



2018 Election Voter Guide

Your primer on the races and issues that impact our community

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 greatest impact on HIV policy, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals, and other underserved communities. The APLA Health voting guide focuses most closely on how candidates performed or are likely to perform on issues relating to health care, including the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid, and other programs that impact the populations we serve. We also provide summaries of selected statewide and local initiatives that may affect these populations. 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.



Check List for the Mid-Term Elections:

- 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 22.**
- 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.
- The deadline for requesting a mail in ballot is **Tuesday, October 30.**
- Election Day is **Tuesday, November 6**, and polling locations are open from **7 a.m.-8 p.m.**

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

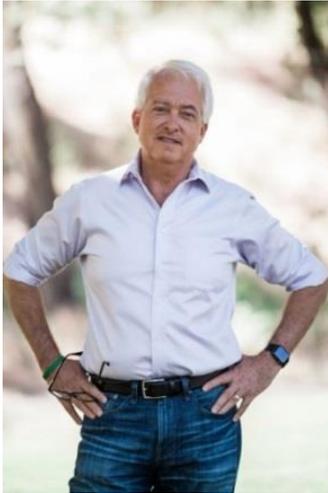
Alternative Voter Guides

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

- [Voter's Edge California](#)
- [California Voter Foundation](#)
- [Vote Smart](#)

Governor

California's governor will play a pivotal role in determining the direction of the state over the next four years. The governor has the power to sign or veto legislation, and makes the final decision about what is included in the state's roughly \$200 billion budget. Key issues facing the next governor include the housing and homelessness crisis, expanding access to affordable health care, and how to address the HIV epidemic.



[John Cox](#)

- **Party:** Republican
- **Career:** Lawyer and businessman
- **Health Care:** Cox doesn't have a specific plan for how he would improve health care, but he opposes a single-payer model and says he would convene a group of experts to help create an improved health care system that relies on the free market.
- **Homelessness:** Cox has said the key to solving the housing crisis is to replace the California Environmental Quality Act, a law focused on environmental protection, with a streamlined set of sensible reforms.
- **Immigration:** Cox opposes sanctuary state policies and was recently endorsed by President Trump as someone "who understands borders, crime, and lowering taxes."



[Gavin Newsom](#)

- **Party:** Democrat
- **Career:** Lieutenant Governor of California since 2010, and is best known for authorizing the first same-sex marriages in the country while serving as Mayor of San Francisco.
- **Health Care:** Newsom has promised to fight to protect the Affordable Care Act and work to guarantee quality health care for everyone through a single-payer model like Medicare.
- **Homelessness:** Among other initiatives, Newsom has proposed developing 3.5 million housing units by 2025 to address the state's housing crisis.
- **LGBTQ Issues:** Newsom is a longtime ally of the LGBTQ community. He was endorsed by Equality California.
- **HIV Policy:** Newsom is the only gubernatorial candidate to endorse a statewide initiative to end the HIV and hepatitis C epidemics.

United States Senate

The United States Senate plays a significant role in improving access to health care and fighting the HIV epidemic. In November, Californians will choose either incumbent Democrat Sen. [Dianne Feinstein](#) or fellow Democrat and challenger, State Sen. [Kevin de León](#). The winner will join Democrat Sen. [Kamala Harris](#) representing California in the Senate. There are no other party or unaffiliated contenders.



[Kevin de León](#)



[Dianne Feinstein](#)

- **Party:** Democrat
 - **Career:** Currently represents the 24th State Senate District, which includes downtown and East Los Angeles. He was first elected to the State Senate in 2010 and has been the leader of the Senate for four years.
 - **Health Care:** De León supports single-payer health care and has said he would support Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All legislation if elected to the U.S. Senate.
 - **LGBTQ Issues:** De León received a 100% score on LGBTQ issues from Equality California.
 - **Immigration:** His work on immigration issues includes a driver's license program for undocumented immigrants, limitations on how ICE can use local law enforcement, legal support for DACA recipients, and fair pay for domestic workers.
- **Party:** Democrat
 - **Career:** U.S. Senator from California, first elected in 1992. She is now the longest serving female in the U.S. Senate. Feinstein was born in San Francisco to immigrant parents and was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1969.
 - **Health Care:** Feinstein is a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act. She also supports universal health care, a public health option to compete with private insurance companies, and expanding Medicare to everyone over 55.
 - **LGBTQ Issues:** Equality California gave her a 100% rating for her positions on LGBTQ issues, including lead sponsorship of legislation to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.
 - **HIV Policy:** Feinstein has consistently supported robust funding for the Ryan White Program and HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS).

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is President of the California State Senate, chairs the Commission for Economic Development, and sits on the Board of Regents of the University of California, the California State University Board of Trustees, Ocean Protection Council, California Emergency Council, and the State Lands Commission. When the governor is not in the state, the lieutenant governor assumes all powers. Here is where the candidates stand on key issues, including homelessness and access to affordable health care.



[Ed Hernandez](#)

- **Party:** Democrat
- **Career:** Currently represents the 22nd State Senate District, which includes the San Gabriel Valley. He previously served in the State Assembly, and before that worked as an optometrist.
- **Health Care:** As Chair of the Senate Health Committee, Hernandez has championed legislation to improve access to health care, increase transparency to help lower drug prices, and protect consumer rights. He is a supporter of universal health coverage, though not necessarily Medicare for all.
- **LGBTQ Issues:** Hernandez supports equal rights for the LGBTQ community, receiving a 100% score on LGBTQ issues from Equality California.
- **Homelessness:** Hernandez supports efforts to fund statewide affordable housing initiatives as well as earmarked funds for LGBTQ affirmative housing.



[Eleni Kounalakis](#)

- **Party:** Democrat
- **Career:** Businesswoman and former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary under President Obama. She previously worked at AKT Development, a respected housing development firm.
- **Health Care:** She supports single-payer universal health care, including Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All legislation.
- **LGBTQ Issues:** She was endorsed by Equality California for being a "longstanding ally and activist, advancing civil rights and social justice for the LGBTQ community."
- **Homelessness:** She supports the creation of more affordable housing, as well as strengthening the state's infrastructure.
- **Women's Rights:** She is dedicated to fighting for equal rights for women, especially protecting Roe v. Wade.

Attorney General

The Attorney General is the state's chief law officer, ensuring that state laws are enforced and investigating any illegal activities. The person in this job represents the state in civil and criminal court cases, and oversees the California Department of Justice and law enforcement agencies. The Attorney General can file lawsuits against the federal government on key issues including immigration, health care, the environment, and the rights of LGBTQ individuals.



[Steven Bailey](#)



[Xavier Becerra](#)

- **Party:** Republican
 - **Career:** Retired Judge of the California Superior Court, where he handled criminal, civil, and juvenile cases. Prior to the bench, he was a private attorney and Deputy Director in charge of Legislation for the California Department of Social Services.
 - **Health Care:** Bailey opposes both a single-payer health care system and the Affordable Care Act, and has said his “goal is to free the marketplace to be able to function so that consumers have as much choice as possible.”
 - **Law and Order:** Bailey has said his top priority is the safety and security of all Californians, and he believes several laws passed in recent years—including Prop 47, which reduced some nonviolent offenses from felonies to misdemeanors—have led to increases in violent crime.
- **Party:** Democrat
 - **Career:** Current California Attorney General, appointed by Governor Brown in 2017. Becerra has served in elected office numerous times, including the California State Assembly and U.S. House of Representatives.
 - **Health Care:** During his tenure in the House, Becerra voted in favor of the Affordable Care Act and was a member of the LGBTQ Caucus. As California Attorney General, he has filed dozens of lawsuits against the Trump Administration including its efforts to roll back key provisions of the Affordable Care Act.
 - **LGBTQ Issues:** Becerra has joined other state attorneys general in challenging Trump's efforts to ban transgender people from serving openly in the U.S. military. He was endorsed by Equality California.

Insurance Commissioner

The Insurance Commissioner leads the California Department of Insurance (CDI), created in 1868 as part of a national system of state-based insurance regulation. CDI is the largest consumer protection agency in the state. With annual direct premiums of \$310 billion, California is the largest insurance market in the United States and the fourth largest insurance market in the world. CDI enforces the insurance laws of California and has authority over how insurers and licensees conduct their business.



[Steve Poizner](#)



[Ricardo Lara](#)

- **Party:** No party affiliation
 - **Career:** Poizner is a Silicon Valley entrepreneur who has generally gotten high marks for his first term as Insurance Commissioner from 2007 to 2011.
 - **Health Care:** Poizner opposes single-payer health care.
 - **LGBTQ Issues:** Poizner has opposed same-sex marriage in California, but supported civil unions for gay and lesbian couples.
 - **Immigration:** Poizner has been criticized for statements he made about immigrants during a failed run for governor in 2010. Poizner bemoaned the influence of illegal immigrants, said he would remove them from public benefits, and said schools should refuse to enroll undocumented students. Poizner later apologized for his remarks and said he would never again run a “divisive” campaign.
- **Party:** Democrat
 - **Career:** State Senator from the 33rd Senate District, which encompasses Huntington Park and runs south through Lynwood and Lakewood to Long Beach. Prior to his 2012 election to the State Senate, Lara served in the State Assembly.
 - **Health Care:** His 2015 Health for All Kids Act helped expand Medi-Cal coverage to 200,000 children regardless of immigration status. Lara supports single-payer health coverage in California.
 - **LGBTQ Issues:** In 2017, he authored the Transgender Work Opportunity Act which makes California the first state in the nation to address barriers to employment for transgender individuals. He is currently vice chair of the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus. Lara was endorsed by Equality California.

United States Congress

California could play a pivotal role in changing control of the U.S. House of Representatives. According to the [Cook Political Report](#), a non-partisan online newsletter that analyzes elections and campaigns, 7 of California's 53 congressional seats are considered competitive races. All of these seats are currently held by Republicans. The Democrats hope that some if not all of these districts will flip, giving their party control of the House.

Control of the House of Representatives means a lot. It could determine whether the Affordable Care Act lives or dies, and whether LGBTQ individuals are protected from discrimination. The current Republican-controlled House has already voted dozens of times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, cut funding for Medicaid, and take health care away from millions of Americans. Below we provide a summary of the most competitive House races in California and the candidates' position on health care and LGBTQ issues.

District 10	Jeff Denham (R)		Congressman Jeff Denham has repeatedly voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and voted to replace Medicare with a voucher to purchase private insurance.
	Josh Harder (D)		Josh Harder supports making common-sense fixes to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, as well as expanding Medicare to include all Americans.

District 25	Steve Knight (R)		Congressman Steve Knight voted in favor of sweeping anti-LGBTQ discrimination in all federal agencies, and voted dozens of times to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
	Katie Hill (D)		Katie Hill supports strengthening the Affordable Care Act and laying the foundation for a Medicare for All system.

District 39	Young Kim (R)		Young Kim is open to repealing the Affordable Care Act, and previously opposed a California law requiring schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms of their choice.
	Gil Cisneros (D)		Gil Cisneros supports working to fix and improve the Affordable Care Act. He also supports giving people the option to buy into Medicare.

District 45	Mimi Walters (R)		Congresswoman Mimi Walters has voted dozens of times to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
	Katie Porter (D)		Katie Porter supports a Medicare for All system, as well as efforts to end discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in schools and the workplace.

District 48	Dana Rohrabacher (R)		Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has voted dozens of times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and recently said it was acceptable for people to refuse to sell their homes to LGBTQ individuals if “they don’t agree with their lifestyle.”
	Harley Rouda (D)		Harley Rouda opposes efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and supports pursuing Medicare for All as a long-term solution.

District 49	Diane Harkey (R)		Diane Harkey does not believe the Affordable Care Act has been very successful, and said she is “not a Medicare for All person.”
	Mike Levin (D)		Mike Levin believes we must work to repair and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and would strongly advocate for Medicare for All.

District 50	Duncan Hunter (R)		Duncan Hunter voted dozens of times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and proposed a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. He is under federal indictment for using campaign funds for personal expenses.
	Ammar Campa-Najjar (D)		Ammar Campa-Najjar supports efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act, including a public option to compete with the private sector, as well as expanding Medicare to include all Americans.

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 State Legislature, consisting of the Senate and Assembly, holds the principal lawmaking powers of the state. On average, the Legislature will propose, analyze, and debate over 6,000 bills in a single two-year session. The Legislature also makes critical decisions about what will be included in the state's annual budget.

Every California resident is represented by one Assemblymember and one Senator. The Assembly has 80 members who serve two-year terms, so all seats are up for election in 2018. The Senate has 40 members who serve four-year terms, which means only half of the Senate is up for election this year.

The November election will determine whether Democrats retake their two-thirds "supermajorities" in both the Senate and Assembly. Supermajorities are important because they give California's majority party the ability to achieve some policy goals without help from the opposing party, including raising taxes. Democrats captured supermajorities in the Senate and Assembly in 2016, but lost them this year when several Democrats resigned and another was recalled by voters.

You can find out who the Senate and Assembly candidates are in your area by visiting www.votersedge.org. Be sure to look for their positions on key issues impacting the LGBTQ and HIV communities, including health care and the Affordable Care Act, housing, and immigration.



Ballot Initiatives

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

➤ **PROPOSITION 1: Authorizes Bonds to Fund Specified Housing Assistance Programs. Legislative Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure allows the state to sell \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund veterans and affordable housing.

A **NO** vote on this measure means the state could not sell \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund veterans and affordable housing.

APLA HEALTH RECOMMENDS: YES

APLA Health believes this measure would help address the shortage of affordable housing that affects a large numbers of Californians, especially veterans, LGBTQ individuals, and people living with and vulnerable to HIV; therefore, **we recommend a YES vote.**

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 1](#)
- [No on Prop 1](#) (no official “no” campaign)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 2: Authorizes Bonds to Fund Existing Housing Program for Individuals with Mental Illness. Legislative Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means the state could use existing county mental health funds to pay for housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

A **NO** vote on this measure means the state's ability to use existing county mental health funds to pay for housing for those with mental illness who are homeless would depend on future court decisions.

APLA HEALTH RECOMMENDS: YES

APLA Health believes this measure would help house individuals suffering from severe mental illness who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including LGBTQ individuals and people living with and vulnerable to HIV; therefore, **we recommend a YES vote.**

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 2](#)
- [No on Prop 2](#) (no official “no” campaign)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 4: Authorizes Bonds Funding Construction at Hospitals Providing Children’s Health Care. Initiative Statute.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means the state could sell \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds for the construction, expansion, renovation, and equipping of certain hospitals that treat children.

A **NO** vote on this measure means the state could not sell the \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds proposed for these purposes.

APLA HEALTH RECOMMENDS: YES

APLA Health believes this measure would help support critical, life-saving care to treat children and young adults, including LGBTQ youth and those living with HIV, regardless of a family’s income or ability to pay; therefore, **we recommend a YES vote.**

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 4](#) (LA Times Opinion)
- [No on Prop 4](#) (League of Women Voters Opinion)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

➤ **PROPOSITION 6: Eliminates Recently Enacted Road Repair and Transportation Funding by Repealing Revenues Dedicated for Those Purposes. Requires Any Measure to Enact Certain Vehicle Fuel Taxes and Vehicle Fees Be Submitted to and Approved by the Electorate. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.**

A **YES** vote on this measure means fuel and vehicle taxes recently passed by the Legislature would be eliminated, which would reduce funding for highway and road maintenance and repairs, as well as transit programs. The Legislature would be required to get a majority of voters to approve new or increased state fuel and vehicle taxes in the future.

A **NO** vote on this measure means fuel and vehicle taxes recently passed by the Legislature would continue to be in effect and pay for highway and road maintenance and repairs, as well as transit programs. The Legislature would continue not to need voter approval for new or increased state fuel and vehicle taxes in the future.

APLA HEALTH RECOMMENDS: NO

APLA Health believes reliable transportation infrastructure is essential to help Californians access health care, provide necessary services, and support the economy. This measure would eliminate critical funding for transportation infrastructure; therefore, **we recommend a NO vote.**

Links:

- [Yes on Prop 6](#)
- [No on Prop 6](#)
- [CA Legislative Analyst Summary](#)

APLA Health does not have recommendations for Propositions 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, or 12.

- [Proposition 3](#): Authorizes bonds to fund projects for water supply and quality, watershed, fish, wildlife, water conveyance, and groundwater sustainability and storage. Initiative Statute.
- [Proposition 5](#): Changes requirements for certain property owners to transfer their property tax base to replacement property. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.
- [Proposition 7](#): Conforms California Daylight Saving Time to Federal Law. Allows legislature to change daylight saving time period. Legislative Statute.
- [Proposition 8](#): Regulates amounts outpatient kidney dialysis clinics charge for dialysis treatment. Initiative Statute.
- [Proposition 10](#): Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property. Initiative Statute.
- [Proposition 11](#): Requires private-sector emergency ambulance employees to remain on-call during work breaks. Eliminates certain employer liability. Initiative Statute.
- [Proposition 12](#): Establishes new standards for confinement of specified farm animals; bans sale of noncomplying products. Initiative Statute.

