote for the Appellate Court judge based on their district. Los Angeles County is in District 2 and there are eighteen (18) Appellate Court judges on the ballot. California Supreme Court and Appellate Court Judges serve twelve (12) year terms.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

**Appellate Court Justices:** If a trial court or administrative agency makes a decision and someone believes it was based on an "error of law" that harmed them, they can appeal to the California Appellate Courts. These justices hear thousands of cases a year involving criminal convictions, employment, probate, child custody, workers' comp, etc.

**Supreme Court Justices:** California Supreme Court justices review Appellate Court decisions when those decisions are appealed. They also review and decide appealed cases when someone has been sentenced to death in a California trial court, and they make recommendations on disciplinary actions against judges and attorneys for misconduct.

# WHO IS ON THE BALLOT?

For the Second Appellate District (representing Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties), the following Supreme Court and Appellate Court justices are on the ballot:

*Note: These are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute a recommendation or endorsement.*

## SUPREME COURT:

- Kelli Evans
- Joshua Groban (not the singer)

## SECOND DISTRICT APPELLATE COURT

A yes vote means they stay in their seat and a no votes means remove them. (Listed by division; they are not running against each other):

- Division 1: Gregory Weingart, Michelle Kim
- Division 2: Anne K. Richardson, Stephen Goorvitch
- Division 3: Mark Hanasono, Rashida A. Adams
- Division 4: Armen Tamzarian, Audra Mori, Helen Zukin, Nicholas F. Daum
- Division 5: Brian M. Hoffstadt
- Division 6: Kenneth Yegan, Tari Cody
- Division 7: Gonzalo Martinez, Natalie Stone
- Division 8: John Shepard Wiley Jr., Matthew Scherb, Victor Viramontes

## RESOURCES:

**LAist Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Guide**

<https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-la-county-judges>

This comprehensive resource outlines incredibly helpful information to inform your vote for L.A. Superior Court judge. Among other things, it includes unedited survey responses from a majority of the candidates.

**La Defensa L.A. Superior Court Judge Endorsements**

<https://lodefensa.org/2026-primary-voter-guide-5/#judges>

BWW AP will publish a separate guide to judges as we learn more about the names, history, and politics of judges on the ballot - please stay tuned and check our website [www.bwwactionproject.org](http://www.bwwactionproject.org). We are happy to amplify the guides created by our trusted partners who endorsed Judicial candidates based on criteria that align with BWW AP values. La Defensa has done just that, so please refer to their L. A. Superior Court Judge Guide to inform your vote in these races.





## KEEP IN TOUCH

FOLLOW, VISIT, AND SUPPORT BWW AP



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# VOTE

**DON'T SKIP THE MIDTERMS.  
OUR FAMILIES AND OUR  
FUTURE DEPEND ON IT.**



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