

VOTER GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2022

A guide to ballot measures for Los Angeles County voters

For more information, including summaries translated into AAPI languages, please visit: aapiequityalliance.org/voterguide



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ABOUT AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE AND THE VOTER GUIDE

AAPI Equity Alliance (AAPI Equity) - formerly, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) - is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI') community in Los Angeles County and beyond.^{II} AAPI Equity is dedicated to improving the lives of AAPIs through civic engagement, capacity building, and policy advocacy. AAPI Equity is also one of the cofounding partners of Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition that tracks and responds to hate against AAPIs across the country.^{III}

Every major election cycle, AAPI Equity releases a voter guide to help AAPIs and others in Los Angeles understand and evaluate ballot measures. The voter guide analyzes measures at the State of California, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Community College District levels.¹ As a voter, you do not have to vote on every measure for your ballot to count.

For each measure, this voter guide:

- Explains what the measure does and its impact, including on AAPIs, $^{\!\!N}$
- Identifies key people and groups that support and oppose the measure, and
- Makes a recommendation on how to vote.
 - A SUPPORT recommendation means we recommend voting "yes."
 - An **OPPOSE** recommendation means we recommend voting "no."
 - A **NO POSITION** means we are not making a recommendation.

Each analysis is authored by a member of our staff or a member organization and reviewed by our staff and one or more member organizations. Each recommendation is approved by a majority vote at a meeting of the Board of Directors. Because AAPI Equity is a 501(c)(3) taxexempt nonprofit organization, we do not endorse individual candidates.

For questions regarding this voter guide, please email: info@appiequityalliance.org.

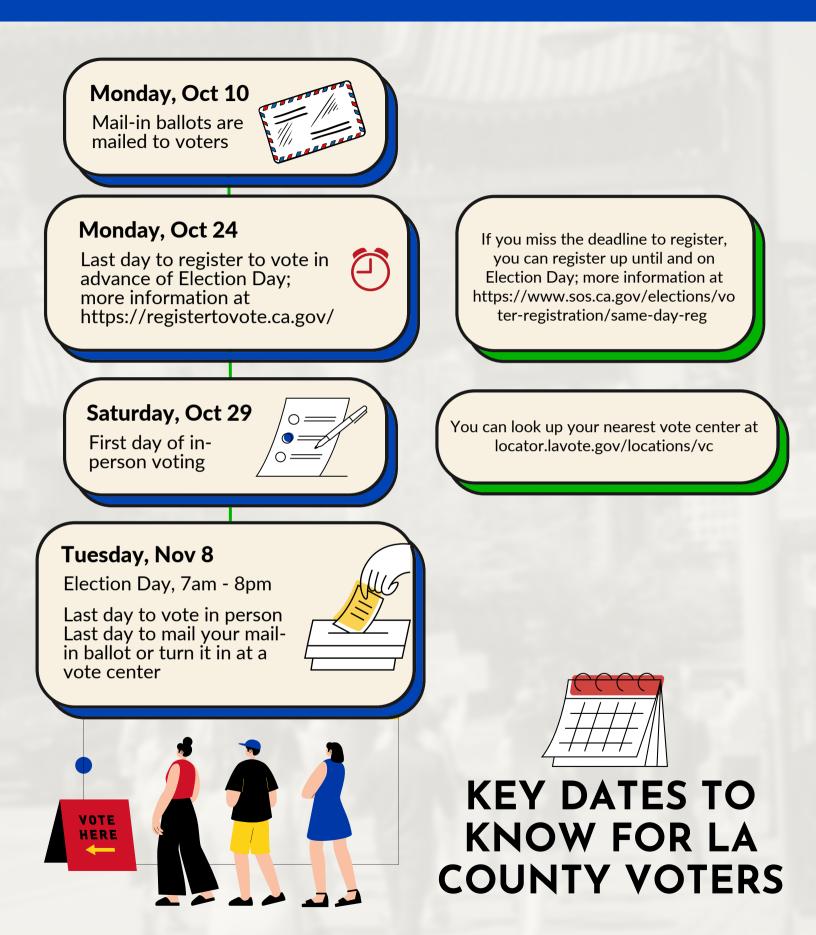
I We use the term "AAPIs" throughout this voter guide to refer to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, unless the underlying source we cite uses another term (for example, the U.S. Census uses Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders or NHPI) or refers to a specific subset of our communities. We recognize that the term "AAPI" encompasses a large and diverse set of communities and that the identity is debated within our communities. We use the term "AAPI" because AAPI Equity Alliance includes among its member organizations and leadership representation from the Pacific Islander community.

II Learn more about AAPI Equity at https://aapiequityalliance.org/.

III Learn more about Stop AAPI Hate at https://stopaapihate.org/.

IV For more information on the impact of these ballot measures to Pacific Islander communities, we recommend referring to materials developed by Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) at https://www.empoweredpi.org/.

HOW TO LEARN MORE & GET HELP



HOW TO LEARN MORE & GET HELP

Voting in another language

LA County is required to provide help to voters in languages other than English, including Chinese, Cambodian/Khmer, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, Vietnamese, Hindi, Japanese, Thai, Bengali, Burmese, Gujarati, Indonesian, Mongolian, and Telugu.²

- Call 1-800-815-2666, option 3, to request translated materials to be mailed.
- Receive help in one of these languages on Election Day at most vote centers, including on the voting machine.
- Find translated information online at:
 - https://www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections/voter-education/multilingualservices-program/multilingual-services-program.

Get additional help

If you are a voter in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas with questions about voting and elections, such as how to vote or where to vote, or if you want to report an issue with voting, you can contact Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California by telephone, social media, or online email.

Chinese: 800-520-2356 Korean: 800-867-3640 Tagalog: 855-300-2552 Hindi: 855-971-2552 Thai: 800-914-9583 Vietnamese: 714-477-2958 English: 888-349-9695

Twitter: @ajsocal_ Instagram: @advancingjusticesocal Facebook: @advancingjusticesocal Website: https://www.ajsocal.org/contact/

To report problems outside these counties:

- Contact 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) for assistance in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Tagalog, and English.
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund hosts a toll-free bilingual English-Spanish hotline: 888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682).
- Report directly to your county election office: https://www.calvoter.org/county_contact
- Lodge a complaint directly with the California Secretary of State: https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/publications-and-resources/voter-complaint.

AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE

PROP 1

VOTE YES: Amends California constitution to include a person's right to reproductive freedom, which includes the right to choose whether to have an abortion and use contraceptives. This is essential medical care and a fundamental right that should be protected from politics.

NO POSITION ON PROP 26

NO POSITION: Expands options for inperson gambling to include sports betting, dice, and roulette at tribal casinos (as tribal compacts allow) and sports betting at racetracks. Generates revenue for regulatory costs, help for gambling addiction, and the state's general fund. Supported by tribal communities.

NO POSITION ON PROP 27

NO POSITION: Licenses tribes and large gambling companies to offer online sports betting over the Internet and mobile devices. Generates revenue to cover regulatory costs and address homelessness. Increases risk of underage and problem gambling. Tribal communities are divided.

PROP 28

VOTE YES: Requires the state to provide a minimum source of funding for arts education in K-12 public schools without raising taxes. Without enough funding, schools deprioritize access to arts education even though Cal State and University of California systems require arts instruction for admission.

PROP 29

VOTE YES: Requires dialysis clinics to meet new requirements around on-site staffing, reporting to the state, and disclosing ownership interests in clinics. Improves the safety and quality of care for patients, increases financial transparency, and prohibits clinics from discriminating against patients based on method of payment.

PROP 30

VOTE YES: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by increasing taxes on millionaires and using revenue to subsidize purchases of zero-emission vehicles and installation of charging stations, particularly among lower-income communities and communities of color. Also pays for hiring and training of firefighters.

PROP 31

VOTE YES: Referendum giving voters a choice to uphold ("yes" vote) or overturn ("no" vote) a 2020 state law banning the sale of most flavored tobacco products, enforced by a \$250 fine on licensed retailers for each violation. Tobacco companies use flavored tobacco to target youth and communities of color, leading to addiction, illness, and increased risk of death.

AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE

MEASURE A

VOTE YES: Gives the county's Board of Supervisors the authority to remove from office an elected county sheriff "for cause," such as breaking a law related to the sheriff's duties, neglecting duties, misusing funds, or interfering with an investigation. Previous sheriffs have been accused and convicted of crimes. This is an important tool for holding a sheriff accountable. It would apply to all sheriffs moving forward.

MEASURE C

VOTE YES: Establishes a new tax on businesses growing and selling cannabis in unincorporated areas of the county. These businesses are currently prohibited but will be legalized and permitted starting in 2023. After they are legal, tax revenue is needed to regulate them and ensure product safety.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

PROP LH

VOTE YES: Authorizes the city to develop up to 5,000 additional units of low-income rental housing in each of the city's 15 council districts, or up to 75,000 units total. Needed to address the high cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, and homelessness in the city.

PROP SP

VOTE YES: Taxes "parcel improvements" to create, improve, and operate parks and recreational centers. Needed because Angelenos, especially low-income communities of color, do not have adequate access to parks, and an existing program to fund parks and recreational centers expires in 2026.

Los Angeles City

MEASURE ULA

VOTE YES: Creates a permanent annual funding program for affordable housing and homelessness prevention, funded by a onetime tax on the sale of high value properties (over \$5 million). Needed to address the high cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, and homelessness in the city.

Los Angeles Community College District

MEASURE LA

VOTE YES: Taxes residential and commercial property owners \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed property valuation to finance a \$5.3 billion bond for LA's community college system. Funds would repair and upgrade old classrooms, buildings, and equipment, such as removing asbestos and mold, and develop housing for students and workers.

CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1: CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Analysis by Candice Cho, Managing Director of Policy and Counsel, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

For nearly 50 years, starting with Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court has said that the U.S. Constitution protects the right to an abortion. The Court reversed its own precedent in June 2022, deciding, in a 5-4 vote, that the Constitution no longer protects this right.³

Now states get to decide whether to allow, limit, or completely ban abortions, in some cases without any exceptions. More than a dozen states have "trigger laws" that began banning abortions once Roe was reversed.⁴ In states such as Alabama, abortion is banned without exceptions for rape or incest.

California has a state constitution that protects individual rights. This includes a person's right to privacy.⁵ According to the state's highest court, this means that a person has the right to make reproductive choices, such as whether to have an abortion or use contraceptives. Californians can vote to change its constitution and last did this in 2020 to allow people on parole for felony convictions to vote.⁶

California also has a law that protects a woman's right to choose an abortion before the fetus is viable or when an abortion is necessary to protect her life or health.^Z The state can still restrict this right in order to protect public health and safety; for example, the state can require abortion providers to be licensed.

SUMMARY

Proposition 1 would amend the state constitution to include an individual's right to reproductive freedom, which includes the fundamental right to choose whether to have an abortion and use contraceptives.⁸ If passed, it would put in the state constitution the same right to reproductive freedom already guaranteed by state courts and state law.

ANALYSIS

Supporters argue that explicitly stating a right to reproductive freedom in the state constitution protects it from attack by a change in the state legislature, which can change laws, or the state's highest court, which can change its interpretation of the state constitution. Proposition 1 recognizes the importance of abortion as essential medical care and as a deeply personal, often difficult, but not uncommon decision between a person who is pregnant and their licensed medical provider. This should not be a decision made by elected officials or non-family members with different beliefs, values, or lived experiences.

SUPPORT

This issue impacts any person who can become pregnant. We use the word "women" when we are describing something that uses that specific word or when we are relying on a source that uses that specific word.

Opponents fall in at least two categories. Those who oppose the right to an abortion argue that abortion is immoral and should never or rarely be allowed. Those who support the right to an abortion worry that the proposition would allow late term abortions, a reading that legal experts do not agree with.²

According to an August 2022 poll by the University of California Berkeley Institute of Government Studies, more than two-thirds of California voters disapprove of the decision to overturn Roe and 71% of Californians plan to vote Yes on Proposition $1.^{10}$

Abortion is essential medical care and a fundamental right that should be shielded from changing politics and the whims of state lawmakers or judges. Proposition 1 would preserve this right in the state constitution, making it more difficult to undo or overturn.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

Access to abortions is critical for the health and well-being of the country's 11.9 million Asian American women and 803,000 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NHPI) women,¹¹ as well as transgender, non-binary, intersex, and gender expansive AAPI persons with the capacity to become pregnant.

AAPI women already face significant language, economic, immigration, and other barriers to accessing health care, including reproductive health care and specifically abortions. For example, rates of cervical cancer screening are low among Asian American women because of language barriers and the cost of pap smears, especially for those who are uninsured.¹²

Asian American women also face false and harmful stereotypes over why they seek abortions, which are used to justify restricting access. The federal government and half the states have considered sex-selective abortion bans¹³ that prohibit abortions based on the sex of the fetus, in part relying on a myth that Asian women have abortions because they prefer sons.¹⁴ In fact, the few empirical studies concerning sex-bias among Asians in America undermine this argument.¹⁵

In spite of these barriers, AAPIs rely on abortion as essential medical care. According to the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, 35% of pregnancies end in abortion for AAPI women, and research suggests a relatively high use of abortion among Chinese American, Korean American, and Thai women. ¹⁶

Nearly three-quarters of Asian adults support legal abortion, the highest level among all racial groups, though there are differences among ethnic groups.¹⁷ Similarly, the UC Berkeley poll shows that 78% of Asian/Pacific Islander voters plan to vote "Yes" on Proposition 1.

FISCAL IMPACT

None identified ¹⁸

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Yes on 1,¹⁹ which includes the California Democratic Party, California Democratic Party Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, California Medical Association, California Labor Federation, California Federation of Teachers, League of Women Voters of California, ACLU, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Southern California
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board²⁰

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- State Asm. James Gallagher
- California Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Republican Party of California

PROPOSITION 26: ALLOWS IN-PERSON ROULETTE, DICE GAMES, SPORTS WAGERING ON TRIBAL LANDS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

NO POSITION

Analysis by AAPI Equity staff in consultation with NAPAFASA ²¹

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law that banned sports betting in states, opening the door for states to allow sports betting.²² California currently bans sports betting. However, it allows other forms of gambling, such as tribal gambling, the state lottery, cardrooms, and horse race betting.

Native American tribes have certain rights under federal law, such as the right to offer gambling. The state generally cannot regulate tribal gambling except as allowed by federal law and tribal-state compacts, which are federally approved agreements between a tribe and state. Under federal law, when a tribe wants to offer gambling on its lands, the state must negotiate a compact with the tribe. If they cannot agree, the federal government may issue a compact instead.

California has compacts with 79 tribes that allow tribal casinos to offer slot machines and other games on tribal lands. The compacts lay out how gambling is regulated and require certain payments, such as to the state and local governments. Tribes can ask for these compacts to be changed when new types of gambling become legal in the state.²³

SUMMARY

Proposition 26 would allow in-person sports betting at tribal casinos and the state's four privately operated racetracks.²⁴ However, it would prohibit bets on high school games and games in which California college teams participate. It would also allow roulette and games played with dice at tribal casinos. Tribal compacts with the state would need to be changed to allow this.

It would require payments to a new state California Sports Wagering Fund (CSWF). Racetracks would pay the state 10% of sports bets made each day, minus any prize payments. Tribal casinos that choose to offer sports betting would have to change their tribal-state compacts, which would lay out the regulations. For example, the compact could specify the minimum age to place a bet, required payments to the state and local governments, and whether tribal payments would go into the new CSWF. If payments do not go into the new CSWF, tribes would be required to pay the state for at least the cost of regulating sports betting at tribal casinos.

CSWF revenues must support the cost of regulating gambling. The remainder would be used in three ways: 15% to the California Department of Public Health (DPH) for gambling addiction and mental health programs and grants, 15% to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Gambling Control for sports betting and gambling enforcement costs, and 70% to the state's General Fund.

The proposition would allow private lawsuits against people believed to be breaking laws banning certain types of card games. Whoever sues can ask for penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation, which would go to the CSWF, and ask the court to stop the behavior. In order to sue, they would first have to ask the DOJ to act.

ANALYSIS

Supporters argue that the proposition will expand the options for in-person gambling with appropriate safeguards, such as enforcement against illegal gambling and funding to address gambling addiction. They include tribal communities who seek the authority to add sports betting, dice, and roulette at tribal casinos.

Opponents who support the cardroom industry are concerned that cardrooms will go out of business as their customers choose other in-person gambling options, leading to job loss for those employees and less tax revenue paid by those cardrooms to the cities in which they are located.²⁵

Problem gambling is a significant problem for many Asian Americans and expanding in-person gambling options could lead to greater harms. However, we are taking no position on this proposition. We support the self-determination of Native communities and defer to the large number of tribes in support of the proposition. We also support the funding that the proposition would make available for DPH to address problem gambling.

IMPACT ON AAPIS

Gambling addiction, now addressed as problem gambling, is a silent but significant struggle for many Asian Americans.²⁶ Problem gambling is devastating to both the impacted individual and their families, resulting in significant amounts of debt and in some circumstances financial ruin. Casinos use targeted marketing techniques, such as casino bus stops in communities with large populations of Asian Americans, which exacerbate problem gambling among Asian Americans.²⁷

FISCAL IMPACT

Proposition 26 would impact costs and revenues to state and local governments but the actual size of these effects is uncertain for many reasons. For example, it would depend on the number of people who choose to make sports bets, whether tribes who choose to allow sports betting change their compacts to allow for additional payments to local governments, and how often the new civil enforcement method is used, among other factors.²⁸

It could result in people moving away from cardrooms and toward other forms of gambling, which could reduce cardroom revenue and the taxes and fees they pay to the cities where they are located.

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

• Yes on 26 - Coalition for Safe, Responsible Gaming,²⁹ which includes 31 tribes and tribal organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and District Attorneys

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- No on 26 Taxpayers Against Special Interest Monopolies,³⁰ which is funded mostly by cardrooms³¹ and includes the California Republican Party, veterans groups, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) California
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board³²

PROPOSITION 27: ALLOWS ONLINE AND MOBILE SPORTS WAGERING OUTSIDE TRIBAL LANDS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE

Analysis by AAPI Equity staff in consultation with NAPAFASA

BACKGROUND

See Proposition 26.

SUMMARY

Proposition 27 would allow licensed tribes and gambling companies to offer online sports betting over the Internet and mobile devices.³³ Bets are allowed on athletic events (such as football games) and some non-athletic events (such as awards shows and video game competitions), but not on other events (such as high school games and elections). People 21 years of age and older in California would be able to place bets no later than September 2023.

The five-year license would be available to tribes with tribal-state compacts and to larger gambling companies that partner with such a tribe (such as companies already licensed in ten states). Tribes must pay \$10 million for the initial license then \$1 million for renewals, and gambling companies must pay \$100 million for the initial license then \$10 million for renewals. They would also have to make various other payments to the state, such as 10% of sports bets made each month (offset by expenses and losses).

These payments would go into a new California Online Sports Betting Trust Fund (COSBTF). Revenues would cover state regulatory costs. The remainder would be used for two purposes: 85% for homelessness and gambling addiction programs, which would be provided to localities generally in the same way as funding under the state's Homeless Housing Assistance, and Prevention Program; and 15% for tribes that are not involved in online sports betting for tribal government, health, economic development, or other purposes.

The proposition would create a new unit within the DOJ to regulate online sports betting. This unit would set requirements to get a license, decide what types of bets are allowed, and investigate illegal activities.

It would also penalize people who place online sports bets with an unlicensed entity. The penalty would equal 15% of the bet plus a \$1,000 penalty for each day the money is not paid, and go into the COSBTF.

ANALYSIS

Proposition 27 is funded by seven large private gambling companies, including FanDuel, Draft Kings, and BetMGM. Supporters - which include the companies, at least three tribes, and some homelessness groups - argue that the proposition would fund local efforts to address homelessness and support tribal sovereignty.³⁴

NO POSITION Opponents - which include fifty tribes, the California Democratic Party and the California Republican Party, and others - believe the proposition enriches large, mostly out-of-state gambling companies while significantly raising the risk of underage and problem gambling in California. The proposition would also penalize consumers when they place online bets with unlicensed entities without regulating the unlicensed entities themselves.

We are concerned about the potential for online sports betting, which could be especially addictive, to significantly increase problem gambling, especially within Asian American communities. We also do not believe that the proposition would meaningfully address homelessness, a complex problem that would not be solved by the revenues generated by the proposition (which amount to about 4% of the state's two-year budget for homelessness programs³⁵).

However, we are taking no position on this proposition. We support the self-determination of Native communities and understand that there is a split in the tribal community on this proposition.

Note that Proposition 26 and Proposition 27 both relate to sports betting. If one passes but not the other, the one that passes goes into effect. If they both pass and do not conflict, they both go into effect. If they both pass and conflict with each other, then the one that passes with the higher margin of "yes" votes goes into effect and the other does not.³⁶ Under this last scenario, someone could sue and this issue could be decided by a court.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

See Proposition 26.

FISCAL IMPACT

Proposition 27 would impact costs and revenues to state and local governments but the actual size of these effects is uncertain for many reasons.³⁷ For example, it would depend on the number of people who choose to make sports bets, whether tribes who choose to allow sports betting change their compacts to allow for additional payments to local governments, and how often the new civil enforcement method is used, among other factors.

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Yes on 27 Californians for Solutions to End Homelessness and Mental Health Support,³⁸ which is funded by FanDuel, DraftKings, BetMGM and four other gaming companies³⁹
- Major League Baseball

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- No on 27 Coalition for Safe, Responsible Gaming,⁴⁰ which includes 50 Native American tribes and tribal organizations, the California Democratic Party, the California Republican Party, CalAsian Chamber of Commerce and other Chambers, labor unions, and teachers
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board 41

PROPOSITION 28: PROVIDES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. INITIATVE STATUTE.

Analysis by Godfrey Plata, Civic Engagement Consultant, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

California education policy says that in-state kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) coursework should include the visual and performing arts.⁴² However, state law does not actually require elementary or middle schools to provide this during regular school hours.⁴³ Meanwhile, in order to graduate from high school, students must complete one year of visual or performing arts, a foreign language, or career technical education (CTE). This means arts education is seen by schools and school districts as optional when making decisions about what courses to offer and how to spend money, making arts education vulnerable to omission altogether in public schools.

The California State University and University of California systems require that high school students complete at least one year of visual and performing arts instruction for admission.

Arts and music education have been shown to improve, among other things, student learning, cognitive development, school attendance, and motivation, particularly among low-income students.

SUMMARY

Proposition 28 would require the state to provide a minimum source of annual funding specifically for arts education programs in California's K-12 public schools.⁴⁴ The funding must equal at least 1% of total state and local revenues that local education agencies receive regularly to fund their public schools during the prior fiscal year. Local education agencies (LEAs) are school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education that operate public schools. This funding would be in addition to, not in place of, funds normally distributed through current law.

The proposition would distribute the funding to LEAs based on a formula: 70% would be allocated based on their share of student enrollment from the prior school year, while 30% would be allocated based on their share of economically disadvantaged students (the number of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch). To ensure capacity for arts instruction in larger school districts, LEAs with enrollment greater than 500 students must also ensure 80% of funds are spent on arts education instructors.

ANALYSIS

While no official campaigns have been formed to oppose this measure, opponents note that schools have flexibility under current law to choose how much to spend on arts education. The Los Angeles Times Editorial Board, which opposed the effort to place the measure on the ballot last year, previously argued that creating dedicated funding streams like Proposition 28 meant less flexibility for the state to decide how to spend money, especially during lean budget years.⁴⁵ (The Board now endorses the proposition.⁴⁶)

SUPPORT

Supporters argue that schools have often had to deprioritize access to arts education due to budget constraints and other academic accountability measures. Making arts education more accessible in high school would help students at less resourced high schools compete for entrance into the University of California and California State University systems, and open possibilities for employment in arts and entertainment in the long-term.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

Access to the UC and CSU systems is contingent on having access to arts education courses in high school. High school diploma requirements do not require access to arts education. Having funding sources set aside to fund arts education in schools could increase the number of high school graduates, including from AAPI communities, qualifying for admission to UC and CSU systems. AAPI communities need systemic support to attain college degrees, as fewer than 1 in 3 Vietnamese, Hmong, Cambodian, Laotian, and Pacific Islander community members have received a Bachelor's degree.⁴²

Moreover, with instances of anti-AAPI racism on the rise, the arts can provide unique opportunities for youth to process their experiences and current events, while expanding possibilities for AAPI representation in the visual and performing arts and in our culture in general.

FISCAL IMPACT

This would likely result in increased spending of \$800 million to \$1 billion each fiscal year. The funding would come from the state's General Fund. It is less than one-half of 1 percent of the state's total General Fund budget.⁴⁸

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Yes on 28,⁴⁹ which includes California Teachers Association, Los Angeles Unified School District, SEIU California, and the California Community Foundation
- Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
- President and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League Michael Lawson
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

None identified

PROPOSITION 29: REQUIRES ON-SITE LICENSED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL AT KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINICS AND ESTABLISHES OTHER STATE REQUIREMENTS. INTIATIVE STATUTE

SUPPORT

Analysis by Hoang Nguyen, Director of External Affairs, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

Kidney dialysis is a life-saving medical process that removes blood from a patient's body, cleans it of toxins, and then returns it to the patient. In California, nearly 80,000 people undergo dialysis treatment annually.⁵⁰ Two for-profit corporations, DaVita and Fresenius, operate or manage nearly 75% of dialysis clinics and treat more than 75% of dialysis patients in the state.⁵¹

Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers West, a statewide labor organization sponsoring the proposition, is once again asking voters to add more safety regulations and reporting requirements for dialysis clinics. They sponsored similar proposals in 2018 and 2020, both of which voters rejected.

SUMMARY

Proposition 29 would require chronic dialysis centers to meet new requirements.⁵²

- They must have at least one physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant with at least six months of experience with end-stage renal disease care, onsite during patient treatments.
- They must report dialysis-related infections to the California Department of Public Health (DPH), a state agency, and obtain the DPH's written consent before closing or substantially reducing services to patients.
- They must provide patients with a list of physicians with an ownership interest of 5% or more in the clinic, and DPH with a list of persons with ownership interest of 5% or more in the clinic.
- They would be prohibited from refusing to care for a patient based on the patient's form of payment, such as Medi-Cal or Medicare.

ANALYSIS

Proponents of this measure believe that it would improve patient safety, reduce financial conflicts of interest, and eliminate discrimination against patients based on their form of payment. Opponents believe that the staffing requirements in particular would overburden dialysis clinics, which could potentially lead to more clinic closures.

Proposition 29 would improve the safety of and quality of care for dialysis patients. Requiring minimum staffing levels may reduce dialysis-related infections and medical emergencies. It also requires financial transparency on the part of dialysis providers while eliminating patient discrimination based on their form of payment.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

AAPIs need access to life-saving dialysis services when they experience kidney failure, which disproportionately affects AAPI communities at twice the rate of white residents. AAPI Equity (formerly A3PCON) endorsed a similar proposition in 2020, Proposition 23, which was ultimately rejected by the voters.⁵³

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact on state and local governments is expected to be approximately in the low tens of millions of dollars. A majority of costs will be borne by the dialysis clinics.⁵⁴

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Kidney Patients Deserve Better,⁵⁵ led by SEIU-UHW West
- California Democratic Party⁵⁶
- California Labor Federation

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- No on Prop 29,⁵⁷ led by Da Vita Clinics and Fresenius Medical Care, which includes the California Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board 58

PROPOSITION 30: PROVIDES FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION AND PREVENT WILDFIRES BY INCREASING TAX ON PERSONAL INCOME OVER \$2 MILLION. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

SUPPORT

Analysis by Godfrey Plata, Civic Engagement Consultant, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

Income above \$2 million for Californians is taxed at a rate of 13.3%.⁵⁹ Most current income tax revenue helps pay for education, prisons, health care, and other public services.

California seeks to limit greenhouse gas emissions, which have been found to contribute to climate change. To help meet these goals, the state runs programs to promote zero-emission vehicles and requires ride-sharing companies (such as Uber and Lyft) to increase the number of zero-emission vehicles in their fleets. According to a new state law, carmakers must gradually transition all newly-sold vehicles to an all-electric fleet beginning with 35% of 2026 models sold, increasing to 68% for 2030 models, and then 100% for 2035 models.⁶⁰

Additionally, the state fights fires on about one-third of California's land area, supplementing federal and local responsibilities for firefighting in the remaining two-thirds of the state. This includes wildfire prevention: any activity that reduces the chances that wildfires will start or limits the damage they cause, like removing trees from overgrown forests or cleaning dead plants more likely to catch fire.

SUMMARY

Proposition 30 would increase taxes by 1.75% for income above \$2 million for individuals, starting January 1, 2023.⁶¹ Of the tax revenue, 45% would fund rebates and other incentives for zeroemission vehicle purchases; 35% would fund charging stations for zero-emission vehicles, with at least half of this funding directed to low-income households and communities; and 20% would go toward the hiring and training of firefighters. Specifically, this revenue would be allocated into three existing sub-funds under the Clean Cars and Clean Air Trust Fund (CCCATF).

The initiative ends the tax on whichever of the following days comes first: January 1, 2043, or January 1 after three consecutive calendar years after January 1, 2030 in which statewide emissions have been reduced by 80% of 1990 levels.

ANALYSIS

Nearly half of California's greenhouse gasses currently come from transportation.⁶² If Proposition 30 were to pass, it could accelerate a systemic shift toward zero-emission vehicles by offering people the opportunity to phase out use of their gas-powered vehicles.

Lyft's support of Proposition 30 has attracted opposition from leaders like California Governor Gavin Newsom. According to the Governor, Lyft and other similar companies are seeking a taxpayer subsidy to meet the state mandate of transitioning toward zero-emission vehicles. The Los Angeles Times Editorial Board also opposes, arguing that raising taxes on the wealthiest residents is not a stable or flexible way to fund the state's transition to zero-emission transportation.⁶³

We recommend supporting Proposition 30. Zero-emission vehicles are key to California's efforts to tackle climate change, but many low and middle-income residents do not have the means to purchase an electric car. The state's existing incentive programs for low and middle-income residents have suffered from inconsistent and inadequate funding.⁶⁴ Proposition 30 will fund incentive programs to enable more residents to obtain a zero-emission vehicle and update existing infrastructures with charging stations to meet increasing demand.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

The specific impact of this proposition on AAPI communities is unclear. However, studies show that white consumers make up a disproportionate number of consumers of zero-emission vehicles. Moreover, higher income and predominantly white communities have higher access to charging stations compared to lower income and Asian, Black, and Hispanic communities.⁶⁵ Funding programs like the ones outlined by Proposition 30 hope to close gaps between consumers of various racial and socioeconomic groups.

FISCAL IMPACT

The 1.75% increase in annual state tax revenue is estimated to generate between \$3-5 billion annually for zero-emission vehicle programs and hiring and training of firefighters.⁶⁶ Any increases in state administrative costs would be paid from other funding sources and are projected to be anywhere between tens of millions of dollars and the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

California currently depends on fuel-based automobile sales and usage for certain revenues. The state would experience a net decrease in state and local transportation revenue, beginning at an estimated several tens of millions of dollars annually in initial years, deepening to a few hundreds of millions of dollars annually gater several years.⁶⁷

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

 Yes on 30 - Clean Air California,⁶⁸ which includes the California Democratic Party, Lyft, U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, CAL FIRE Local 2881, California State Association of Electrical Workers, Unite HERE, California Environmental Voters, Tom Steyer, NextGen Climate

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- No on 30 Stop the Lyft Tax Grab,⁶⁹ which includes Gov. Gavin Newsom, California Teachers Association, and Chambers of Commerce
- California Republican Party
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board

PROPOSITION 31: REFERENDUM ON 2020 LAW THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE RETAIL SALE OF CERTAIN FLAVORED TABACCO PRODUCTS

Analysis by Felix H, Project Coordinator, NAPAFASA

BACKGROUND

A 2020 state law, Senate Bill 793 (SB 793, authored by Assemblyman Kevin McCarty), bans the sale of most flavored tobacco products in California.⁷⁰ The ban covers menthol cigarettes, chewing tobacco, pods for vape pens, and tank-based vape systems (a larger device with a refillable tank), and exempts premium cigars, hookah, and loose leaf tobacco. The ban is enforced by a \$250 fine on retailers for each violation.

The law has yet to go into effect because the tobacco industry financed this referendum to overturn the law, which put the law on hold while voters decide.

SUMMARY

Proposition 31 is a referendum giving voters the choice to either uphold the law (SB 793) or overturn it.⁷¹ A "yes" vote upholds the law and the ban, while a "no" vote overturns the law and the ban.

ANALYSIS

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.⁷² Consumer habits around smoking, as well as chewing tobacco⁷³ and vape products,⁷⁴ are deeply shaped by the tobacco industry and its exorbitant spending on marketing and lobbying.

Vaping, or using e-cigarettes or other electronic smoking devices, is also dangerous. The nicotine content is not standardized and can often be higher in vape liquids than in combustible tobacco or "regular" tobacco products, which require lighting and burning the product for consumption.⁷⁵ Long inhalations or "pulls" while vaping can also pull much greater nicotine content than combustible cigarettes.⁷⁶

Supporters of the law and Proposition 31, such as public health advocates, point out that flavored tobacco products increase tobacco use among youth. Flavored tobacco products are often marketed towards young people and, because the flavorings mask the harsh taste of tobacco, make it easier for young people to start tobacco use. A study found that 80% of young people who have ever used tobacco started with a flavored tobacco product.⁷⁷

Opponents of the law and Proposition 31, which include tobacco companies, argue that the bill discriminates against the African American smokers who mostly use menthol cigarettes.⁷⁸ For example, the law does not ban flavored hookah.⁷⁹ Invoking the murder of Eric Garner by an NYPD officer, they argue that the law could lead to more interactions between Black individuals and police over the possession, use, or sale of menthol cigarettes.⁸⁰ The Los Angeles Times examined Big Tobacco's behind-the-scenes financing of lobbyists, consultants, organizations, and protesters making racial justice arguments against attempts to ban menthol cigarettes.⁸¹

SUPPORT

In response, supporters point out that while police violence against Black communities is a valid and serious concern, SB 793 ends the sale of menthol cigarettes and specifically the sale of these products by retailers at a retail location (not informally as part of the underground economy). SB 793 doesn't make it illegal for a person to possess or use menthol cigarettes and "absolutely doesn't give law enforcement the right to harass, stop and frisk, or arrest menthol smokers."⁸² They also point to the tobacco industry's long history of marketing flavored tobacco at communities of color, including targeted marketing of menthols to Black communities.⁸³

We recommend a "yes" vote on Proposition 31 because it will reduce tobacco and nicotine use, especially among youth and communities of color, prevent tobacco-related disease and related suffering, and save lives.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

The tobacco and vaping industry produces flavored tobacco products to appeal to certain target demographics. This includes flavors such as lychee, taro, mochi, coconut, and milk tea, which are popular with AAPI youth.⁸⁴ Nearly 14% of Asian American high schoolers and 4% of Asian American middle schoolers nationwide were current users of e-cigarettes in 2019.⁸⁵ Earlier use of tobacco products is correlated with ongoing tobacco use and addiction. Tobacco use can cause cancer, heart disease, and stroke, the three leading causes of death among AAPIs.⁸⁶

FISCAL IMPACT

California collects about \$2 billion a year in state tobacco taxes, which funds health care, early childhood programs, and other areas. Proposition 31 would decrease this revenue by an uncertain amount, depending on how consumers respond. The revenue loss is estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars annually if consumers switch to unflavored tobacco products, and around \$100 million annually if they stop using tobacco products altogether.⁸⁷

The amount in health care savings is uncertain. Proposition 31 would likely lead to less tobacco use and better health. This would reduce health care costs for state and local governments but could increase health care costs by lengthening people's lives.⁸⁸ Supporters estimate that Proposition 31 would improve health outcomes and save more than \$423 million in annual health care costs, including \$144 million in MediCal savings.⁸⁹

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Yes on 31 Protect Kids from Candy-Flavored Tobacco,⁹⁰ which includes the California Democratic Party, California Labor Federation, and AAPI groups like NAPAFASA and Thai Community Development Center
- Yes on Prop 31 Black Leaders Against Tobacco Injustice,⁹¹ including Community Coalition
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board⁹²

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- No on Prop 31 California Coalition for Fairness,⁹³ funded by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (owns brands such as Camel, Newport), Philip Morris USA (maker of Marlboro, Parliament, Virginia Slim), ITG Brands (Kool, blu e-cigarettes), and the National Association of Tobacco Outlets
- California Republican Party
- President of California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce 94
- Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association 25

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BALLOT MEASURES

MEASURE A: PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO REMOVE AN ELECTED SHERIFF FOR CAUSE, CHARTER AMENDMENT

Analysis by Hoang Nguyen, Director of External Affairs, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Sheriff is in charge of a massive law enforcement agency with expansive reach and power. The Sheriff manages an agency with about 18,000 employees and an annual budget of \$3.5 billion. The Sheriff also runs the nation's largest jail system, provides security services for the courts, and patrols about 2,500 of the county's 4,000 square miles, including more than 40 cities and 140 unincorporated areas.²⁶ The Sheriff's powers and duties are in Los Angeles County's Charter, which is like a constitution for the county describing the structure, powers, and duties of county government.

The Sheriff is an elected official accountable to the voters once every four years. In between elections the Sheriff can be recalled through an expensive and often difficult signature-gathering process. Otherwise, the Sheriff cannot be removed, even for egregious conduct such as ignoring oversight and subpoenas.

Previous Sheriffs have been accused and convicted of crimes while in office because there is no mechanism for immediate removal.⁹⁷ This ballot measure does not single out or target any individual sheriff, but provides an accountability mechanism for any Sheriff moving forward.

SUMMARY

Measure A would change the Los Angeles County Charter to grant the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, which is the local elected governing body, the authority to remove from office an elected Sheriff for cause.⁹⁸ Reasons for removing the elected Sheriff could include violating a law related to the Sheriff's duties, repeatedly neglecting duties, misusing funds, willfully falsifying documents, or obstructing an investigation. Removal would require a four-fifths vote of the Board after the Sheriff receives due process, defined as written notice and an opportunity to be heard.

ANALYSIS

Proponents of this measure argue that no one should be above the law, including the top local law enforcement official who is in a unique position to inflict harm on residents by abusing their power. If a Sheriff commits misconduct, they should be held accountable as soon as possible instead of waiting for an election once every four years or an expensive and time-consuming recall process. Opponents believe that this measure is politically motivated and aimed at targeting the current Sheriff.

SUPPORT

AAPI communities and all residents of Los Angeles County deserve a Sheriff they can trust to perform the essential functions of public safety. If and when a Sheriff violates this oath through egregious misconduct, there must be an immediate mechanism to remove that person and provide meaningful accountability. This is especially important given the vast powers of the Sheriff's Department. This ballot measure will create checks and balances on the sheriff so that no one person or agency can act with impunity. No one should be above the law, including the Sheriff.

FISCAL IMPACT

None identified

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California
- Black Lives Matter Los Angeles
- National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
- Little Tokyo Service Center
- Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance
- Khmer Girls in Action
- UCLA Labor Center
- South Asian Network

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

• Alex Villanueva, Los Angeles County Sheriff

MEASURE C: LOS ANGELES COUNTY CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX MEASURE

Analysis by Hoang Nguyen, Director of External Affairs, AAPI Equity Alliance

SUPPORT

BACKGROUND

Los Angeles County prohibits growing and selling for profit cannabis within areas of the county that are not incorporated as cities.⁹⁹ For example, in the unincorporated area known as Rowland Heights, cannabis cultivation and sales are currently prohibited. Starting in 2023, the County will allow growing and selling cannabis with a limited number of business licenses.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has direct jurisdiction over these unincorporated areas. Despite the prohibition of cannabis sales and cultivation in these areas, many unlicensed and unregulated cannabis businesses continue to operate, which have caused quality-of-life issues for local residents.¹⁰⁰

SUMMARY

The ballot measure would set, beginning July 1, 2023 for any licensed cannabis operations in unincorporated Los Angeles County, a 4% tax of gross receipts for retail cannabis operations, a 3% tax of gross receipts for manufacturing and distribution, a \$4 tax per square foot for mixed light cultivation, and a \$7 tax per square foot for indoor cultivation.¹⁰¹

ANALYSIS

Opponents say that these tax measures make it difficult for small cannabis businesses to survive, while supporters contend that the funding is necessary for the County government to ensure the safe cultivation and sales of cannabis.

Residents deserve a legal and safe cannabis marketplace with quality control and regulations. In order to do this, the County government requires funding, which this tax measure would provide. Cannabis businesses in cities such as Los Angeles are locally taxed, so businesses in unincorporated areas should be taxed as well. The funding would also be used to ensure that the cannabis marketplace is fair and equitable to minority business owners who have been impacted by the criminalization of marijuana.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

We were unable to identify a specific impact to AAPIs.

FISCAL IMPACT

If passed, cannabis businesses in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County would pay additional taxes, which could be passed on in part to consumers in the form of higher prices. This is not a direct tax on consumers. The tax measure would generate \$10.36 million annually for the County.¹⁰²

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS: None identified

NOTABLE OPPONENTS: None identified

LOS ANGELES CITY BALLOT MEASURES

PROPOSITION LH: AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL LOW-INCOME HOUSING

Analysis by Godfrey Plata, Civic Engagement Consultant, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

California's state constitution requires voters in a city to authorize the development, construction, or acquisition of certain categories of "low rent housing projects." "Low rent housing projects" are apartments or other places to live for people with low incomes that are at least partly financially supported by the federal government or a state.¹⁰³ Voter authority is the first step that allows this low income rental housing to be built in any city in California.

In November 2008, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition B, "Update of Low Rent Housing Authorization," which authorized 3,500 low-income rental units per city council district. Now, almost 14 years later, many of those units authorized by Proposition B have been built or are about to be built, while the city is still far below its target for the number of low income rental units it aims to provide by 2029.¹⁰⁴ For example, as of May 1, 2022, five city council districts can develop fewer than 1,000 units of low-income rental housing before hitting the 3,500 unit cap.

The city needs voter authority to continue the development, construction, or acquisition of additional low-income rental housing projects in each council district and throughout the city to address homelessness and meet the demand for affordable housing.

SUMMARY

Proposition LH¹⁰⁵ authorizes public entities in the City of Los Angeles to develop, construct, or acquire up to 5,000 additional units of low-income rental housing in each of its fifteen council districts to address homelessness and affordable housing needs. This would approve up to 75,000 additional units of low-income rental housing total for the city.

ANALYSIS

Housing affordability is a significant concern in Los Angeles and across the state. According to a 2022 survey by the Public Policy Institute of California, nearly 90% of adults said housing affordability is a problem in their part of the state and more than half were concerned about not being able to pay their rents or mortgages.¹⁰⁶

Proposition LH authorizes the city's ability to develop, construct, or acquire low-income rental housing. Measure ULA – also on the ballot for city voters – proposes a permanent program to raise funding for the production and preservation of affordable housing, including housing that might be developed, constructed, or acquired via Proposition LH.

AAPI voters – and voters of all ethnicities – should vote yes for both Proposition LH and Measure ULA in order to meet the need for affordable housing in Los Angeles.

SUPPORT

IMPACT ON AAPIs

According to the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development and UCLA Asian American Studies Center, AAPI renters are disproportionately cost-burdened and less likely to own homes compared to white households of the same income group.¹⁰⁷

You can find more information about the challenges faced by AAPIs when it comes to the high cost of housing in the analysis for Measure ULA.

FISCAL IMPACT

None, because the proposition authorizes additional low income rental housing and additional steps would have to be taken to act on the authority.

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing
- Los Angeles Times Editorial Board 108

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

None identified

PROPOSITION SP: PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES PARCEL TAX SUPPORT

Analysis by Godfrey Plata, Civic Engagement Consultant, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

In 1996, Los Angeles voters passed Proposition K: LA For Kids, which funded a citywide program to create and improve parks and recreational facilities for 30 years. This program will expire in the 2026-27 fiscal year, meaning that parks and recreation facilities will lose funding in the coming years.

SUMMARY

Proposition SP¹⁰⁹ would fund the creation, improvement, and operation of parks and recreational centers, including pools, playgrounds, waterways, beaches, green spaces, open spaces, and childcare and other facilities. The proposition would prioritize improving access to safe parks and recreational facilities in park-poor communities.

This work would be funded through a special parcel tax on "parcel improvements" within the City of Los Angeles. Starting July 1, 2023, \$0.08414 would be collected for every square foot of a "parcel improvement." Parcel improvements are any building, structure, enclosure, facility, or other improvement on or attached to an already existing parcel since the last equalized assessment roll of the County of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles City Council may, by law, lower or raise the tax rate as long as it does not exceed \$0.08414 per square foot of a parcel improvement.

Regardless of any changes in the tax rate, the tax would decrease to \$0.0222 per square footage of parcel improvement during the earlier of either fiscal year 2053-54 or the fiscal year after capital programs are complete.

The proposition creates a Citizens Oversight Committee to make recommendations on projects to be funded and to monitor the projects, programs, and services funded.

ANALYSIS

Proposition K, the city's current program to fund parks and recreational facilities, expires after the 2026-27 fiscal year. Proponents argue that a new funding source is needed to continue the development and maintenance of parks.

Opponents argue that the estimated \$227 million that this tax would generate annually is excessive compared to the \$25 million annually-generated budget from Proposition K, which expires in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. They point to the 2028 Olympics as an excuse for the city to ask for more funds and claim that the city has not yet named the concrete capital projects that necessitate additional tax revenue.¹¹⁰

We support this measure not only to fill the funding gap left by Proposition K's expiration, but also to attend to larger inequities in access to park and recreational facilities across Los Angeles. The city lags behind national standards when it comes to park availability and low-income communities of color are too often the most neglected.¹¹¹ Proposition SP is a needed investment in addressing this problem.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

Too many AAPI communities lack adequate space in their neighborhoods for public recreational use. For example, Koreatown is one of the most densely-populated areas west of the Mississippi River, but has some of the smallest acreage in parkland per capita in the entire city. Groups like API Forward Movement make it a key part of their advocacy agenda to make the provision and maintenance of parks a priority. Voting yes on this proposition makes it possible to have more – and safer – places for families to breathe, gather, exercise, and relax.

FISCAL IMPACT

If implemented, this proposition is estimated to generate \$227 million annually over the next 30 years for parks and recreational facilities across the city. After the tax rate is reduced, the proposition is expected to generate approximately \$60 million in annual revenue to continue funding programmatic, administrative, operational, and maintenance costs.

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Congresswoman Karen Bass
- LA City Councilman Joe Buscaino
- Businessman Rick Caruso
- Actor Edward James Olmos
- Father Gregory Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries
- Jimmy Kim, LA General Manager of L.A. City Recreation & Parks
- Carolyn Ramsay, Executive Director of LA Parks Foundation
- Dr. Alice Harris, Founder of Parents of Watts

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- Angelenos Against Higher Property Taxes No on ULA and SP, funded by the California Business Roundtable¹¹²
- Daniel M. Yukelson, Executive Director of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles
- Retired LA County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

MEASURE ULA: FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND TENANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THROUGH A SPECIAL TAX ON REAL PROPERTY TRANSFERS OVER \$5 MILLION

SUPPORT

Analysis by An Le, Assistant Director, Community Building & Engagement, Little Tokyo Service Center ¹¹³

BACKGROUND

Over 54,000 Angelenos experienced homelessness in 2020.¹¹⁴ This makes Los Angeles the city with the second largest unhoused population in the United States, behind New York City.¹¹⁵

Through funding from Measure HHH, which city voters passed in 2016, nearly 8,000 units are being built to house and provide support services for those who are chronically facing homelessness.¹¹⁶ While those units are being built, wages have not kept up with inflation and rising rents. Though the median household income in Los Angeles is just over \$62,000 per year,¹¹⁷ the average monthly rent ranges from \$2,327 to \$5,310.¹¹⁸ This means that nearly 60% of residents have to pay more than one-third of their income on housing.¹¹⁹ As a result, many Angelenos are currently at risk of eviction and homelessness, creating pressure for more affordable housing units and immediate relief, not only for those who are currently unhoused, but also for those who are at risk of losing their homes.

SUMMARY

If approved by voters in the City of Los Angeles, Measure ULA would create a new fund and program, with community oversight, to address the homelessness crisis in several ways.¹²⁰

ULA would create an Affordable Housing Program and a Homelessness Prevention Program to address the housing and homelessness crisis in the city. The programs would be funded by a one-time 4% tax on the seller of properties sold for over \$5 million, or a 5.5% tax on the seller of properties sold for over \$10 million. This two-tier approach is similar to existing taxes in Culver City and many Bay Area cities.

Seventy percent of the funds would be used for an Affordable Housing Program, to build, acquire, rehabilitate, lease, or preserve affordable housing for low-income households. The remaining 30% would be used for the Homelessness Prevention Program and provide short-term emergency assistance for low-income tenants at risk of becoming homeless and may cover rent payments for a short-term period of up to six months. The Homelessness Prevention Program would also provide income assistance for tenants (including seniors or persons with disabilities who are low-income, spend more than half their income on rent, and are at risk of becoming homeless), and would set aside funding to protect tenants against evictions and harassment.

The measure would establish an independent House LA Citizens Oversight Committee to ensure that the funds are being spent to address the homelessness crisis. The Committee would have 13 voting members. Members would include those with experience building, preserving, or financing

affordable housing; working with low-income tenants, seniors, or people with disabilities; or living unhoused or as a tenant in a low-income household. Two seats would be reserved for youth advisory members.

The Committee would develop guidelines for how to prioritize the funds and monitor and audit the program. It could hold public hearings to investigate and share its findings with the public and would hold an annual town hall to report on progress and shortcomings and hear from the public.

<u>ANALYSIS</u>

Proponents argue that, unlike previous affordable housing measures, the measure would fund not only the construction of new buildings, but also the conversion of existing buildings into homeless housing and sending cash to seniors in danger of losing their homes. They also argue that the measure would result in:

- the construction of 26,000 homes in 10 years for people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, helping about 69,000 people;
- assistance for more than 475,000 at-risk renters to keep their homes each year; and
- the creation of 44,000 construction jobs over the next decade with strong labor protections.¹²¹

Opponents claim that the tax would escalate rent, drive homeowners and businesses out of the city, and discourage re-development of properties.

Everyone is impacted by the homelessness crisis, and solutions require financial resources. With the growing wealth inequalities in the city, a one-time tax on those who sell their high-valued properties can and should contribute more to providing and protecting basic affordable housing to those who need it.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

Asian Americans (AAs) and Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders (NHPIs) make up over 14% of the population in the City of Los Angeles. Despite perceptions of economic prosperity, AAPIs face a different reality. In 21 census tracts, which are neighborhoods with populations between 2,500 to 8,000 people as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau, in which AAs and NHPIs make up at least a quarter of the population, nearly 47% of residents are rent-burdened and spend more than 30% of their income on rent. Of those census tracts, there are 14 census tracts with a median household income under \$46,000 per year.¹²² In a census tract in Chinatown, where Asians make up 80% of the population,¹²³ the median household income of residents is just shy of \$33,500¹²⁴ and over 57% are paying more than 35% of their household income on rent.¹²⁵

This measure would help a significant number of AAs and NHPIs living in Asian ethnic enclaves in the City who face heavy rent burdens.

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on property sales from March 2019 to March 2020, the measure, if it in effect, would have applied to 3% of those transactions, or 1,020 transactions out of a total 33,763 total transactions. This would have generated roughly \$800 million in revenue.

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

- Yes on ULA,¹²⁶ which includes American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Community Coalition, Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, and AAPI organizations such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, Little Tokyo Service Center, Southeast Asian Community Alliance, Thai Community Development Center
- Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

- Angelenos Against Higher Property Taxes No on ULA and SP, funded by the California Business Roundtable¹²⁷
- Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles and Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association¹²⁸
- Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (owner of Westfield Shopping Centers)¹²⁹

LA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MEASURE LA: LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SAFETY, REPAIR, JOB TRAINING MEASURE

SUPPORT

Analysis by Hoang Nguyen, Director of External Affairs, AAPI Equity Alliance

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Community College District is the largest community college system in California. It oversees nine community colleges in Los Angeles County, serving more than 220,000 students.

The District must ask voters to allow it to issue certain bonds. It last did this in 2016. The state constitution requires these kinds of bond measures to be approved by 55% of the voters.

SUMMARY

This ballot measure asks voters to tax property owners at a rate of \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed property valuation to finance a \$5.3 billion bond.¹³⁰ The money would be used to upgrade facilities and build affordable housing in the District.

This measure requires the funds to be used on repairing and upgrading old buildings, classrooms, technological equipment and infrastructure. Specifically, the funding is needed to remove asbestos, mold, and lead paint; improve air ventilation systems; repair leaky roofs; improve earthquake safety; and repair aging and deteriorating gas and sewer lines, water pipes and drinking fountains. The funding would be used to repair classrooms, labs, and training facilities for nurses, IT and biotech workers, paramedics, and firefighters. It would upgrade athletic facilities and expand wireless internet access and equip classrooms with new technology. The proposal sets aside \$500 million to "plan, construct, acquire or contribute" to housing for students and workers.

ANALYSIS

Proponents of this bond measure believe that it would improve the student experience by revamping aging buildings, which already cost the District tens of millions of dollars to fix on a case-by-case basis. Opponents believe that this bond measure is unnecessary at a time when student enrollment is on the decline. Opponents also allege that the District has a mixed record of financial management the last time it issued a bond.¹³¹

Students deserve to learn in high-quality facilities that meet their basic needs. It is important that classrooms and school buildings be repaired and equipped with modern technology in order to enhance the student experience. Students and teachers should not have to be in classrooms with poor ventilation systems, especially amidst a global pandemic. The ballot measure would also raise funding needed to repair and upgrade classrooms and training facilities for important occupations currently facing shortages, such as nurses, paramedics, and firefighters. Finally, it requires all the money to benefit the nine local community colleges and prohibits the funds to be used on administrator salaries, while creating a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure fiscal accountability.

IMPACT ON AAPIs

AAPIs make up about 9% of the student population in the District. $\frac{132}{1}$

FISCAL IMPACT

The District estimates most homeowners would pay about \$88-\$157 a year. The District has not provided an estimate for commercial property owners. The District is expected to receive approximately \$5.3 billion in funding.¹³³

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees Gabriel Buelna, Kelsey Iino, Nichelle Henderson

NOTABLE OPPONENTS

• Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustee Ernest Moreno

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Endnotes

1. A list of other ballot measures in other local jurisdictions in Los Angeles County is available at <u>https://www.lavote.gov/docs/rrcc/election-info/11082022_measures-to-appear-on-ballot.pdf?v=8.</u>

2. For more information, visit <u>https://www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections/voter-education/multilingual-services-program/multilingual-services-program.</u>

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https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/laccd/Board.nsf/files/CFVSEE723CAD/\$file/Resolution%20Ordering%20Election %20LACCD%20-%202022%20GO%20Bonds%204887-1917-9301_4.pdf.

131. Gale Holland, Michael Finnegan, "How a \$5.7 billion program to rebuild L.A. community colleges went astray.," LA Times, August 30, 2012, available at <u>https://www.latimes.com/local/la-community-colleges-html-htmlstory.html</u>.

132. Ethnic Breakdown of All Students in Fall 2020: California Community Colleges vs LACCD, available at <u>https://www.laccd.edu/Departments/EPIE/Research/Documents/Student%20Characteristics/Student%20Characteristics%20PDF%20files/Ethnic%20breakdown%200f%20students.pdf</u>.

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