

PROP	YES	NO	RATIONALE
14 Stem cell research		N	This is the poster child of a complicated proposition. We hire politicians to consult experts for precisely such cases. Review some of its complexity here . I am voting NO in this age of economic uncertainty. Our government is required during pandemic to sustain health and human services: we are in a crisis. There is simply no question that stem cell research is vital. There is, all the same, a question as to public budget priorities directed toward this purpose at this particular moment. https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_14,_Stem_Cell_Research_Institute_Bond_Initiative_(2020)
15 Split roll property tax	Y		Our state’s governance has ground to a halt virtually entirely due to latent, unintended and pernicious effects of the 1978 tax law, Proposition 13. While protecting grandma’s home it has upended our capacity to care for ourselves, to teach our children, to house our homeless, to feed the hungry, to clothe the poor. Some believe this is not a proper role for government and in imposing austerity, they have tested this presumption. I cannot bear to live among such destitution, I cannot bear to see our children in a system of schools so shamefully underfunded. And all within one of the wealthiest political entities on the globe. This disgrace must stop; our commercial interests must pay appropriately for the infrastructure that supports them. Vote YES to resume fairness in taxation. See here for clarification of the raft of fake claims being made about this proposition.
16 Affirmative Action	Y		Systemic bias needs addressing systemically. The dismal attendance of POC in higher education tells the whole story here. Most of our state’s elected officialdom supports this redress . It is a no-brainer.
17 Parolee Vote	Y		There is basically no opposition to this initiative to allow people who have completed their jail sentence to vote.
18 Primary voting at age 17	Y		People who can work, pay taxes and fight in the country’s armed forces should be able to vote. Primaries should be linked to their general election in terms of voting.
19 Tax break mobility		N	Another exemplar of why complicated law should not be enacted by voter-fiat. It’s ridiculous that older people (<i>read: voters</i>) are exempted from paying their fair share of property tax. And this measure compounds that absurdity. See here . We have to quit this, not that voting no on 19 will do so. We already initiated this taxation imbalance with prop 13, 58 and 60. But prop 19 would continue yet further along that same road, making things worse.
20 Crime charging reform	Y		This doesn’t actually walk back over-policing, it correctly names violence for what it is so that our legal system can appropriately address appalling crimes like: kidnapping a child to sell them as a sex slave, rape of a developmentally disabled person, domestic violence causing injury. It addresses serial (not merely “3-strikes”) theft with prosecutorial discretion, and reinstates DNA collection integral to solving crimes which are violent (eg, robbery, rape, murder). Prop 20 invokes reasonable fixes to unintended consequences of Prop 47 and 57, enabling voters’ original reform intentions. Adjusting what never was intended and is clearly wrong will not reverse decimated incarceration rates . Here is information from they who would know, or alternatively, those with a vested interest depending on outlook. I think it sensible to believe those doing the work itself.
21 Rent control	Y		Local jurisdictions need control over local issues. Like rent control. This is not an issue that should be controlled universally across California. Our housing issues are felt here; they should be governed here. Negating Costa-Hawkins is vital. Big real estate interests are spending millions to protect their special interest, which is not yours and mine. Costa-Hawkins: <i>Be Gone</i>
22 Gig economy		N	Workers managed by app, remain employees. They are entitled to the same expectations and protections we secure for the rest of we the people. Being employed via the net as part of the latest workforce revolution should not exempt your neighbor or mine from basic human and societal labor rights. Ride sharing apps have become successful because they skirt the structural expense of former employer relationships. But employers’ and peoples’ needs, their relationship to the economy and to society remain the same. Do not let app-based employment moguls purchase their interest from you. This is the most expensive ballot measure race in history, closing in on \$196m dollars spent.
23 Kidney dialysis		N	This is a tremendously lopsided race in terms of spending. Oddly enough, this time the baddest guys aren’t the spendiest in the room. Though they’re no angels; they are massive dialysis companies. At stake here is organized labor relations, and political control exerted through issues of what constitutes a skilled medical procedure that needs what sort of professional oversight (whiff of abortion clinic regulations?). What’s at risk is freely available dialysis care particularly for the most vulnerable, who are also disproportionately heavy users of the treatment. So this is a political battle at the expense of the poorest played out through medical treatment; an especially toxic soup. The opposition fears passage will jeopardize availability of dialysis creating “deserts” as smaller operators close to accommodate gratuitous regulations. These are big elephants having a stomping match but patients shouldn’t bear the cost.
24 Internet privacy		N	A trojan horse: beware. Who isn’t for safeguarding consumer privacy? But note that some of the State’s most respected consumer privacy groups oppose this measure . It allows for loopholes that advantage the biggest of the tech companies, operating separate businesses under a single corporate umbrella. Sharing in-house is allowed, and when the house is as big as Google, LLC that’s essentially a mockery of privacy. More it establishes a new beachhead for neoliberalism, creating a market of consumer privacy rights. “Pay for privacy” is not a commodity worthy of your support or our government’s. It is abdicating legislators’ responsibility to place these critical matters in the realm of an initiative devised fallibly by one single plutocrat. Careful vetting of tricky legalese should be the task of elected representatives. Not bought legislators. Vote NO.
25 Reform cash bail		N	Another initiative too tricky for our own good. While some disagree with the need for bail reform, it is possible to support reform, just not as proposed by this initiative. Even while it is said erroneously that this passage is the only hope for it. Two sets of opponents to the proposition agree on means (Vote NO) to a different end (reforming the cash bail system). Passage amounts to substituting one form of criminalizing poverty (“an unjust money bail system”) with another empowering “judges to use pretrial jail time to pressure people into pleading guilty.” This initiative opens the floodgates to automated racial profiling through computerized artificial intelligence and “predictive policing.” It conscripts a whole underclass to the reductive bias and predation of BigTech masquerading as criminal justice reform. The only winners are the purveyors of the algorithms. It is they who are bankrolling support of the initiative. Vote NO.

