

APLA 2016 Election Voter Guide

Health Your primer on the races and issues that will affect the HIV/AIDS, LGBT, and other underserved communities

Exercise Your Right to Vote!

APLA Health is proud to provide you with this voting guide on the issues and races that will have the most impact on the HIV/AIDS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), and other underserved communities. Voting is one of the most important rights we have in a democracy and it is important to make your voice heard to influence the policy decisions that will affect your daily life.

Whatever you do, and however you have to do it, get out and vote! If work is a barrier to your ability to vote, remember that California law requires your employer to allow you to take up to two hours off to vote, without losing any pay. View this [voting rights notice](#) for more information.

In this guide you will find information on candidate positions regarding HIV/AIDS, health care, and LGBT rights issues, as well as summaries of selected statewide and local initiatives that may affect the HIV/AIDS, LGBT, and other underserved communities.



Voter registration and Election Day information:

- ✓ Election Day is **Tuesday, November 8**, and polling locations are open from **7 a.m.-8 p.m.**
- ✓ If you are already registered to vote, make sure to [verify your registration status](#).
- ✓ [Check your polling location now](#) so you know where to go on Election Day.
- ✓ If you have *not* registered to vote, *or have recently moved* to a new address [make sure to register to vote!](#) The deadline is **Monday, October 24**.

For more information on restriction and requirements for voter registration, [visit the California Secretary of State website](#).

Alternative Voter Guides

For more details on all the races and state initiatives in the upcoming election, visit one of the following non-partisan voting guides:

- [League of Women's Voters "Smart Voter" Guide](#)
- [California Voter Foundation](#)
- [Project Vote Smart](#)

President of the United States

Strong and innovative leadership plays an important role in shaping policy, legislation, and funding. This November, former senator and Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton](#) (D) and businessman [Donald Trump](#) (R) lead the race for a new president of the United States. Other contenders include Libertarian candidate [Gary Johnson](#), former governor of New Mexico; the Peace and Freedom candidate [Gloria La Riva](#), an activist for the Party for Socialism and Liberation; and the Green Party candidate, [Jill Stein](#), a physician. The American Independent Party has also nominated Donald Trump as their candidate for president.



[Donald Trump](#)

Republican Party Candidate

Donald Trump has said very little about HIV/AIDS during his campaign for president. While his campaign website has a general health care policy platform, there is no language specific to HIV/AIDS, so it is unclear how Trump would address various HIV/AIDS funding streams and programs. A discussion around HIV/AIDS has also been noticeably absent from the Republican platform and debates, though Trump did agree that he would maintain funding for HIV/AIDS treatment worldwide through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

With regards to health care, Trump stated that he plans to repeal and replace President Obama's Affordable Care Act, which includes health care reforms that increase access to health coverage for many uninsured Americans, including people living with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, Trump has condemned the Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality, and his vice presidential candidate Gov. Mike Pence (R-IN) has supported religious liberty legislation and "[conversion therapy](#)."

Proposals and Resources:

- [Republican Party Platform](#)
- [Trump Website on Health Care](#)
- [Trump Website on Other Issues](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Statement on Healthcare Reform Position](#)



[Hillary Clinton](#)

Democratic Party Candidate

Former Secretary Clinton has played a role in HIV/AIDS issues since her tenure as First Lady. As noted on her campaign site, she has always advocated for increased funding for both domestic and global prevention and treatment research. As a U.S. senator, Clinton voted for the creation of PEPFAR, has supported the Ryan White Act, and co-sponsored legislation that expanded Medicaid coverage to low-income people living with HIV. As secretary of state, Clinton launched a campaign to usher in an AIDS-free generation as part of the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) (NHAS) that included increasing prevention and treatment for high-risk populations.

If elected, Clinton plans to continue implementation of the NHAS, with a focus on increased funding for research, capped pharmaceutical expenses for people living with HIV, reform of HIV criminalization laws, reduction of stigma, and expanded access to harm reduction programs. For health care in general, Clinton plans to maintain and build upon the Affordable Care Act and address high drug costs and the opioid epidemic.

Proposals and Resources:

- [Democratic Party Platform](#)
- [Clinton Website on HIV/AIDS Issues](#)
- [Clinton Website on LGBT Rights and Equality](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Video Statement on HIV Criminalization](#)

United States Senate

The United States Senate, along with the House of Representatives, has played a significant role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This year, Californians will elect one of two new candidates to join Democratic Sen. [Dianne Feinstein](#): [Kamala Harris](#), a Democrat and current Attorney General of California, or Congresswoman [Loretta Sanchez](#) (D-46). Incumbent Democratic Sen. [Barbara Boxer](#) decided not to run for re-election to a fifth term in office. There are no other contenders in this race due to California's top two candidates open primary law.



[Kamala Harris](#)

Attorney General Kamala Harris is a longtime supporter of LGBT civil rights with two decades of commitment to advancing LGBT equality. In her roles as San Francisco District Attorney and Attorney General she helped bring down Proposition 8, established an LGBT hate crimes unit, and pledged to support the federal [Equality Act](#). If elected, Harris promises to end discrimination against the LGBT community, ban “gay/trans panic,” and ensure that LGBT, homeless, and runaway youth have access to social services. Harris is also a strong supporter of HIV/AIDS issues and helped pass legislation to allow organ transplants between HIV-positive individuals. In addition, she has urged the FDA to remove its [blood donor deferral](#) policy for men who have sex with men, and supports legislative efforts to decriminalize HIV and remove HIV-related discrimination.

Proposals and Resources:

- [Harris Website on Civil Rights](#)
- [California Democratic Party Platform on Health Care](#)
- [Endorsements](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Statement on Organ Transplant Between HIV-Positive Individuals](#)



[Loretta Sanchez](#)

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez has supported LGBT civil rights during her tenure in both the 46th and 47th districts, and is a member of the [LGBT Equality Caucus](#). She voted in support of a bill prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation, and voted no on bills that would define marriage as one-man-one-woman. She is also a co-sponsor of H.R. 5294—Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014, which would eliminate health disparities in all populations. In addition, Rep. Sanchez voted to reauthorize the Ryan White Care Act in 2009, stating that she is dedicated to preserving quality, affordable care for people living with HIV. While Rep. Sanchez's primary health care focus is on child health, she is committed to “preserving health reform and promoting policies that deliver affordable and quality care for all Californians.”

Proposals and Resources:

- [Sanchez Website on Health Care](#)
- [Endorsements](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Statement on LGBT Pride Month](#)

United States Congress

The U.S. Congress plays a pivotal role in securing funding and passing legislation to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ensuring the rights of LGBT people, and increasing access to affordable, quality health care. Southern California legislators such as Rep. [Julia Brownley](#) (D-26), Rep. [Judy Chu](#) (D-27), Rep. [Adam Schiff](#) (D-28), Rep. [Grace Napolitano](#) (D-32), Rep. [Ted Lieu](#) (D-33), Rep. [Linda Sanchez](#) (D-38), Rep. [Xavier Becerra](#) (D-34), Rep. [Karen Bass](#) (D-37), Rep. [Lucille Roybal-Allard](#) (D-40), Rep. [Maxine Waters](#) (D-43), Rep. [Janice Hahn](#) (D-44), Rep. [Alan Lowenthal](#) (D-47), Sen. [Dianne Feinstein](#) (D-CA) and Sen. [Barbara Boxer](#) (D-CA), have championed a broad range of measures that have increased access to care, treatment and other essential services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and provided on-going funding for access to HIV/AIDS prevention.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Sen. Barbara Boxer for over two decades of support and strong advocacy for HIV/AIDS and LGBT legislation. Running to replace Boxer are Attorney General [Kamala Harris](#) and Congresswoman [Loretta Sanchez](#). We would also like to thank outgoing Congresswoman Janice Hahn, who is running for Los Angeles County Supervisor in District 4, and outgoing Congresswoman [Lois Capps](#) (D-24) for being valuable partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Running to replace Hahn are California State Sen. [Isadore Hall](#) (D-35) and [Nanette Barragan](#) (D), an attorney. Running to replace Capps are [Justin Fareed](#) (R), Vice President of a sports gear company, and former Santa Barbara County Supervisor [Salud Carbajal](#) (D).

Congressional Campaign Voter Guides

For more details on all the congressional races in the upcoming election, visit one of the following non-partisan voting guides:

- [Ballotpedia U.S. House of Representatives, California](#)
- [California Voter Foundation: Certified List of Candidates](#)
- [VoteSmart Congressional Elections](#)
- [California Secretary of State: Voter Information](#)



California Legislature



The [California Legislative LGBT Caucus](#) has played a major role in shaping state HIV/AIDS and LGBT policy and funding, with colleagues in both houses often following Caucus recommendations on HIV/AIDS- and LGBT-related issues. Of the current Caucus members, five—Sen. [Cathleen Galgiani](#) (D-Stockton), Sen. [Ricardo Lara](#) (D-Bell Gardens), Speaker Emeritus of the Assembly [Toni Atkins](#) (D-San Diego), Assemblymember [Susan Eggman](#) (D-Stockton), and Assemblymember [Evan Low](#) (D-Silicon Valley)—are running for re-election. Galgiani has helped advance LGBT rights and is running against Republican [Alan Nakanishi](#). Lara has been a champion for civil rights and immigrant rights, including efforts to expand health care coverage to undocumented Californians. He is running against Libertarian [Honor "Mimi" Robson](#). Speaker Emeritus Atkins was the first out lesbian speaker of the Assembly and has been a strong advocate for the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities. She is not running for re-election to the Assembly, but is instead running for the Senate against Republican [John Renison](#). Assemblymember Eggman has supported numerous HIV/AIDS- and LGBT-related bills and is running against Republican [Kevin J. Lincoln, II](#). Assemblymember Low has been a strong supporter of LGBT and HIV/AIDS issues and is running against Republican [Nicholas Sclavos](#).

We would also like to recognize two members of the LGBT Caucus who will term out of office at the end of the year—Sen. [Mark Leno](#) (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymember [Rich Gordon](#) (D-Menlo Park). Since his election to the Senate in 2008, Leno has been one of the strongest advocates for the HIV/AIDS, LGBT, and other underserved communities. In his role as chair of the powerful Senate Budget Committee, he has helped expand access to care for people living with HIV and increase funding for education about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). He also authored bills to expand bans on housing and employment discrimination as well as workplace benefits for transgender employees. Assemblymember Gordon has also been a tireless advocate for the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities. Just last year, he authored a landmark bill to help individuals with serious and chronic conditions afford their prescription medications. We express our sincerest thanks to these courageous leaders for their work on behalf of the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities.

Finally, we would like to recognize two members of the Legislature who authored bills co-sponsored by APLA Health and are running for re-election this year. Assemblymember [Mike Gipson](#) (D-Carson) authored AB 2640, which requires that HIV-negative individuals receive information about PrEP and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) during HIV post-test counseling. He is running against Republican [Theresa Sanford](#). Assemblymember [Marie Waldron](#) (R-Escondido) authored AB 73, which removes language from the California Civil Code that stigmatizes people living with HIV and clarifies that there is no requirement to disclose a previous occupant's HIV status when selling, leasing, or renting a home. She is running against Democrat [Andrew Masiel Sr.](#)

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County acts as the administrative arm for the vast majority of the millions of dollars in federal Ryan White Program funds that come to our local jurisdiction. This gives enormous power to the county supervisors to guide the way this funding is allocated to service categories and contracted with providers. For this election, we will highlight the race to replace exiting **District 4 Supervisor [Don Knabe](#)**. APLA Health would like to thank Sup. Knabe for many years of service in supporting programs that help people living with HIV/AIDS.



[Janice Hahn](#)

Janice Hahn is currently the U.S. Representative for California's 44th district and a member of the [LGBT Equality Caucus](#). Prior to that she served as representative for the 36th district, and before that was a member of the Los Angeles City Council. Hahn has many years of government experience and is a progressive community leader for LGBT equality. She recently co-sponsored the [Equality Act](#), which would make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity. If elected, Hahn pledges to address the needs of disadvantaged populations in Los Angeles County. She has also called on Gov. Jerry Brown to address the homelessness crisis in California and plans to continue the fight as supervisor. Hahn is endorsed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and Sups. Solis, Kuehl, and Ridley-Thomas.

Proposals and Resources:

- [Janice Hahn Platform](#)
- [Endorsements](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Mayor Garcetti Endorsement](#)
- [Los Angeles Times Endorsement](#)



[Steve Napolitano](#)

Steve Napolitano is the Senior Deputy for outgoing 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe. Before that he served on the Manhattan Beach City Council, including time as mayor. Napolitano has been a strong advocate for addressing the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County, and if elected, pledges to make the issue a County priority. Napolitano also plans to focus on public safety, creating a "cleaner LA," and on stopping child sex trafficking and bolstering the County's safe surrender program. Napolitano is endorsed by Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich.

Proposals and Resources:

- [Napolitano on Homelessness](#)
- [Endorsements](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Don Knabe Endorsement](#)

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[Kathryn Barger](#)

Kathryn Barger is Republican and the chief deputy supervisor for outgoing 5th District Supervisor Mike Antonovich. Prior to serving the County, Barger worked in the private sector. While serving Antonovich, Barger has focused on initiatives that help children and families, successfully expanding mental health services and implementing [Megan's Law](#) in Los Angeles County.

If elected, Barger pledges to increase funding for mental and public health services. She also plans to address the homelessness crisis by increasing housing resources and calling for state action, and is a supporter of the [housing first](#) model. In addition, Barger is a proponent of diverting individuals with non-violent drug offenses and chronic substance abuse disorders to treatment, not incarceration. Barger is endorsed by Supervisors Antonovich, Kuehl, Knabe, and former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Proposals and Resources:

- [Kathryn Barger Platform](#)
- [Endorsements](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Los Angeles Times Endorsement](#)



[Darrell Park](#)

Darrel Park is a Democrat and an entrepreneur and writer who assists clean energy start-ups in Los Angeles County. Previously he served two presidents in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), helping to balance the federal budget four times. Park is committed to reforming Los Angeles County government by increasing transparency and limiting political special interests. He pledges to provide increased funding for services needed by the County's most vulnerable populations, with a focus on the foster system and disabled individuals. Park is also focused on creating green energy jobs and defending the environment by protecting open spaces and safeguarding Los Angeles' water supply and air. Park is endorsed by Lieutenant Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-43).

Proposals and Resources:

- [Darrell Park Issues](#)
- [Endorsements](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Los Angeles County Democratic Party Endorsement](#)

Ballot Initiatives

While there are a number of important ballot initiatives up for vote, there are seven that could have an impact on the HIV/AIDS, LGBT, and other underserved communities. If there isn't a recommendation indicated for a particular measure, APLA Health has decided not to take position.

➤ **PROPOSITION 52: State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds. Initiative Statutory and Constitutional Amendment.**

APLA Health RECOMMENDS: **YES**

A **YES** vote on this measure means an existing charge imposed on most private hospitals that is scheduled to end on January 1, 2018 under current law would be extended permanently. It would be harder for the Legislature to make changes to it. Revenue raised would be used to create state savings, increase payments for hospital services to low-income Californians, and provide grants to public hospitals.

A **NO** vote on this measure means an existing charge imposed on most private hospitals would end on January 1, 2018 unless additional action by the Legislature extended it.

APLA Health believes this measure would maintain funding for state healthcare programs, guarantee that the federal government will match the state's share, and inhibit the Legislature from diverting the money to other programs; therefore, we recommend a YES vote.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 52](#)
- [No on Prop 52](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 55: Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.**

APLA Health RECOMMENDS: **YES**

A **YES** vote on this measure means income tax increases on high-income taxpayers, which are scheduled to end after 2018, would instead be extended through 2030.

A **NO** vote on this measure means income tax increases on high-income taxpayers would expire as scheduled at the end of 2018.

APLA Health believes this measure would maintain existing revenue streams for K–12 schools and community colleges, health care services for low-income people, budget reserves, and debt payments; therefore, we recommend a YES vote.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 55](#)
- [No on Prop 55](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 56: Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.**

APLA Health RECOMMENDS: **YES**

A **YES** vote on this measure means the state excise tax on cigarettes would increase by \$2 per pack—from 87 cents to \$2.87. The state excise tax on other tobacco products would increase by a similar amount. The state excise tax also would be applied to electronic cigarettes. Revenue from these higher taxes would be used for many purposes, but primarily to augment spending on health care for low-income Californians.

A **NO** vote on this measure means no changes would be made to existing state taxes on cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes.

APLA Health believes this measure would generate revenue for state healthcare programs for low-income people and reduce teen smoking; therefore, we recommend a YES vote.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 56](#)
- [No on Prop 56](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 60: Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.**

APLA Health RECOMMENDS: **NO**

A **YES** vote on this measure means there would be additional workplace health and safety requirements placed on adult film productions in California and additional ways to enforce those requirements.

A **NO** vote on this measure means adult film productions in California would continue to be subject to current state and local workplace health and safety requirements, including the rules now interpreted to require condom use in adult film productions.

APLA Health believes this measure this measure would not protect adult film performers as intended. Instead, it would subject performers and producers to lawsuits and drive the adult film industry underground or to places that offer few protections for workers. The measure also completely ignores recent developments in HIV biomedical prevention, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis; therefore, we recommend a NO vote.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 60](#)
- [No on Prop 60](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 61: State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards.**

APLA Health: **NEUTRAL**

A **YES** vote on this measure means state agencies would generally be prohibited from paying more for any prescription drug than the lowest price paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the same drug.

A **NO** vote on this measure means state agencies would continue to be able to negotiate the prices of, and pay for, prescription drugs without reference to the prices paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

APLA Health believes this measure is broadly written and does not address the complexities of drug pricing by state programs. Even the state's Legislative Analyst's Office is unable to predict whether the initiative would actually lower drug prices for the state or result in inadvertent drug price increases. Nonetheless, the measure may give California officials a tool to leverage the state's vast drug purchasing programs to bear on the national conversation about skyrocketing drug prices in the U.S. Because it remains unclear whether the measure would actually result in cost savings to the state, we took a NEUTRAL position.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 61](#)
- [No on Prop 61](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 63: Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.**

APLA Health RECOMMENDS: **YES**

A **YES** vote on this measure means a new court process would be created for the removal of firearms from individuals upon conviction of certain crimes. New requirements related to the selling or purchasing of ammunition would be implemented.

A **NO** vote on this measure means no new firearm- or ammunition-related requirements would be implemented.

APLA Health believes this measure would keep guns and ammunition out of the wrong hands, while protecting the rights of law-abiding Californians to own guns for self-defense, hunting, and recreation; therefore, we recommend a YES vote.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 63](#)
- [No on Prop 63](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 64: Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute.**

APLA Health RECOMMENDS: **YES**

A **YES** vote on this measure means adults 21 years of age or older could legally grow, possess, and use marijuana for nonmedical purposes, with certain restrictions. The state would regulate nonmedical marijuana businesses and tax the growing and selling of medical and nonmedical marijuana. Most of the revenue from such taxes would support youth programs, environmental protection, and law enforcement.

A **NO** vote on this measure means growing, possessing, or using marijuana for nonmedical purposes would remain illegal. It would still be legal to grow, possess, or use marijuana for medical purposes.

APLA Health believes this measure would generate revenue for youth drug prevention and treatment as well as advance social justice and criminal justice reform; therefore, we recommend a YES vote.

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 64](#)
- [No on Prop 64](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

