

DSA SANTA CRUZ VOTER GUIDE



2020

SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL



SANDY BROWN



KELSEY HILL



KAYLA KUMAR

ALICIA KUHL

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS

YES ON 15



YES ON 16

YES ON 17

YES ON 18 NO ON 19

YES ON 21 NO ON 20

YES ON 23 NO ON 22

YES ON 25 NO ON 24

INDICATES ENDORSED BY DSA



DSA Santa Cruz Voter Guide - Paragraph Summaries

Note: each recommendation comes from one of the following sources. Ballot Summaries are found [here](#). DSA-LA releases a great packet of information on all races in LA county jurisdictions every year, including statewide ballot initiatives. The 2020 guide is [here](#). For Props 24 and 25 the Santa Cruz EAWG wrote its own analysis.

Proposition 14: Bonds for stem cell research. The DSA EAWG has NO RECOMMENDATION for this ballot measure

- **BALLOT SUMMARY:** Authorizes \$5.5 billion state bonds for: stem cell and other medical research, including training; research facility construction; administrative costs. Dedicates \$1.5 billion to brain-related diseases. Appropriates General Fund moneys for repayment. Expands related programs. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds estimated at about \$260 million per year over the next roughly 30 years.

Proposition 15: Schools & Communities First. This measure rolls back property tax windfalls for commercial and industrial properties and modifies parts of Prop 13 which limit property taxes. [NOTE: the DSA Santa Cruz membership has already endorsed Prop 15]

- **DSA LA:** Proposition 15, Schools and Communities First, is on the ballot this November with the goal of ending a tax loophole that gives billions of dollars a year to large commercial property owners and wealthy investors. It reallocates those funds to K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local public services such as parks, libraries, homeless services, health clinics, and public transit. Prop 15 will reclaim \$10-12 billion annually by requiring wealthy owners of commercial properties with assessed value over \$3 million to pay taxes based on market value, rather than purchase price. The current and foreseeable economic distress triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the demand for racial justice make Prop 15 urgent. This ballot measure will direct much needed resources to working-class communities of color that for far too long have been underserved and underfunded. The capitalist class continues to hoard absurd levels of profit while California schools, services and communities suffer, but we can begin to put a stop to that with a Yes on Prop 15. Now is the time to tax the rich to fund our schools and services. DSA-LA as well as DSA chapters across California have endorsed Prop 15 and are working together to tax the rich to fund our schools.

Proposition 16 :Affirmative Action in public employment, education and contracting, repeals Prop 209 of 1996. The DSA EAWG Recommends: YES

- DSA LA: This proposition undoes the 1996 Prop 209 “California Civil Right Initiative” which sounds nice but wasn’t. It was introduced by the high rolling, white Southern California Republicans that were defending their right to be at the front of the line no matter what, even if they were late. Prop 209 essentially banned any form of affirmative action in public education, public employment, or public contracting and really caused Black and Latino enrollment in the UC system to plummet. Prop 209 thought reverse racism is a thing, Prop16 says it is not.

Proposition 17 : Free the Vote, restores the right to vote to people convicted of felonies who are on parole. The DSA EAWG Recommends: YES

- DSA LA: Changes the California Constitution to allow people on parole for felony convictions to vote. Everyone that wants to vote should be able to vote, period.

Proposition 18; Youth Vote, allows 17-year-olds to vote in a Primary if they turn 18 by the next General Election. DSA EAWG Recommends: YES

- DSA-LA You can vote in a primary if you are 17 as long as you will be 18 when the general election takes place. Real simple stuff. I don’t know what anyone opposing this law is trying to do with their lives but they should get a hobby.

Proposition 19 Property Tax Breaks and Wildfire Fund, changes tax assessment transfers and inheritance rules. The DSA EAWS Recommends; No

- DSA LA: It’s no wonder that REALTORS® are spending millions to push Prop 19: it will increase displacement in rapidly-gentrifying neighborhoods while draining the state treasury to give some of the wealthier people in society more property tax breaks. Specifically, it will limit the value of the capped assessment that children who live in their parents’ home can get to \$1 million, allowing the value above that amount to be assessed at a higher rate. \$1million is already less than the market value of increasing numbers of houses in areas like the Crenshaw District and Echo Park that working class families used to be able to afford. Having to pay property tax on the full market value above the cap will force these working class families to sell and move out, which means more sales for REALTORS®.Also, Prop 19 increases the number of times homeowners can claim this cap from once (i.e., when you retire) to three times, further increasing inequality. While removing the current cap on houses inherited by people who don’t live in them is good, and ear marking some

revenue for wildfires is too, this ballot measure causes more harm than good. Some people might confuse this with Prop 15 because both change property taxes, but they couldn't be more different, so please let people know: No on Prop 19.

Proposition 20 Restricts access to parole for certain offenses and allows some misdemeanors to be charged as felony. DSA EAWG Recommends: NO

- DSA LA: In 2011 the Supreme Court ordered the State of California to immediately let people out of jail so that their prisons were no more than 137% over capacity. Many jails are still in violation of this and operating at over 137% capacity which is cruel to people and a great way to spread COVID-19. In 2014, Prop 47 turned some felonies into misdemeanors (shoplifting, theft up to \$950, personal use of most illegal drugs), and people convicted of those crimes were eligible to come out of jail. Two years later, Prop 57 changed the rules around parole, allowing people convicted of nonviolent offenses to be eligible for parole and requiring judges, rather than prosecutors, to decide whether or not to charge juveniles as adults. Tough-on-crime politicians blame the rise in homelessness on Props 47 and 57. Prop 20 would turn some of these measures back so that it would be easier to put people in jail and change some misdemeanors back to felonies at a judge's discretion. The proposition also includes language allowing for the collection of DNA samples for state and federal crime databases—a red flag given the myriad ways California police can abuse that sort of information. This prop is being heavily funded by the FOP, the prison guards' union and the police union because it gives them the two things they love most: more hours to work overtime and more freedom to put more people in jail.

Proposition 21 Expands local government's ability to enact rent control. DSA EAWG Recommends: YES

- DSA LA: This modifies Costa-Hawkins, eliminating the statewide requirement that rent control cannot be applied to any housing built more recently than 1995, and imposes a new "rolling rent control" so that any housing unit over fifteen years old would be eligible for local rent control policy. The measure allows for vacancy control to be implemented where it already exists but is not currently allowed by Costa-Hawkins. According to a study from Stanford, people who lived in rent-controlled properties when Costa-Hawkins was passed ended up saving a cumulative total of \$7 billion over eighteen years, which is a hell of an argument that rent control is a big tool to have when trying to solve our homelessness crisis

Proposition 22 Exempts App based transportation and delivery companies from

providing employee benefits. DSA EAWG Recommends: NO

- DSA LA: All the way back in the fall of 2019, AB 5 reclassified gig employees as employees of the companies they work for, not independent contractors. This meant that their employers had to pay them minimum wage and all worker protections from the state and federal government applied to the people from whose labor they were profiting. The companies that built their business model on pretending they were just some tech company middle man and not, in fact, an employer of hundreds of thousands of workers didn't care much for this regulation—so they cooked up Prop 22 to rewrite it. Prop 22 reclassifies app-based drivers as independent contractors and not employees. Needless to say, struggling mom-and-pop apps like Uber, Door Dash, Lyft, etc. have spent a whopping \$181,389,136.51 trying to get this to pass! Nobody spends this kind of cash unless they are betting that they will at the least double their money. And it certainly doesn't seem that paying their drivers minimum wage for a year has hurt their bottom line. Protect workers and vote no. And if you know anyone that owns Postmates, hit them up for a million dollars because they have money to burn.

Proposition 23 Establishes certain requirements for kidney dialysis and requires on-site doctors. DSA EAWG Recommends: YES

- DSA LA: Kidney dialysis centers are, for some reason, not subjected to the same levels of oversight as other healthcare centers. They go largely unregulated and cause harm not only to people's health but also to their finances. Prop 23 requires that dialysis centers have a licensed physician or a nurse practitioner on site during treatment in outpatient facilities. You might think to yourself, why isn't there already a doctor on site?! How is there not a doctor on site?! They are cleaning people's actively circulating blood, how is this legal?! ...There's also plenty of evidence that non-white residents of Los Angeles County have profoundly higher rates of diabetes than white residents. This is one of the ways global corporations profit from keeping BIPOC sick and giving them inadequate care.

Proposition 24 Amends consumer privacy laws. DSA EAWG Recommends: NO

- DSA SANTA CRUZ: The ACLU notes that this bill makes confusing changes to the California Consumer Privacy Act before it has taken effect, making it harder for the Legislature make necessary changes. They also note that it will delay a rule in the California Consumer Privacy Act that allows workers to find out what information employers have collected about them, make it easier for businesses to charge you more if you don't let them sell your data, and allow tech companies to grab your data when you leave California. The bottom line

is that this proposition is supported by the same industry that profits off your data and makes changes to a the California Consumer Privacy Act before we can assess how it works.

Proposition 25 Eliminates Cash Bail in California. DSA EAWG Recommends: YES

- DSA SANTA CRUZ: This was the only recommendation where we actively disagreed with DSA-LA's voter guide, and we felt it necessary to provide our own reasoning. While the criticisms of the "risk assessment" system proposed to replace cash bail as discriminatory, racist, arbitrary, and undemocratic are absolutely valid, the end result of this vote is not going to be interpreted as "do you support risk assessment algorithms over cash bail?", but rather "do you support cash bail, and the bail bond industry?" A NO here would restore the power of the (faltering) bail bond industry, and suck the winds out of criminal justice reforms for several years. We do not believe Prop 25's failure will translate to a "better" abolition of cash bail next year. [one will remember Measure M's detractors who "support rent control but not this measure" in fact changed their minds and interpreted its defeat as "no rent control, ever," and that is where we remain]. We must also remember that the current system (of cash bail) is just as arbitrary, racist, and inaccessible to the most marginalized, but also decentralized and impossible to change except DA by DA. A problematic, but centralized system we might be able to change all at once, statewide. A YES vote will abolish cash bail, helping in our view more people than it hurts, and the fight to democratize and decarcerate the "risk assessments" can and should begin immediately after its passage. We believe that it is generally easier to make radical changes to a new system (after its flaws are made apparent, which will be far easier today than it was even two years ago during the original fight over SB10) than it would be to abolish an old system which was just ratified by voters.