



BOMA

Oakland/East Bay

2024 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE ELECTION YEAR PERSPECTIVES & UPDATES

PRESENTED BY:

PAYMON P. HIFAI, ESQ.,
HORNER LAW GROUP, PC

AND

JENNIFER FOTHERGILL
NORCAL NECA

HLG *Horner Law Group, PC*
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Northern California Chapter
National Electrical Contractors Association

TOPICS

- **California Proposition 2: Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024)**
- **California Proposition 3: Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment (2024)**
- **California Proposition 4: Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure (2024)**
- **California Proposition 5: Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment (2024)**
- **California Proposition 6: Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment (2024)**

California Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024)

What would Proposition 2 fund?

- Proposition 2 would provide \$8.5 billion to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion to community colleges to renovate, fix and construct facilities.
- The money would be distributed through matching grants, with the state paying a greater share of costs for less affluent districts and those with higher numbers of English learners and foster youth.
- Some of the money would be set aside for removing lead from water, creating transitional kindergarten classrooms and building career and technical education facilities.

California Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024)

What is California's bonded debt capacity?

- The Legislative Analyst's Office reported that California is repaying an estimated \$80 billion in bonded debt and is authorized to sell an outstanding \$35 billion in bonds.
- The state spends approximately \$6 billion from the General Fund (3% of the total fund) each year to repay bonds.
- The office estimated that the cost to repay Proposition 2 would be an estimated \$500 million annually for 35 years.

California Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024)

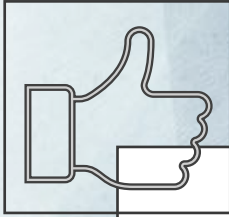
Supporters

- Supporters say this money is crucial for making basic safety improvements in schools, as well as for important upgrades like modern science labs, performing arts spaces and transitional kindergarten classrooms. School districts in lower-income areas have no other way to pay for those improvements.

Opponents

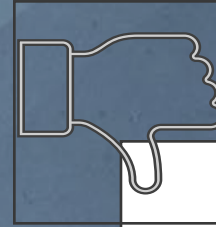
- Opponents say the state should include school repairs in its regular budget rather than turn to taxpayers, who they say are already overburdened. In addition, they argue that Prop. 2 would not directly impact students. Several organizations are neutral on Prop. 2 but have voiced concerns about what they see as the inequitable distribution of funds. The state's sliding scale for matching funds should be wider, they said, with lower-income districts receiving a greater share of the funds.

California Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024)



Who Supports?

- **\$6.6M raised**
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
- Association of California School Administrators
- California Labor Federation
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Federation of Teachers
- California School Boards Association
- League of Women Voters of California
- Small School Districts Association
- California Republican Party
- California Democratic Party



Who Opposes?

- **\$0 raised**
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

California Proposition 3, Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment (2024)

How would the amendment change the California Constitution?

- Would repeal Proposition 8 (2008), which defined marriage in the state constitution as between one man and one woman reversing a state judicial ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in California.
- Would add language to section 7.5 of Article I of the state constitution establishing a right to marry as furtherance of the right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and privacy and the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the state constitution.
- Proposition 8 was invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, which protected same-sex marriage under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

California Proposition 3, Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment (2024)

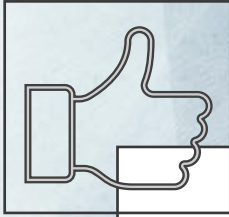
Supporters

- Supporters argue the measure would simply remove obsolete language from the California constitution and uphold the right to a practice already recognized by the highest court in the land

Opponents

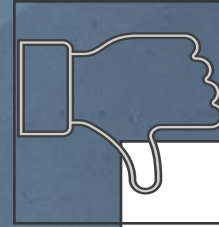
- Opponents say the measure goes too far and would “override” marriage laws and remove protections against “child marriages, incest, and polygamy.

California Proposition 3, Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment (2024)



Who Supports?

- **\$4.2M raised**
- Equality California
- American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
- California Democratic Party
- Gov. Gavin Newsom
- League of Women Voters of California
- California Labor Federation
- California Chamber of Commerce



Who Opposes?

- **\$0 raised**
- California Family Council
- The American Council of Evangelicals

California Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure (2024)

What would the bond revenue from Proposition 4 fund?

- Proposition 4 would authorize the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy, and water projects. The funds would be allocated to the following categories and projects:
Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure
- Proposition 4 would also require that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters.
- The bond measure would also require the secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to publish a list of programs and projects on the agency's website for the public.
- The measure would require the report to list the project's location, objective, status, anticipated outcomes, total cost, amount of bond funding, and any matching funds. The costs to publish the report would be covered by the bond revenue.

California Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure (2024)

Have California voters decided on bonds related to the environment before?

- Between 1993 and 2024, California voters decided on six bond measures related to parks and the environment, of which four were approved and two were defeated. The total amount of bonds approved related to parks and the environment was nearly \$9.7 billion.

California Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure (2024)

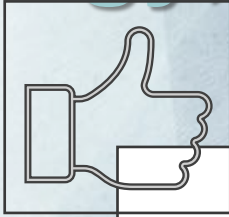
Supporters

- Supporters argue that, given the threat the state faces from wildfires, water pollution, and extreme heat, the need for more spending on these issues is “urgent.” Dozens of environmental groups are backing the measure.

Opponents

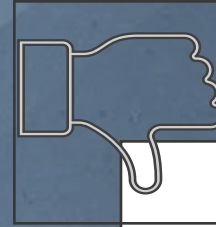
- Opponents argue that “bonds are the most expensive way for the government to pay for things” and that some of the money could go toward unproven technologies. They say that California should pay for such projects without taking on more debt.

California Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure (2024)



Who Supports?

- **\$1.2M raised**
- Clean Water Action
- National Wildlife Federation
- California Professional Firefighters
- California Labor Federation
- California Teachers Association
- SEIU California
- League of Women Voters of California
- California Democratic Party
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- California Municipal Utilities Association



Who Opposes?

- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- California Republican Party
- Senate GOP leader Brian Jones
- Assemblymember Jim Patterson

California Proposition 5, Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment (2024)

What would Proposition 5 do?

- The constitutional amendment would lower the supermajority vote requirement from two-thirds (66.67%) vote to 55% for local jurisdictions to issue bonds for *affordable housing* and public infrastructure projects.
- The amendment states that if approved it would apply to any relevant local bond measures also on the ballot on November 5, 2024. The amendment would also require the local jurisdiction (city, county, or special district) to conduct an annual audit to ensure that the funds are being used according to their intended purposes until all the proceeds have been expended.

California Proposition 5, Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment (2024)

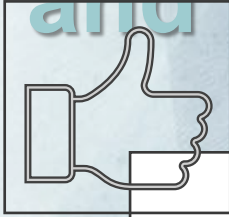
Supporters

- Supporters argue that allowing just one third of voters to overrule the wishes of two thirds is undemocratic. If the majority of voters want their local government to borrow money to fund desperately needed affordable housing or other public infrastructure, they should be able to do so.
- Backers also say this is a question of local control. Reducing the required vote threshold from two-thirds to 55% would allow local officials to fund their own priorities more easily without having to rely as much on statewide bonds or federal dollars.

Opponents

- Opponents argue that it's always easy to support taking on more debt if you aren't the one who has to pay it back. When a local government decides to borrow money, that tab almost always gets put on property owners — who might make up a minority of voters — through higher taxes. Rather than allow a narrow majority to make what are potentially financially irresponsible decisions, the choice to issue a bond should be made only when a broad consensus exists.
- Critics also call this measure just the latest attempt by Democratic lawmakers to undo the taxpayer protections that California voters embedded into the state constitution with Proposition 13.

California Proposition 5, Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment (2024)



Who Supports?

- **For**
- **\$5M raised**
- California Democratic Party
- California State Building and Construction Trades Council
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- California Housing Partnership
- California YIMBY
- California Labor Federation
- League of Women Voters of California
- United Way Bay Area



Who Opposes?

- **Against**
- **\$29.7M raised**
- California Chamber Of Commerce
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- California Republican Party
- Catalyst For Local Control

California Proposition 6, Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment (2024)

What would the amendment change about involuntary servitude in California?

- The amendment would repeal language prohibiting involuntary servitude except to punish crime and replace it with language prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude absolutely.
- The amendment also would prohibit the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from disciplining any incarcerated person for refusing a work assignment but authorize the department to award time credits to incarcerated persons who voluntarily participate in work assignments.

California Proposition 6, Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment (2024)

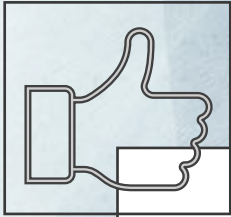
Supporters

- Supporters say that prisoners are often retaliated against for turning down assignments that can be dangerous or life threatening. It's inhumane, they say, to have to work long hours on jobs that do not necessarily contribute to future skills for little pay.
- They also cite the growing number of states — including Colorado, Alabama, Tennessee and Vermont in recent years — that have adopted similar measures, though California would have stronger language against retaliation toward inmates.

Opponents

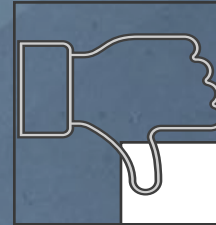
- An official ballot argument against the measure has not been filed. But a few Republican legislators voted against it. It reflects their larger opposition to reparations efforts by the state at a time when the budget deficit is a top priority.
- Critics in other states have said that the current work system helps inmates and promotes necessary order in facilities aiming to rehabilitate inmates. Some say that upending that system by allowing inmates to turn down assignments could eventually make it more difficult to manage prisons.

California Proposition 6, Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment (2024)



Who Supports?

- \$1.1 M raised
- ACLU California Action
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition
- California Democratic Party
- California Teachers Association
- California Black Legislative Caucus
- California Labor Federation
- League of Women Voters of California



Who Opposes?

- \$0 raised
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- California Republican Party