

Section 1: Basic Voter Information



KEY TERMS

primary election an election to choose the candidates in a later election

Democrat a person who is in one of the two major political parties in the USA. Democrats think the government should play a big role in solving problems and making life better for everyone.

Republican a person who is in one of the two major political parties in the USA. Republicans think the government should be smaller and less involved in people's lives.

propositions proposed plans or laws that citizens can vote on

bond an agreement to lend money to a government with the promise of gaining interest on the loan

constitutional amendments changes to the constitution

general election an election to choose leaders and government officials, usually held after a primary election

ballots forms that people use to vote in an election. A ballot lists all the choices you can vote for.

early voting voting in person at an official voting site before election day

Background

It's a presidential election year. And 2024 is already one of the most dramatic and memorable. On July 21, President Joe Biden dropped out of the race and said he would support Vice President Kamala Harris. She was born in California and lived here for most of her life.

California voters will also choose a new U.S. senator this year. In the **primary election**, two people got the most votes: U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, a **Democrat**, and **Republican** Steve Garvey, a former baseball star.

Californians will also vote to elect candidates in many other races including:

- State Senate
- State Assembly
- U.S. House of Representatives

California could be important in helping decide whether Democrats or Republicans control the U.S. House of Representatives.

Voters also have ten **propositions** to vote on. These include two **bond** issues and three **constitutional amendments**.

Voters have a lot of big decisions. Our 2024 California Voter Guide is here to help.

Here's some general information about voting in California's Nov. 5 **general election**.

Dates to Remember		
October 7	October 21 and October 22	November 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early voting sites open. • Deadline for ballots to start being mailed to every California voter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 21 is the last day to register to vote either online or by mail. • Same-day registration starts on Oct. 22. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Last day to vote by mail. Ballot must be sent by Nov. 5.

Finding Your District

Do you know which congressional district you live in? Do you know your state senator? You can find your districts and representatives using the Internet. All you need to do is type in your address!



Registering to Vote

Here is a list of requirements for voting in California:

You must:

- be a U.S. citizen and live in California;
- be 18 years old or older;
- not be currently serving a state or federal prison term for a felony; and
- not be found mentally incapable of voting by a court.

To register or update your registration online, go to <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

Making Your Vote Count

You want to be sure your vote counts now that you are a registered voter. You have two ways to vote. The first is by mail-in ballot. The second way is by going to an in-person polling place during **early voting** or on election day.

- **Vote-by-Mail Ballots** These are automatically sent to all registered voters. After you fill it in, sign and date where indicated. Then mail your ballot to the address shown on the return envelope. Or you can drop it off at a drop box. Another way is to take it to a polling place.
- **Early Voting or Election Day Voting** Most counties offer early voting. It starts 29 days before Election Day. It stops the day before Election Day. For first-time voters, you may need an ID. It should have a photo and include your name. Examples of IDs are your driver's license, an employee ID card, or a passport.



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Fundraising

Who are the biggest individuals or groups to give funds for the 2024 election? Look at the table to see the top contributors.

Contributor	Amount
California Association of Realtors	\$39 million given to 67 campaigns
California Apartment Association Issues Committee	\$37 million given to 4 campaigns
AIDS Healthcare Foundation	\$26 million given to 2 campaigns
California Hospitals Committee on Issues, (CHCI) Sponsored by California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (CAHHS)	\$15 million given to 1 campaign
Global Medical Response, Inc. and Its Subsidiaries	\$13 million given to 1 campaign

This information comes from the Secretary of State, but we sometimes adjust the names for easier reading. Information was last updated on September 3, 2024. For full information on fundraising, visit <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/>.



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Section 2: Voter Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



KEY TERMS

drop box a safe, locked container where voters can deliver their ballots, to be picked up by election officials

Secretary of State a government official in a U.S. state. Their main job is to make sure elections run smoothly. This is a different job than the Secretary of State at the federal level.

register give your information to the government so they know who you are, where you live, and that you want to vote

Independent a person who does not belong to any political party

unhoused without housing, or a home

provisional ballot a ballot used when a voter's registration or ability to vote needs to be verified, or checked

Here are some questions people have about voting. The answers will help you with what you need to know to vote in the next election.

How do I vote?

Q: Who can vote?

A: To vote in California you have to register first. To register, you have to be:

- a citizen of the United States
- 18 years old or older by Election Day (November 5, 2024)

Q: Does everyone get a ballot in the mail?

A: Yes. A law was passed in 2021 that requires ballots to be mailed to voters.

These are called vote-by-mail ballots (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail>). Every voter who is registered receives one for each election.

Q: When will I receive my vote-by-mail ballot?

A: County election offices will begin mailing ballots by October 7.

Q: How do I return my vote-by-mail ballot?

A: You can return it in one of these three ways:

- Mail it to your county elections office.
- Drop it off at a ballot **drop box**, vote center, or polling location anywhere in the state.
- Ask someone you trust to do it for you. That person can't get paid for doing this, though.

Q: Can I vote in person? How do I find my polling place or vote center?

A: Yes, you can vote in person. But mailing your ballot as soon as possible is the fastest way to get your vote counted.

You can find out where to vote in the following ways:

- checking online at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>
- texting “VOTE” to GOVOTE (468-8683)
- calling the **Secretary of State’s** hotline at (800) 345-VOTE
- checking the back of your county Voter Information Guide
- contacting your county elections office

Some counties offer even more voting choices. For example, 29 counties allow people to visit the voting center of their choice to vote in person. And they have as many as 10 days to vote this way.

How do I register to vote?

Q: Am I registered to vote?

A: You can check the Secretary of State’s website (<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>).

Enter your name and date of birth. Also, enter one of the following:

- California driver license number
- identification card number
- last four digits of your Social Security number

Contact your county elections office or the Secretary of State if you don’t have any of these. You can reach the Secretary of State by email at elections@sos.ca.gov. You can also reach the Secretary of State by phone at (800) 345-8683.

Q: What if my name has changed since the last time I voted?

A: You have to **register** again.

Q: What if I didn’t let the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or U.S. Postal Service know that I moved?

A: You have to register again.

Q: What if I haven’t voted in several general elections?

A: You have to register again. Sometimes, registration is canceled if people do not vote in several elections.

Q: How do I register?

A: You can register at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

You need to enter your name and date of birth. Also, enter one of the following:

- California driver license number
- identification card number
- last four digits of your Social Security number

You may be able complete your registration online. You can do this if the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has your signature on file. If not, you need



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to print, sign, and mail your completed application to your county elections office. Or you can pick up a paper application at elections offices or any DMV office. Also, applications can be found at many public places. These include many post offices, public libraries, and government offices. You will be contacted if you need to provide more information. You will also be told when your application is approved.

Q: What happens if I miss the deadline to register?

A: The last day to register online for the general election is October 21. You must complete same-day voter registration if you are registering or re-registering less than 15 days before November 5. To do this go to <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg>. Also, you must request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.

Q: How do I change my political party if I'm already registered?

A: You need to re-register to vote (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>).

What if I need help with voting?

Q: What if I need voter information in a language other than English?

A: CalMatters' Voter Guide is available in Spanish: <https://calmatters.org/es/guia-para-votantes-de-california-2024/>. The Secretary of State's office has voter instructions in the following languages:

- Spanish (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/es-mx>)
- Hindi (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/hi-in>)
- Chinese (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/zh-cn>)
- Japanese (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/ja-jp>)
- Khmer (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/km-kh>)
- Korean (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/ko-kr>)
- Tagalog (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/tl-ph>)
- Thai (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/th-th>)
- Vietnamese (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/vi-vn>)

Your county elections office may offer additional languages.

Q: When will I receive my voter guide?

A: The statewide voter guide will be available online on September 6. It will be mailed to voters between September 26 and October 15. County election offices will mail their local guides during the same time. Voter guides will be available in audio and large print.

Q: What am I voting on?

A: You are voting on the following:

- President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. House member
- state senator (if you live in an odd-numbered district)
- state assembly member
- 10 ballot propositions, including 2 bond issues and 3 constitutional amendments



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Note that the U.S. Senate race appears twice on your ballot. One vote is for the term that ends in January 2025. The other is for the full term that ends in January 2031. Your ballot will also include local offices.

Q: Which parties are on the ballot?

A: Six parties qualified for the election: Democratic, Republican, American **Independent**, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom. Some candidates have no preferred party.

Q: Can I leave work to vote?

A: Yes. California is one of 31 states that requires time off for voting. There are some rules that have to do with this time off. You can find them at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/time-vote-notice>. Here are a few of these rules:

- Employers are only required to pay for up to two hours.
- Employers may require advance notice.
- The time off must be at the beginning or end of your shift.
- Employers are required to put up a notice about this. They must do it 10 days before a state election.

Q: How can I find out about my ballot after I vote?

A: Go online (<https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>). Then select “My Voter Status.” This will tell you if your vote was counted. It will show what the problem is if your vote was not counted.

What if I have special circumstances?

Q: I’m in the military. I live in another country or out of state at this time. How do I vote?

A: If you know where you’ll be, you can do the following:

- Re-register and request a special absentee ballot.
- Choose if you want your ballot mailed, faxed, or emailed.

Find a help sheet at <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/mov/tips-for-ca-mov.pdf>.

Q: What if I’m disabled or have a medical emergency?

A: You can still vote.

- Voting from home: Follow the tips on this website: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-ravbm.pdf>.
- Voting with a medical emergency: Follow the tips on this website: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-voters-medical-emergencies.pdf>.

Q: Will I get my ballot if my mail is being sent to another address?

A: No, that’s not allowed. Contact your country elections office if you will be out of state. Do the same if you have been displaced because of an emergency. This website is for displaced voters: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-displaced-voters.pdf>.

Q: Can I vote if I don’t have a permanent address?

A: Yes. Under California law, you can use your last address for these reasons:



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- You are **unhoused** (see <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-homelessness.pdf>).
- You are in between places to live.

You can also use a business address, if that's where you live.

Q: I want to fill out a voter registration card. What do I do if I don't have an exact street location?

A: You can provide the city, zip code, and closest cross-streets. This may be a public camp or park.

You must also provide a current mailing address. You can use a P.O. box. The U.S. Postal Service offers general delivery mail services to customers with no exact address and no identification. See this website: <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Is-there-mail-service-for-the-homeless>.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

Q: What should I do if I marked my ballot wrong? What if I messed it up some other way?

A: You can turn your old ballot in for a new one at an elections office. You can ask an election official at the polling place for a new ballot. Or you can vote using a **provisional ballot**.

There's no way to fix a ballot that you have mailed or turned in. Contact your county elections office for a new ballot.

Q: What if the signature on my ballot doesn't match the one on file?

A: County election officials check the signatures on the return envelope against signatures on your voter registration card. They do this to make sure no one tries to improperly cast your ballot. Your ballot still remains private. The ballot is separated from the envelope before it is counted.

Voters with missing signatures or ones that don't match are contacted. They have a chance to correct the problem before the election becomes certified. See <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-mismatched-signature.pdf>.

Q: What happens if I don't receive my ballot?

A: Contact your county elections office.

Q: What if I put my ballot in a drop box in the wrong county?

A: The county will give it to the correct elections office.

Q: I forgot to remove the stub from my ballot. Can I open the envelope and reseal it?

A: You can. But the Secretary of State's office says it is better to contact your local county election office (see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>). This office will be processing your ballot. So they can offer the best guidance. They can tell you whether to reopen it or just leave the stub attached.

Q: Do I have to vote in every race of the ballot?

A: No. Your ballot will still be counted if you skip some races. Many voters do this when they are not sure how to vote.



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Section 3: Propositions



KEY TERMS

ballot proposition a yes or no question about a new law or a new idea on how the government should spend money. If most people vote “yes,” the idea can become a new rule or law

amendment a change to a government rule or law that already exists

Prop 2

What would it do?

It would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion to build schools and colleges.

This **ballot proposition** would provide money for schools in California to improve, fix, and construct school buildings. Kindergartens, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools would get \$8.5 billion. Community colleges would receive \$1.5 billion. The money would be distributed through matching grants. This means that the state would provide some of the money. The local school districts would pay the rest. The state would pay more of the costs for less wealthy districts, as well as schools with higher numbers of English language learners and children from foster homes.

Why is it on the ballot?

Thousands of California school buildings are in poor condition. For example, some buildings have leaky roofs, broken air conditioning, peeling paint, and other health and safety problems. The Public Policy Institute of California says that 38% of students attend schools that don’t meet the state’s safety standards. Research has shown that students who go to these schools attend class less often. These students may also face other problems, such as low self-confidence and achievement.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters say this money is necessary to make basic safety improvements in schools. They also believe that it is needed to add modern science labs, performing arts spaces and kindergarten classrooms for younger children. School districts in lower-income areas have no other way to pay for those improvements.</p>	<p>Opponents say the state should include school repairs in its regular budget. They think taxpayers already pay too much to the state. In addition, they argue that Prop. 2 would not directly help students.</p> <p>Several organizations have concerns about what they see as the unfair use of funds. They think that the state’s way of providing matching funds should be adjusted. To them, lower-income districts should receive a higher share of the funds. The nonprofit law firm Public Advocates has threatened to sue if the measure passes.</p>



KEY TERMS

conservative a person who has traditional values or wants the government to protect traditional values

measure a law or suggested plan

Prop 3

What would it do?

Proposition 3 would update the language of the California constitution to make sure that same-sex couples continue to have the right to same-sex marriage. It would get rid of Proposition 8, which was passed by voters in 2008. That proposition defined marriage as between a man and a woman. In practice, Proposition 3 would not change who can marry.

Why is it on the ballot?

California state Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Evan Low are both Democrats in the Legislative LGBTQ Caucus. They introduced a constitutional amendment as a way to keep some other action from being taken after the U.S. Supreme Court stopped federal abortion protections in 2022. Justice Clarence Thomas, a **conservative**, said that the court should also reconsider whether same-sex marriage should be allowed. However, other conservatives on the Court did not agree with Justice Thomas.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters argue the measure would simply remove old and outdated language from the California constitution. It would protect a right already recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court. The protection comes at the right time, because of “recent threats against basic rights.” This refers to the 2022 Supreme Court decision to overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and allow states to decide abortion laws.</p>	<p>Opponents say the measure goes too far. It would set aside marriage laws. They think it would also end protections against “child marriages, incest, and polygamy.” They argue that it’s best for children to be raised by both mothers and fathers. They say that the measure “threatens our shared values of healthy families, healthy children, and a healthy society.”</p> <p>The nonpartisan, or independent, Legislative Analyst’s Office studied the proposition and found that the proposal’s impact does not mention changes to state marriage laws.</p>



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KEY TERMS

audit a review of a person or group's finances, including how much money was spent and how it was spent

Prop 4

What would it do?

This proposition would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion for environmental and climate projects. About \$1.9 billion would be used to improve drinking water. The bond would help lower-income communities and those most likely to be harmed by climate change. The state has promised to do a yearly **audit**. Each year, it will check to make sure the money is being spent in the best possible way.

Repaying the debt could cost \$400 million a year over 40 years. So taxpayers could end up spending \$16 billion in all.

Why is it on the ballot?

Environmental groups and renewable energy supporters have been wanting California to spend more money on climate change and the environment in recent years. They were pleased when Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state legislature agreed on a \$54.3 billion plan called the “California Climate Commitment” in 2022. This happiness turned to disappointment, though. Budget problems led the state to reduce the amount to \$44.6 billion this year.

Yes Vote	No Vote
Supporters are concerned about the threat the state faces from wildfires, water pollution, and extreme heat. They argue that more spending on these issues is “urgent.” Dozens of environmental groups support voting yes on the proposition.	Opponents argue that “bonds are the most expensive way for the government to pay for things.” They also worry that some of the money could go toward technologies that may not work well. They say that California should pay for such projects without taking on more debt.



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KEY TERMS

infrastructure the system of public works of a country, state, or area, including roads, railways, and water facilities

majority the greater part of a number

Prop 5

What would it do?

It would make it easier to get funding for affordable housing and infrastructure projects.

It is hard for local governments in California to borrow money. Voters need to approve most city and county bonds. These bonds need at least two-thirds (about 67%) of the people voting to vote yes for the bond to pass.

Proposition 5 would amend, or change, the California constitution. It would lower the required share of voters needed to pass a bond from about 67% of the total number of votes to 55%. This change could help fund the following:

- building affordable housing
- programs that help people with down payments for homes
- many “public **infrastructure**” projects, including projects for water management, local hospitals and police stations, broadband networks, and parks

Why is it on the ballot?

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, a Democrat from Winters, has been trying to get this proposition on the ballot since 2017. Each time, it has failed to get on the ballot. This time she was successful.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters say that allowing just one third of voters to reject the wishes of two thirds is not democratic or fair. The local government should be able to borrow money for affordable housing or other public infrastructure if most voters agree.</p> <p>Supporters also say this is a question of local control. Changing the required vote from two-thirds to 55% would allow local officials to fund important projects more easily. They would not have to depend as much on money from the state or federal government.</p>	<p>Opponents say that it's always easy to support taking on more debt if you aren't the one who has to pay it back. Property owners almost always have to pay higher taxes when a local government borrows money. The property owners might only be a minority of voters, so the choice to approve a bond should be made only when more people make the decision. This could stop a small majority from making irresponsible decisions.</p> <p>Critics also say this measure would take away protections that Proposition 13 put into the state constitution. They claim that lawmakers are trying to undo what California voters wanted.</p>



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Prop 6

What would it do?

Proposition 6 would amend, or change, the California constitution to keep the state from punishing prisoners by forcing them to work. It would also prevent the state from punishing prisoners who refuse to work. Instead, state prisons could set up a volunteer work program. Prisoners who choose to work could have their jail time reduced.

Why is it on the ballot?

California was not a state that had slaves. However, the state does have a history of forcing people to work for almost nothing. A team of experts suggested changing the state constitution to stop prisons from forcing prisoners to work.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters say that prisoners are often punished or harmed in some way for turning down assignments that can be dangerous or life threatening. It's cruel, they say, to have to work long hours on jobs that do not necessarily help them build future skills for little pay.</p> <p>They also mention the growing number of states that have adopted similar rules. These include Colorado, Alabama, Tennessee, and Vermont. However, California would have stronger language to prevent punishment toward prisoners.</p>	<p>An official ballot argument against the measure has not been filed. But a few Republican lawmakers voted against it. They disagree with repayment efforts by the state at a time when the budget shortage is a top priority.</p> <p>Critics in other states have said that the current work system helps prisoners. It helps create order in prisons that want to retrain or help prisoners be ready to rejoin society. Some say that changing that system by allowing prisoners to turn down assignments could eventually make it more difficult to manage prisons.</p>



KEY TERMS

deficit a lack of money that happens when a government spends more than it receives in taxes

inflation the rate that prices increase, or go up, over a period of time

Prop 32

What would it do?

Proposition 32 would raise the minimum wage to \$17 for the rest of 2024. The minimum wage would be \$18 an hour starting in January 2025. This is a raise from the current \$16. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees would need to start paying at least \$17 next year. In 2026, they would pay \$18. California will have the nation’s highest state minimum wage if voters say “yes.” Starting in 2027, the minimum wage would be adjusted based on **inflation**.

Why is it on the ballot?

California became the first state to reach a \$15 minimum wage in 2022. Unions and restaurant workers had fought for this wage for a long time. But many people say that the minimum wage should be higher. They say the cost of living in the state is so high that people cannot live on minimum wage.

Joe Sanberg is a rich businessperson who works against poverty. So he put \$10 million into getting signatures so this proposition could be on the ballot.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Labor groups want the proposition to pass. But many say it’s not as high a minimum wage as they’d like. Sanberg estimates it would give raises to 2 million workers statewide. These people haven’t yet benefitted from raises in certain industries. They also don’t live in cities that require a higher wage. Supporters also argue the money would help families afford basic needs. They say it would be spent at local businesses. They also say it would help reduce low-income Californians’ use of taxpayer-provided benefits. Studies done by UC Berkeley have found that California’s gradual increase to \$15 had “no significant” effect on job losses.</p>	<p>Business groups are against the proposition. They argue that employers are already dealing with increased supply and labor costs from inflation. They say that for some companies, business hasn’t come back fully since the COVID pandemic. They use the state government as an example. It is facing a budget deficit. So it delayed a \$25 health care worker minimum wage until this fall to see if it has the cash to pay for it. Those against the proposition say that private employers should get the same benefit. They also point to surveys requested by the small city of West Hollywood. In the surveys, 42% of businesses said they laid off staff or cut workers’ hours. They made the cuts because of the city’s \$19.08 minimum wage.</p>



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Prop 33

What would it do?

It would allow local governments to limit how much rent people pay.

Many cities, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, limit the amount a landlord can raise the rent each year. This is a practice known as rent control. But California has set limits on rent control for nearly 30 years, because of the Costa-Hawkins law. This law says that cities cannot use rent control on single-family homes or apartments built after 1995. Also, landlords are free to set their own rental rates when new renters move in.

This would change if Proposition 33 passes. Cities would be able to control rents on any type of housing, including single-family homes and new apartments. It would also apply to new renters.

Why is it on the ballot?

Nearly 30% of renters in California spend more than half the money they earn on rent. The Public Policy Institute of California found that this amount of renters is higher than in any other state except Florida and Louisiana.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>The main argument for Prop. 33 is that rents are too high. Teachers, police officers, and firefighters starting their careers are paying half of the money they earn to live in many California cities. Others with lower incomes are paying so much that soon they may be homeless.</p> <p>Supporters argue that rent control works well in many cities. It helps people keep living in their homes. And, they say, passing Prop. 33 will let local governments make decisions about rent control. They can form and pass laws that work for their residents.</p>	<p>Opponents say that strict rent control codes will make California's already severe housing problems even worse. They argue that the values of property will fall. They say people will be less likely to build new housing. This will cause prices of rental units to increase.</p> <p>Critics also say that the proposition does not actually include protections for renters. They say that California voters have voted against this idea twice already.</p>



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KEY TERMS

policy a set of ideas or a plan of action

Prop 34

What would it do?

It would require certain health care providers to use money from prescription drugs for patients.

Since 1992, federal law has given health care providers a discount on drugs if they care for low-income and at-risk people. The providers can then sell those drugs to customers. They can charge the same amount a customer would pay in a retail store. Providers can use the money they make to expand, or grow, their health care services.

Proposition 34 would require some California providers to spend at least 98% of that drug sale money on caring for patients. If providers do not do this, they could lose their state licenses. They could also have to pay taxes and lose contracts given by the government.

But the proposition doesn't affect all providers. It only applies to providers who spend at least \$100 million on costs other than direct care for patients. The providers must also own and operate apartment buildings. They need to have at least 500 severe health and safety violations in the last 10 years.

It is possible that this proposition only applies to one group: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. The proposition would also put into law a **policy** from Gov. Newsom's administration that requires all state agencies to negotiate, or bargain, for lower drug prices as a single unit.

Why is it on the ballot?

One reason is that a lot of political leaders and housing interest groups really don't like Michael Weinstein. Weinstein is the longtime president of the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation. This group runs HIV/AIDS clinics in 15 states. The group has also become important in state and local housing politics under his leadership. It has spent tens of millions of dollars on two unsuccessful statewide rent control measures. (Prop. 33 on this year's ballot is the third try). It has forcefully campaigned against laws requiring local governments to permit denser, or more crowded, housing. In 2017, the foundation supported partly suspending or stopping development in Los Angeles. It sued to stop construction on residential buildings with more than one story. Along the way, the foundation has gained a large number of rental properties in LA's Skid Row that have had issues with basic living standards and health complaints.

Weinstein has plenty of political enemies. However, a familiar one is paying for this initiative: The California Apartment Association. This is the state's main landlord lobby (or interest group) and is opposed to the idea of rent control.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters say the issue is accountability, or being responsible. They say that when the federal government gives discounts to health care providers, the money should be used to help the neediest patients. This proposition would make things clearer and lessen abuse.</p> <p>Supporters have also said that Weinstein is a “safety net scammer.” Prop. 34 would keep Weinstein from taking the organization’s funds away from HIV and AIDS patients and using them for his own political projects.</p>	<p>Opponents argue that this proposition is paid for by landlords who want to get even. They say that in a democracy, campaigns should make their case to the voters. They should not silence their opponents. They also say the proposition is illegal and cannot be put into practice. This is because both the U.S. and state constitutions ban laws that are meant to punish a single person or organization. The foundation used that argument in a lawsuit late last year. Though the state Supreme Court would not take the proposition off the ballot, the constitutional problems with the proposition have not been addressed or solved. If Prop. 34 passes, the case will probably go back to court.</p>

Prop 35

What would it do?

It would require the state to take the money it gets from a tax on health care plans and spend it on Medi-Cal.

Medi-Cal is the public, state-funded insurance program for low-income Californians and people with disabilities. The money would go to primary and specialty care. Also, it would be used for emergency services, family planning, mental health and prescription drugs. Proposition 35 is expected to bring in about \$35 billion over the next four years.

Why is it on the ballot?

In the past 10 years, lawmakers made Medi-Cal include more people. It now includes all low-income residents, even if they are not citizens. Lawmakers also brought back benefits such as dental insurance, hearing aids, and doulas (people who aren’t doctors but help support pregnant women during labor). Today, more than 14 million Californians (or about a third of the people in the state) use Medi-Cal. Payments to doctors and other Medi-Cal providers have increased, or gone up, only slowly, if at all. California’s rate for these payments is in the bottom third nationally, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. As a result, many doctors and hospitals won’t treat Medi-Cal patients.

A group of doctors, hospitals, and clinics got signatures to place this issue on the ballot. They want the tax money to go toward higher payments.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters argue that California has used this tax, the Managed Care Organization Tax, for decades. The tax has helped fund general spending on Medi-Cal. Managed care health plans pay a tax to get a matching amount of money from the federal government. Health providers who care for Medi-Cal patients say that the tax money should be used for new investments in Medi-Cal. They do not think it should be used to support the state's general fund. Supporters also say that the measure gives lawmakers some flexibility that can help them balance the budget. The tax money could also be used for investing in additional Medi-Cal services.</p>	<p>Gov. Newsom has said that he will oppose, or argue against, the proposition. This is even though there is no group officially opposing the proposition so far. He argues against limiting how the tax revenue is spent. He says that it will make it hard for future lawmakers to balance the state budget.</p>

Prop 36

What would it do?

It would increase penalties for theft and drug crimes.

Why is it on the ballot?

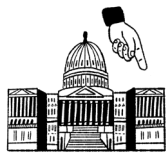
Ten years ago, voters approved Proposition 47. This plan aimed to make California's prisons less crowded. It would reduce crowding by changing some theft and drug crimes into misdemeanors. Since then, prosecutors, police and big box retailers have criticized the law. They say it has led to increases in property crimes and homelessness. Prop. 36 is their attempt to stop Prop. 47.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>Supporters see Prop. 36 as a way to fight homelessness. Homelessness has increased by more than 50% since Prop. 47 passed. Supporters say that drug dependence often causes homelessness. They believe that increasing the punishment for drug possession will help solve the problem. They claim it would force people into treatment and not onto the street.</p> <p>Supporters also say Prop. 36 is a good middle ground, or compromise. Over the years, California has taken very different stands on punishment for crimes. California's tough-on-crime years made prisons very crowded. The supporters believe Prop. 47 went too far in the opposite direction. Prop 36 supporters think that Prop. 47 made it possible for criminals to avoid responsibility for retail thefts and selling drugs like fentanyl.</p>	<p>Opponents say that harsher punishment (or the threat of punishment) does not prevent crime or help people avoid being homeless. They point out that studies on criminal justice or homelessness support this belief.</p> <p>Prop. 36 will spend hundreds of millions of dollars in court and prison costs, opponents say. They add that it will not greatly reduce crime or poverty. They also believe that schools, health care and other necessary services will suffer.</p> <p>Opponents argue Prop. 36 would cause a return to the War on Drugs. They believe that California voters rejected this idea when they voted for Prop. 47.</p>



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Section 4: U.S. Senate



KEY TERMS

recession a time of economic downturn, or decline

Voters will choose a Californian to represent them in the U.S. Senate. It should be someone who can make careful decisions on presidential appointments. And, as a senator, the person must have the skills need to pass legislation, or laws.

There are two separate elections. One is to pick who will serve out the term ending in January 2025. The second is to decide who will be a U.S. senator for the next six years. The position pays \$174,000 a year.

What to Know

What Do U.S. Senators Do?

- They review legislation and plans for government actions.
- They choose issues to support and become known for.
- They vet, or look into, the president's choices for judges, cabinet members, and people to represent the U.S. in other countries.
- They understand that senators with longer service have more power than those new to the Senate.

Background

Voters will choose a senator for a two-month term in late 2024. They also will choose the person to serve the standard six-year term in the Senate. This term begins in January 2025.

Here's why there are two separate elections. U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein died in September 2023. Governor Gavin Newsom named Laphonza Butler to replace her. Newsom then called a special election to take place along with the regular election. It will be to fill what's left of Feinstein's term, which ends in January. Laphonza Butler isn't one of the candidates because she decided not to run.

The two candidates are Democratic U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff and Dodgers legend and Republican Steve Garvey. These candidates moved on from the March 5 primary to the November 5 general election and special election.

Candidates



Meet Adam Schiff

U.S. Representative
Democrat

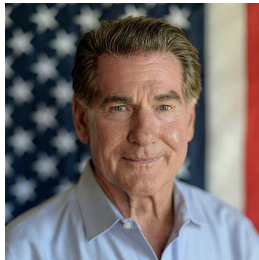
Background

Schiff got into California politics in 1996. He became the youngest state senator at the time. In 2000, voters elected him to Congress. He wants to make housing more affordable. He also wants to protect labor rights. And he hopes to help immigrants with no legal documents have a way to become citizens.

Experience

- **U.S. House representative**
2001-present

Schiff was part of a group called the Blue Dog Coalition until 2013. As part of this group, he wanted to balance the country's budget. Also, he wanted harsher punishments for people who kill police officers. And he wanted stronger national security. More recently, he became known for leading the first impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump in 2019. The Senate did not convict Trump.



Meet Steve Garvey

Professional Baseball Representative
Republican

Background

Garvey promises not to restrict abortion rights. Also, he supports private investment in housing for the homeless. He says he will fight inflation. Garvey supported Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020. He has not said anything about the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

Experience

- **Owner of Marketing Firm**
1996-2002

The Garveys ran the Garvey Management Group from their home in Utah. Candace Garvey was listed as the director, according to state records. The Garveys said in court documents that she was the only owner. However, Steve is listed as the owner in at least one agreement from April 1997. This is according to state records.



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The Candidates' Views On the Issues

Note: The questions and answers that follow are not the exact questions or quotes of the candidates. They have been simplified to make them easier to read.

Economy and Inflation

California and the rest of the nation are not in a **recession**. However, inflation is still high. Some polls show that even with more jobs and an increase in wages, Californians are still worried about their finances. They are unsure about what lies ahead in 2024.

Q: What are three policies you think the federal government should put into use to reduce inflation?

Adam Schiff

First, we should look at why the cost of goods has increased. We can do this by looking at scarcity, or shortness of supply. We can provide housing people can afford through federal investments and tax credits. We can increase our renewable sources of energy by producing more. We can expand the number of people working in healthcare. We can also have childcare that costs less.

Second, we need to increase competition. Enforcing laws that prevent unfair business practices will help bring prices down.

Third, we must lower the costs of medicine. The government should work out the prices of prescription drugs. It should also allow prescription drugs to be brought into the United States from other countries. And it should pass Medicare for All.

Steve Garvey

My main focus would be to reduce inflation. This would help the crisis so many families across California and the nation are facing with things not being affordable. One way to fight inflation is to vote against new federal spending. Another way is to stand up to higher tax increases and regulations. These will increase the cost of living on everyday goods and services. Some regulations can stop economic growth and increase the cost of producing goods. This also includes eliminating too many regulations as it relates to new home construction.

Criminal Justice

Californians' concerns about crime grew during the COVID pandemic. They haven't lessened since there are fewer law enforcement officers in many communities. California does have some of the country's strictest gun laws. But an important measure that would ban concealed weapons in most public places is with the courts.

Q: What are three policies you want to put into law to reduce crime in California and the United States?

Adam Schiff

A good way to keep our communities safe is to invest in violence prevention and provide support for law enforcement. We should also provide substance abuse and mental health services. I will continue my work to get rid of the pile-up of rape kits.



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Also, I support using DNA evidence to solve violent crime. We can help prevent organized crime by using federal, state, and local task forces. I also support an increase in funding to fight fentanyl use. This includes stopping drugs from entering our borders and going after drug smuggling organizations.

Steve Garvey

We need to support law enforcement so they can keep our communities safe. Also, we need to build and strengthen the relationship between federal law enforcement and state and local law enforcement. They need to work together, not against each other. Lawyers who work for the government also need to support the law. They should not push the agenda of one party. Strengthening the southern border and giving additional support to border patrol should also be done.

For more of the candidates' views on issues, go to <https://cal.news/3wkdDmx>.



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Section 5: U.S. House

Voters will pick their representatives in 52 U.S. House districts. The 2022 results in California helped give control to Republicans.

What to Know

What Do U.S. Representatives Do?

- They help create legislation.
- They work for the concerns of the people they are representing, or constituents. This is done by convincing other representatives, or leaders, that these concerns are important.
- They keep raising money and campaigning. U.S. representatives run for office every 2 years.

Background

California is a key congressional battleground state. This is especially true for its swing districts. A swing district is a district that could be won by either party. Now, Republicans have a majority of just 5 seats in the U.S. House. California's representatives include 40 Democrats and 12 Republicans.

Finding Your District

Do you know which congressional district you live in? You can find your districts and representatives using the Internet. All you need to do is type in your address!

 **GO TO**  <https://cal.news/fyd>



Section 6: State Senate



KEY TERMS

supermajority a majority that is bigger than a simple majority (such as two-thirds)

Voters will pick their representatives in half of the 40 state Senate districts. Each of these districts has more than 900,000 constituents, or people they represent.

What to Know

What Do State Senators Do?

- They represent the people in their area by holding meetings and listening to what's important to them.
- They work on committees, which are like teams within the state Senate that focus on different topics like jobs, health care, and the environment.
- They introduce new ideas for laws and suggest ways to spend the state's money.

Background

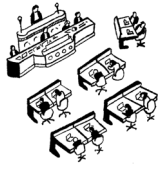
The state Senate had many changes in 2022. This was because of a combination of term limits and new district maps following the 2020 Census. State senators serve for four years, but not all of them are chosen at the same time. This year, only the 20 districts with odd numbers (for example, 1, 3, 5, 7) will pick new state senators. That means many voters will not vote for a state senator this year.

The current Senate has 32 Democrats and 8 Republicans. Right now, Democrats have a two-thirds **supermajority**. This allows them to pass tax increases without any Republican votes. It also allows them to put constitutional amendments on the ballot. If Republicans can take over five of the seats held by Democrats, then the Democrats will no longer have a supermajority.

Finding My District

Do you know which district you live in? You can find your districts and representatives using the Internet. All you need to do is type in your address!

 **GO TO**  <https://cal.news/fyd>



Section 7: State Assembly



KEY TERMS

incumbents people who are already serving as elected government officials

Voters will choose their representatives in all 80 state Assembly districts. Many representatives will be new, because of retirements and term limits. How many of those challenging **incumbents**, or people already in office, will be successful? And how many seats will change from one party to the other?

What to Know

What Do State Assemblymembers Do?

- They vote on up to 3,000 different things each year, usually in a way that most people in their area would want.
- They also help decide how the state spends money.

Background

In 2022, 25 members resigned from the Assembly. Some took other jobs. Some retired. The 2022 election saw more changes too. Some people were not reelected to office.

Duties can depend on which party a representative belongs to. Democrats control 62 of the 80 seats right now. That's a supermajority. So members of that party should be prepared to come up with important legislation. Republicans should be prepared to spend a lot of time criticizing Democrats. They also complain about being kept out of decisions.

But not all Democrats are the same. They often disagree. They disagree about health care, housing, environmental regulation, taxes and labor law. In districts that are more Democratic, certain groups work hard to get the Democrat they prefer elected. These groups include unions, activists who are liberal, and those interested in business who have a lot of money.

Finding Your District

Do you know which district you live in? You can find your districts and representatives using the Internet. All you need to do is type in your address!


GO TO

<https://cal.news/fyd>