

## Notes

- We are **happy to have multiple researchers per initiative/race**, especially high priority races, but we would like to have **at least one** researcher for every race
  - **Orange** = We do not have anyone researching yet
  - **Red** = High Priority Race/Initiative
  - **Yellow = your vote/choice (highlight and bold)**
- If you volunteer to research,
  - Please **prepare a 1-5 minute explanation** for the group
  - Please **make a recommendation** to the group on how you will vote
  - Please **include 2 sentence summary** in the Document to explain your vote (if you have more research, please share a link, but do not include in the document)
- To see all Races and Recommendations, Show Document Outline (**Ctrl+Alt+A or Ctrl+Alt+H**)

## Sources for Research

### Voter Game Plan:

- <http://elections.laist.com/>

### LA Times:

- <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/endorsements/la-ed-endorsements-20181013-story.html>

### SF Chronicle

- <https://projects.sfchronicle.com/2018/november-elections-guide/endorsements/>

### Banh Mi, Boba, Ballots Research

- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EGVj\\_1LJrAjDx8E5ps61S5ketrxVrgpu3yvP8uuRdmY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EGVj_1LJrAjDx8E5ps61S5ketrxVrgpu3yvP8uuRdmY/edit?usp=sharing)

### Ji's Ballot:

- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bkMXMaH6g4gwqGB3ks-n5z6JrVf3icYHobZyZgrCtW4/edit#gid=0>

### June 5th Research (many races have the same candidates):

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eoEX7BMJu5mRQDKZ-4f2ybOgOMMr18ONqj92ai3mY14/edit>

### LA Voice's Recommendations:

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0CRZKhReW5kO0yyxxB1wQ-lqUTJkae9DDtarZ82gpl/edit>

### Thomas' Expanded Prop Research

- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V90VmkJBLBhyKT1qIGk1xON4Ggx46JGDhgUm\\_guM3w/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V90VmkJBLBhyKT1qIGk1xON4Ggx46JGDhgUm_guM3w/edit#)

### HERE IS THE SHORTER "CHEAT SHEET" VERSION OF THE BALLOT:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FmD8eZXDrOuTw0JOh7etMH1TiggU4s6nwUc7OuFTLWA/edit?usp=sharing>

## CA STATE RACES

### Governor

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Candidates
  - John H. Cox\* Republican
  - Gavin Newsom Democratic
- Summary
  - A Governor does several things: 1) they control a lot of the California state bureaucracy, 2) they have a lot of influence of where state funding goes 3) they are the figurehead of our state
- Who supports who, and what do they stand for?
  - Newsom policy
    - **Healthcare:** Single Payer healthcare
    - **Housing:** Mix of zoning reform, affordable housing, some rent control
    - **Taxes and Spending:** Prop 13 reform, new payroll tax for single payer
    - **Education:** Neutral on charter schools, 2 years of free community college, universal pre-school, more social services in schools
    - **Environment:** Keep and expand carbon taxes
  - Newsom endorsements
    - Democratic Party, LA Times, SF Chronicle, Sac Bee, SD Union-Tribune, Teachers, Nurses, Jerry Brown, Kamala Harris, Etc
  - Cox policy
    - **Health:** No single payer, enforcement of psych treatment for mentally ill
    - **Housing:** repeal CEQA, Opposed to rent control & state zoning reform,
    - **Taxes and Spending:** reduce income taxes, cut spending, pension reform for gov't employees
    - **Education:** More charter schools and competition in education
    - **Environment:** reduce carbon taxes
  - Cox endorsements
    - OC Registrar, Republican Party, Donald Trump, Various Police Unions
- **Thomas Vote: Gavin Newsom**
  - My full research is [here](#)
  - Newsom isn't my favorite candidate, but he has experience, he has some good ideas, and he is ambitious in a couple of areas where we need it (tax reform, housing, education). And more importantly, Cox doesn't have much going for him in my book, he has no experience, and most of his policy ideas are vague or just opposing what Newsom has put out there.

### Lieutenant Governor

- Who is Researching: Mark
- candidates
  - Eleni Kounalakis\* Democratic
  - Ed Hernandez\* Democratic

- **Mark's Vote: Ed Hernandez**

Both are good to decent candidates for a position without that much power. This office exists in case the Governor dies or resigns, and it is seen as a middle rung on the ladder to greater political advancement. The officeholder does sit on some useful commission boards. Kounalakis is, "a prominent Democratic Party donor who's never held elected office" while Hernandez, "grew up in La Puente, is an optometrist whose work with underserved communities and poor patients on Medi-Cal ultimately sparked his interest in state government. He was elected to the state Assembly in 2006 and then the California Senate in 2010, terming out this year. As chairman of the Senate Health Committee for eight years, he shepherded a number of tough, smart bills through the Legislature." Hernandez has more California local political knowledge, and more political experience period. Kounalakis is a wealthy Democratic donor with some political connections, and a former Ambassador, who has relied on her wealth for power and is using that now to seek this office. Hernandez is better qualified (citations above are from LA Times).

### **Secretary of State**

- Who is Researching: Mark
- Candidates
  - Alex Padilla\* Democratic
  - Mark P. Meuser\* Republican

- **Mark's Vote: Alex Padilla**

Alex Padilla is the incumbent officeholder, and has done a decent to good job. This office oversees paperwork, legislation record-keeping, and most importantly the CA elections. Padilla held the office for the last 4 years, and if re-elected could hold it for 4 more before terming out. I'm in favor of incumbents if they've done a good job, and by all reports Padilla has done a good job. Modernizing systems and enrolling more CA citizens to vote. There was some snafu with the DMV mis-registering people to vote, and that looks bad, but it is a mild issue. The opponent, Meuser, is trying to sound like Trump and back Trump's claims that there's been massive vote fraud--which no independent commissions / investigations agree with. And so, Meuser seems really partisan and fast & loose with facts like Trump. Padilla is the obvious choice. Every major news publication endorses him, except those that are super Republican leaning.

### **Controller**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Candidates
  - Betty T. Yee\* Democratic
  - Konstantinos Roditis\* Republican

- **My Vote: Betty Yee**

- Controller is essentially the chief Finance/Accountant for the state of California. Pragmatic concerns (how do you pay the bills) outweigh partisan concerns.
- Yee has done a good job in office, and has a vision for long-term tax reform in the state which I think is forward-thinking AND pragmatic.

- Like Ma, Yee has done a good job cultivating the support of both sides of the aisle, as she was endorsed by both center-left (LA Times, SF Chronicle) and center-right (San Diego, OC registrar) newspapers.

### **Treasurer**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Candidates
  - Greg Conlon\* Republican
  - Fiona Ma\* Democratic
- **My Vote: Fiona Ma**
  - I personally think fiscal policy is an area where experience and caution are very important, which gives Ma an edge. I also think the endorsement of sitting treasurer John Chiang, who is widely respected, should count for quite a bit
  - She is endorsed by most of the major newspapers, both left of center (LA Times, SF Chronicle) and Right of Center (SD Union-Tribune, OC Registrar)
  - She has some good, practical ideas on how to account for the states fund's (like making sure clear the state of bond financing for the state), while Conlon's ideas, while not bad are not actually within his control (pensions and tax reform)

### **Attorney General**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Candidates
  - Steven C. Bailey\* Republican
  - Xavier Becerra\* Democratic
- **Thomas Vote: Xavier Becerra**
  - Becerra was our Congressman in LH/BH before he got appointed to this post, and he is very experienced in politics.
  - He has been aggressive in defending California from Trump's attempts to curtail state power when it comes to things like immigration and environmental protections, which are good things (though maybe not his #1 priority)
  - His opponent has ethics charges against him, comes from a very small county and opposes some of CA's recent criminal justice reforms (which I support on the whole)
  - He is well-respected enough to get almost all the major newspaper endorsements on both sides of the aisle (LA Times, SF Chronicle, San Diego Union-Tribune, OC registrar) even if some were reluctant endorsements

### **Insurance Commissioner**

- Who is Researching: Alison Walker
- Candidates
  - Ricardo Lara\* Democratic
  - Steve Poizner\* No Party Preference

- **Alison's Vote: Steve Poizner**

- This job is about regulating the state insurance industry, including auto, liability, wildfire, earthquake, renters. It is the fine line between keeping costs low, and making enough money so insurance agents stay in the state.
- Both candidates have very similar views. Poizner has done this job before, and was widely regarded as excellent. He has the endorsement of all major newspapers. Lara has only sat on an insurance related senate committee for a few years, and has not proved aptitude or understanding of the job.
- Lots of this campaign is about health insurance. This position does not regulate health insurance. In particular, Lara's campaign about universal health insurance is not something this job has control over.
- Poizner is running with no party affiliation, saying this shouldn't be a partisan job. I agree with this- this is a balancing act on a complicated issue, not a place to advocate for partisan agendas.
- Poizner used to be a Republican. He ran for Governor in 2010 in the Republican primary. He made anti-immigrant comments. He has since left the Republican party, changed his views on immigration, and apologized. However, for some people, this history will make them choose Lara, who was born in East LA and has a progressive record.

### **Superintendent of Public Instruction**

- Who is Researching: Candiss and Dave
- Candidates
  - Tony K. Thurmond\* No Party Preference
  - Marshall Tuck\* No Party Preference

- **Candiss recommendation: Tony Thurmond**

- Tony Thurmond backed by a lot of educators, and UTLA. Against for profit private schools. Is strong supporter of strengthening public education.
- Tuck seems more about privatizing public education, with less regulated charter schools.

- **Dave's recommendation: Tony Thurmond**

- He has strong commitment to at-risk students and the obstacles they face. Most educators we know back Thurmond. Mostly because he is about strengthening public education as opposed to making it easier for charter schools that, [in my opinion and experience](#), end up circumventing the system, pulling out more resourced students (hence the higher scores that charter schools can boast), rather than working toward making a better system that has the same access for ALL community members.

- **Janice's recommendation: Tony Thurmond**

his opponent has no experience as an educator and is not an ally for investing in public education; nearly all public school teachers in LAUSD, including our union, are backing Thurmond

### - **Thomas' Vote: Tuck**

- My full reasoning is [here](#)
- California has pretty big educational problems, this is something everyone agrees on
  - Research has shown that more money alone doesn't solve our educational problems. Recent boosts in funding for LAUSD hasn't improved student performance
  - I don't think charter schools can solve the problem, but I also have a hard time seeing that they are the cause of the problem
  - I haven't seen studies showing that Charters diverting resources hurts public schools, but I have seen studies that good charter schools does help kids
  - Other state (Mass, Florida, Texas) have seen school improvement through school reform of the type that Tuck supports
- I worry that Thurmond has shown he is unwilling to do basic teacher accountability when he has had the chance (in 2013 he helped kill a bill that would have increased teacher tenure to 4 years, from 2 years)
  - I don't like DeVos style charter schools, but Tuck in my mind is pretty moderate, saying he wants charters, but for them to be regulated
  - 3 out of my 5 newspapers I look to for recommendations support Tuck

## **FEDERAL RACES**

### **US Senate**

- Who is researching: Dave
- Candidates (Pros/Cons)
  - Dianne Feinstein: + her experience, - her age and some say too centrist
  - Kevin De Leon: + has done good work for low and mid income in CA, - his inexperience at federal level but his unwillingness to compromise in already deepening partisan senate

### - **Dave's recommendation: Dianne Feinstein**

- Both are similar on key issues but difference in tone but Feinstein has more experience in cutting deals, securing funds, and influencing policy within the Senate, that like it or not has Republicans. DeLeon's approach of unwillingness to compromise, would not go over well in an already deeply divided senate. Some gains are better than none at all and Kamala Harris is already a good balance for Feinstein.

### **US House (District 34, LH/BH/EI Sereno)**

- Who is researching: Mark and Janice
- Candidates
  - Jimmy Gomez (Dem)
  - Kenneth Meija (Green)

- **Mark's Vote: Jimmy Gomez**

- Jimmy Gomez is the Incumbent officeholder...he has the Democratic Party support structure in full support behind him, and has far more experience than Kenneth Mejia. He's been in Congress since last year, and had 4 years experience in the CA State Assembly before. He has far more political experience than his opponent, Kenneth Mejia. Kenneth is a Green Party candidate, and his pursuit of Single Payer Healthcare for All, and Free College Tuition, etc. are noble goals but not realistic to accomplish in the present political circumstances. Reforming rather than revolutionizing our government & society is more likely to succeed. Some societal improvements are better than the quixotic quest of an enthusiast which will come to no avail.

- **Janice's Vote: Kenneth Mejia**

- Kenneth Mejia is a young radical who is proposing a lot of really cool change and has built astounding community support, esp given that he started off as a "nobody." He's kind of in the same vein as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who made landmark political gains in New York earlier this year as a young WOC dark horse who won the primary.

### **US House (District 40, East LA)**

- Who is researching: Thomas
- Candidates
  - Lucille Roybal-Allard
  - Rodolfo Cortes Barragan

- **Thomas Vote: Roybal-Allard**

- This race is not expected to be particularly close. Roybal-Allard is part of the Roybal family who has been in politics for a while, and she won her primary by 60 points, and out fundraised Barragan 40 to 1. Roybal-Allard is endorsed by all of the major Democrats in LA and the state along with all the local unions, while Barragan is running on a very progressive agenda (medicare for all, basic income, green infrastructure) but doesn't have much connections or endorsement within the political realm. Though I am not a huge fan of either, I would vote Roybal-Allard, simply because most of Barragan's ideas are non-starters if Trump remains in the white house, and the incumbent will probably be better at cutting deals

### **LOCAL Statewide Races**

**\*please note these choices will be different depending on what neighborhood of CA you live in**

### **Board of Equalization Member District 3**

- Who is Researching: Ji
- Candidates
  - Tony Vazquez\* Democratic
  - G. Rick Marshall\* Republican

- **Ji's Vote: Tony Vasquez**

- "better of two bad choices"

### **CA Assembly Seat 51 (Lincoln Heights/El Sereno/East LA)**

- Who is Researching: Dave
- Candidates
  - Wendy Carrillo (incumbent Democrat): access to edu, creating econ opportunity, access to health care
  - Christopher Stare (Libertarian challenger): reducing debt, economic freedom, indiv liberty incl welcoming immigrants

- **Dave's recommendation: Wendy Carrillo**

- Not a big fan of Wendy Carrillo, esp her support of charter schools at the expense of public schools but in comparison to Christopher Stare may represent the Eastside better. Apart from Stare having a very slim chance of winning, the Libertarian approach to less regulation in most everything is not something i personally think is helpful (as i believe our natural tendency is to selfishness not benevolence). One area that i mostly disagree is his support of vouchers. and charter school when i think we need to strengthen our public schools instead of creating a "brain drain" for more resourced folks to segregate themselves rather than create solutions together.

### **CA Assembly Seat 53 (Boyle Heights)**

- Who is Researching: Ji
- Candidates
  - Kevin Hee Young Jang (dem)
  - Miguel Santiago (dem)

- **Ji's Vote: Kevin Jang?**

- Miguel Santiago is mostly supported by Democratic Party, however [he voted against net neutrality](#). I voted for him in the past but it's sad that someone so young and promising would do something so clearly bad for consumers and regular people. I'm really disappointed in Miguel Santiago so voting for Kevin Jang more as a protest vote (as Santiago is more likely to win as well as Jang hasn't expressed much of his platform apart from this issue).

### **CA State Senate 24**

- Who is Researching: Ji
- Candidates
  - Maria Elena Durazo
  - Peter Choi

- **Ji's Vote: Maria Durazo:**

- Labor leader.

## **LA CITY/COUNTY**

### **Assessor**

- Who is researching: Ji

- Candidates
  - John Loew
  - Jeffrey Prang
- **Dave's recommendation on behalf of Ji: Jeffrey Prang**
  - Jeffery Prang has experience in this role, he has a more concrete plan, and seems to want to do THIS job more than his opponent who seems like its a stepping stone for another job.

### LA County Sheriff

- Who is researching: Thomas
- Candidates
  - Jim McDonnell
  - Alex Villanueva

### Summary

- LA Sheriff oversees the LA County police and jail system, which patrols unincorporated areas of the county (like East LA) and small cities in the county (West Hollywood). It also patrols the Metro/public transit system. The last Sheriff before McDonnell, Lee Baca, was convicted of corruption and mistreatment of prisoners.

### Endorsements/stances

- McDonnell Endorsements/views:
  - LA Times, Eric Garcetti, Hilda Solis, LA County Police Chiefs
  - **Police Reform:** McDonnell sees himself as trying to implement reform of the department. This includes jail reforms, trying to discipline 300 of his deputies, create civilian oversight, and body cameras. Though He hasn't always quickly embraced these reforms, he does say they are needed
  - **ICE:** He has equivocate quite a bit on this one. No firm stance on working with ICE or not
- Villanueva Endorsements:
  - Gloria Molina (former east LA Supervisor), CHIRLA (immigration activists), LA County Democratic Party, Various Labor Groups
  - **Department Reform:** He thinks he can do a better job reforming the department than McDonnell, who he says is too out of touch with the rank and file, and has made life harder for them. He believes McDonnell hasn't done enough to build up younger staff, as there is a large deputy shortage
  - **ICE:** He wants to stop working with ICE on deportations
  - **Other Police reforms:** He wants there to be oversight, but has opposed a civilian review board for cops. He also opposes body cameras due to budget constraints. He says he is for community policing, but is vague about how he would implement it

### Thomas: Vote: Lean McDonnell

- This one is tough, as I am not well versed in matters of crime and policing. McDonnell has the clear edge in leadership experience, having served as a high officer in the LAPD, Long Beach Police, and now as Sheriff for one term, while Villanueva has not

been an administrator of any large organization. But Villanueva does seem to have a genuine supporter base from within the department, which might be worth paying attention to. As someone who supports criminal justice reform, neither candidate seems like a perfect choice. Villanueva has gotten support for his stance on ICE, but also seems to be hedging a lot when asked to support other reform measures (civilian oversight, body cams, disciplining the rank and file). Villanueva says he is for community policing, but I worry that is too vague to be meaningful. While I don't love McDonnell, it does seem like he has taken some concrete steps toward reform. It probably ultimately comes down to this: how do you weigh the issue of ICE (one candidate guarantees it) vs the issue of broader police reform (one candidate has committed more broadly to it).

## **PROPOSITIONS**

### **Prop 1 (Housing)**

- Who is Researching: Brittney
- Summary: Allow CA to sell \$4 billion in bonds to help fund various housing programs (affordable housing and veteran)
- **Brittney's Vote: Yes**
  - CA is in a housing shortage crisis and this would give subsidies to non-profits developers and county governments to build affordable housing, as building affordable housing is expensive. It won't solve the crisis, but it's better than nothing.

### **Prop 2 (Housing/Mental Health)**

- Who is Researching: Dave
- Summary: Prop 2 authorizes \$2 billion bond to house people who are mentally ill and homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Dave's recommendation: Yes**
  - This will not raise taxes. "Californians already approved a "millionaire's tax" to fund mental health services, but a lawsuit is keeping the state from spending the money on the most fundamental element of treatment for the homeless mentally ill: supportive housing. This measure clears that obstacle." Housing helps bring the stability needed for better treatment and 1/3 of the homeless are mentally ill!

### **Prop 3 (Water Projects)**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Summary
  - CA has some of the biggest water issues of any area in the world. This would be an attempt to invest in water infrastructure. The state would borrow 8.9 billion to fund water project, including both environmental protection, and canals and aqueducts to channel more water into the state
  - Most of the money will go to project in the central valley, between Fresno and Bakersfield
  - Support is from a mix of environmental and mostly farmers groups

- Opposition is from ALL Of the major newspapers (SF Chronicle, LA Times, OC registrar, SD Union, Sacramento Bee)

- **Thomas View: Vote No**

- We do need more water infrastructure, and that will require spending money to get benefits in the long run
- Biggest issue with this measure is that it allocates most of its funding to the central valley to benefit farmers
- If you look at Current data, 80% of the water in the state that is not environmentally protected (about half of the states water is) goes to agriculture. already. A lot of which is subsidized, and includes a lot of wasteful usage of water
- Farmers say they are key to the economy, but they really only produce 2% of the states GDP. I am for water reform, but the most important piece of that (in my mind) is to create incentives for farmers to be more water efficient in their grow more drought resistant crops, rather than for the state to keep using state money to subsidize them

#### **Prop 4 (Children's Hospitals)**

- Who is Researching: Dave
- Summary: Authorizes CA to issue \$1.5 bill bond to help renovate, expand, and construct more children's hospitals

- **Dave and Ji's recommendation: Yes**

- no one will do hospital building reinforcements as well as expand capacity without these bonds

#### **Prop 5 (Property Taxes)**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Summary
  - In 1978, California passed a prop called Prop 13, that basically limited the states ability to raise property taxes on homes until they are bought and sold again
  - This means that there are many people in CA who are paying very low property taxes on their current home (because they bought it a long time ago) but if they moved, would pay much higher property taxes
  - For example, let's say a couple bought a home in 1970 for \$100,000. Normally, each year the amount of taxes they pay would go up as the home goes up in value (so they would pay 2% of \$500,000, which is 10,000), but this would mean they would keep paying \$2000 a year.
  - This prop would mean that folks who are moving to a new home would be able to transfer their low property tax rates to their new home when they move
  - Realtors and low-tax group are for this measure, most newspapers, education groups, and progressives are against it.

- **Thomas View: Vote No**

- With Prop 5, the incentives might have some small good effects (more housing being bought and sold) But it would also be super unfair: people who have been given an unfair discount on their property taxes for a long time would keep getting a discount into the future. If we want to fix the housing market, we need to

REPEAL PROP 13. That is one of the single best things we can do to fix housing in our state.

### **Prop 6 (Gas Taxes)**

- Who is Researching: Ji (Dave on Ji's behalf)
- Summary: Prop 6 repeals a 2017 transportation law's taxes and fees designated for road repairs and public transportation.
- **Dave and Ji's recommendation: No**
  - Yes, if it passes gas prices would decrease by 15 cents. However, if it passes we'd lose up to \$5 billion in revenue needed for infrastructure repair meaning CURRENT projects would have to stop and would be bad for environment

### **Prop 7 (Daylight Savings)**

- Who is Researching: Ji (Dave on Ji's behalf)
- Summary: Prop 7 wants to get rid of Daylight Savings Time (DST). No more changing our clocks forward and back! This action is dependent on approval from the federal government.
- **Dave and Ji's Recommendation: No**
  - Ji's hates DST as she believes there shouldn't even be any time zone but that we should all be on GMT. But since THAT will most likely never happen for all of us in the world to be on the same time, getting rid of DST will be confusing to the rest of the states and will cost too much money to change that CA doesn't have.

### **Prop 8 (Dialysis Clinics)**

- Who is Researching: Alicia
- Summary: Dialysis is a life-preserving procedure that cleans the blood of those who have failing kidneys. Proposed by a healthcare union, this prop would cap revenues of dialysis clinics in an attempt to get them to spend more on patient care. However, it seems that any savings would more likely go to insurance companies and not patients. It could potentially cause clinics to operate in the red and ultimately shut down, limiting access to care for patients. LA Times believes the union is trying to "crimp the earnings" of two major dialysis clinic companies because they are having trouble organizing at these companies.
- **Alicia's Vote: No**
  - While I'm sympathetic to unions, I'm hesitant to vote in favor of this prop which is opposed by the California Nurses Association, California Medical Association, and National Kidney Foundation because of my healthcare background.

### **Prop 10 (Rent Control)**

- **Who is Researching:** Rob, Dave, and Thomas
- Summary
  - Costa Hawkins ("CH") was a law passed in 1995, which didn't ban rent control, but limited the types of rent control that cities/counties can implement. Specifically, 3 restrictions were put in:
    - 1) Single Family Homes cannot be rent controlled
    - 2) Homes built recently cannot be rent controlled

- 3) Rent Control cannot extend past a renter moving out
  - CH would simply put those tools back in the hands of cities, and out of the state legislature's hands
    - Cities could tweak all they want, states would be limited in what they could do to stop cities from enforcing rent control policies
  - The debate is whether those tools are helpful or harmful
- Articles/endorsements
  - PRO (Yes vote repeals Costa-Hawkins law)
    - <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-endorsement-proposition-10-20180915-story.html>
  - CON
    - <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Californians-resist-the-rent-control-13195046.php>

**- Rob vote: YES**

One reason I am yes on 10 is that it creates a productive amount of pressure for more comprehensive housing solutions. Housing suppliers HATE rent control but have little motivation to work towards larger scale solutions in the market. Once political support is demonstrated for blunt-force policy alternatives, then you start seeing movement toward trade-offs.

**- Dave's vote: Lean yes**

This is such a tough one as a yes or no vote doesn't provide us with a clear solution to the housing crisis. On one hand yes on prop 10 to repeal Costa-Hawkins makes sense because it has some problematic and more limiting restrictions on what can be rent controlled across the whole state (ex. No rent control after person has moved out, for LA no rent control on buildings built after 1978) and i'm sorry i don't buy the argument that folks will stop building (there's always some bucks to be made and most folks want some bucks as opposed to no bucks). On the other hand repealing it could be problematic because that's all it does: repeal without any clear plan to replace (that is left up to each city, and who knows what will happen in that void, likely it is special interests that take power). On top of this, even if more rent control is achieved research has shown that it might not actually benefit the poor bc open spots will and do end up going to renters that are more well to do. The focus should be on relaxing zoning laws so that more housing can be built, but Prop 10 doesn't address that.

I know we want easier answers, but this is certainly not one of them. With this in mind I can understand if folks vote either way. As for me, right now, i'm leaning toward YES and hoping that the marginalized organize quickly and continually in different cities to figure out something better that works for them. Your vote should hinge on how much you think LA city and different cities like it can organize on behalf of the interest of the poor, otherwise special interest will do what they always do on behalf of themselves.

Btw, this site is awesome for the props (too bad i didn't find it again till the night before the election: <https://www.ballot.fyi/prop-10>)

- **Thomas Vote: NO**

- My full view is here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V90VmkJLBhyKT1qIGk1xON4Ggx46JGDhgUm\\_guM3w/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V90VmkJLBhyKT1qIGk1xON4Ggx46JGDhgUm_guM3w/edit#)
- This is a tough issue, so I know others will vote differently, but I don't trust policymakers in cities to have the care to craft rent control policies with all of these tools that actually helps more than it hurts. [Economists really dislike rent control](#), and I tend to agree. I am **60/40 sure** this law will have more bad effects, though I could be wrong!
- I would love to see CA try a more innovative tenant protection solutions that are (like social insurance for rent increases paid for by a land tax) but I acknowledge that practically that isn't going anywhere anytime soon
- I think there are some Costa Hawkins reforms I would support, but I would feel better if that were left to the state (who I trust more on housing than cities), and done in conjunction with zoning reform since I think that is ultimately pairs well (short-term benefits and long-term benefits)

### **Prop 11 (Emergency Worker Breaks)**

- Who is Researching: Brittney & Thomas
- Summary: Would require that private-sector emergency ambulance employees stay on-call during their paid work breaks. Eliminates employer liability from a previous lawsuit that say that employers violated the existing law.
  - **Brittney's Vote: Lean No**
    - I do have concerns about costs going up on clients for ambulance companies needing to hire more workers BUT employees should be given their allotted break time and employers should get repaid for previously ignoring the law.
  - **Thomas Vote: No**
    - I generally think negotiations between employers/employees should be left to 1) collective bargaining or 2)
- <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-proposition-ii-endorsement-20180921-story.html>

### **Prop 12 (Cage Free Animals)**

- Who is Researching: Alicia
- Summary: Sponsored and financed by the Human Society, this prop will take a previous prop (prop 2) one step further in the treatment of hens, pigs, and calves. "This measure specifies how much barn floor space a hen should get and the types of cage-free layouts that are acceptable" ([LA Times](#)). It will also ban the sale of eggs and meat from out of state that do not comply. The Association of CA Egg Farmers is concerned that this will cost farmers a lot of money to comply, which I sympathize with knowing how expensive farming can be. Some animal rights groups do not believe this prop goes far enough.

- **Alicia's Vote: Lean Yes**

I value slowly moving the agricultural industry towards more humane treatment of animals raised for food. [LA Times](#) does not seem to think that the cost for consumers will increase significantly based on what happened with prop 2.

- **Alex's Vote: NO**

- This prop is sponsored by a bunch of big farmers and veterinarians. Why would they be interested in sponsoring a bill that enforces more humane restrictions that are less profitable? They are actually trying to create a loophole by passing a bill that has less restrictions than a bill that was passed three years ago. They want to use this bill to get away with not following the requirements of the previous bill.
- Why would veterinarians sponsor this bill? When bad practices / treatment of animals happens, that means you have more sick animals and therefore more business for veterinarians.

## **COUNTY MEASURES**

### **Charter Amendment B (Public Bank, LA City)**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Summary:
  - In the past few years, there has been a push by activists to take the money the City of LA has in its reserves (from tax revenue that hasn't been spent) and take it out of big wall street banks (specifically Wells Fargo). This measure would take that movement a step further, and create a city bank where LA's reserves could be lent out to local entrepreneurs and causes.
- Pro Endorsements
  - Many Progressive and Labor Groups
  - Garcetti and Several City Councilmen (Koertz, Krokorian, Wesson)
- Con Endorsements
  - LA Times
- Pro Reasons
  - Fiscal benefits: interest and fees saved
  - Would give LA ability to do a lot of community finance
  - LA could use funds to do socially impactful investing
- Con reasons
  - LA's financial judgement:
  - No Business Plan
  - Geographic Context
- **Thomas View: Vote No**
  - I think the risks outweigh the benefits, and I think there are simpler and less risky alternatives (specifically, putting city deposits in private non-profit credit unions and community banks)
  - My full [musings are here](#)

## **Charter Amendment E + EE (Election Alignment, LA City)**

- Who is Researching: Thomas
- Summary: Do you remember last year (2017), when we had four elections in 4 months? And then turned around and had another 2 election this year? These measures would ensure that all city elections would align with state/federal elections, so we don't have to do that again
- **Thomas' Vote: ENTHUSIASTIC YES on both**
  - This will help more people be able to vote, and will means more participation in local elections (and less ballot measures, which I see as good!). No one opposes these

## **Measure W (Stormwater Runoff, LA County)**

- Who is Researching: Brittney
  - Summary: Would create a tax on land for surfaces that allow water to run off into storm drains. Taxes would be used to clean up storm water instead of allowing it to drain into the ocean

### **- Brittney's vote: Yes**

This seems like a good thing as currently, water treatment isn't being done for run-off water and toxins just pollute the ocean. There isn't any funding to build treatment facilities and this would allow LA County to fund those projects and avoid some of the state and federal fines from polluting the ocean.

### **- Rob vote: Clear YES**

- At full build out we'll be able to conserve and use so much more water. LA needs to be more conserving.
- Will be implemented with lots of green projects for parks and schools.

## **JUDGES**

According to Ji and her lawyer friends:

Voters should generally say "yes" — as they should for judges and justices, absent any serious concerns about their fitness for office. Retention votes support independent courts that make decisions based on the law and not on popular sentiment or political partisanship.

<https://www.kcet.org/ball.../when-and-why-we-vote-for-judges>

<http://www.latimes.com/.../la-ed-endorsement-justices...>

### **Court of Appeal Justice (these are yes or no)**

#### **Court of Appeals District 2, Division 1**

- **Victoria Chaney**
- **Helen Bendix**

#### **Court of Appeals District 2, Division 2**

- **Elwood Lui**
- **Victoria Chavez**

#### **Court of Appeals District 2, Division 3**

- **Luis Lavin**

- Anne Egerton - NO (according to Ji's lawyer friend)

**Court of Appeals District 2, Division 4**

- **Nora Manella**
- **Thomas Willhite**

**Court of Appeals District 2, Division 5**

- **Carl Moor**
- **Lamar Baker**

**Court of Appeals District 2, Division 6**

- **Arthur Gilbert**
- **Martin Tangeman**

**Court of Appeals District 2, Division 7**

- Gail Feuer - NO (according to Ji's lawyer friend)
- **John Segal**

**Court of Appeals District 2, Division 8**

- **Tricia Bigelow**

**California Supreme Court Justices (these are yes or no)**

- **Carol Corrigan**
- **Leondra Kruger**

**Judge of the Superior Court (these you can only choose one between the pair)**

**Superior Court Seat 4**

- **Alfred A. Coletta.....Qualified**
  - LA Times Endorsed
- A. Veronica Saucedo.....Well Qualified

**Superior Court Seat 16**

- **Patricia Hunter .....Qualified (Ji: Michel married to NRA supporter)**
- Sydne Jane Michel.....Qualified
  - LA Times Endorsed

**Superior Court Seat 60**

- Tony J. Cho.....Qualified
- **Holly L. Hancock .....Qualified**
  - LA Times Endorsed

**Superior Court Seat 113**

- Javier Perez.....Well Qualified
- **Michael P. Ribons.....Qualified**
  - LA Times Endorsed

\*\*\*not enough information

**Board of Directors - Central Basin Municipal Water District (East LA)**

- Candidates
  - Servando Ornelas
  - Diana Santiago Bagne
  - Arturo Chacon

**Board of Directors - Water Replenishment District of So. California (East LA)**

- Candidates
  - Daniel Cortez
  - Anthony Perry
  - Sergio Joseph Calderon
  - Evelyn T. Serfozo