

Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California  
**Ballot Propositions – November 8, 2016 General Election**  
 Recommendations of the Policy Council

Proposition	Proposition Details	Recommendation
<b><u>Proposition 51</u></b> School Bonds	This school facilities measure fits with the ELCA’s call to support initiatives that improve schools and promote excellent education for all students. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Our Calling in Education</a>	YES
<b><u>Proposition 52</u></b> Hospital Fee/Med-Cal Reimbursements	The current fee on hospitals, which draws down federal funds to help pay for the 13 million Californians on Medi-Cal, would be made permanent (and difficult to change) with this constitutional amendment. We encourage moral deliberation and suggest <a href="#">Caring for Our Health: Our Shared Endeavor</a> as a guiding social statement.	NO POSITION
<b><u>Proposition 53</u></b> Public Vote on Revenue Bonds	This initiative, sponsored by a wealthy Delta farmer, is broadly opposed by business and good government organizations. Of special concern is the capacity to quickly rebuild after major natural disasters. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Economic Life</a>	NO
<b><u>Proposition 54</u></b> Legislature Transparency Act	Proposed legislation and amendments would be in print and published on the Internet for 72 hours, avoiding last minute, in-the-dark manipulation. This promotes sound, critical, and creative citizenship of ELCA members. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Church in Society</a>	YES
<b><u>Proposition 55</u></b> Personal Income Tax Extension	An extension of the personal income tax increase enacted in 2012, on earnings over \$250,000, would help stabilize the state budget, including education, health care, and social services. Paying taxes to enable government to serve God’s people should not be avoided. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Economic Life</a>	<a href="#">YES</a>
<b><u>Proposition 56</u></b> Tobacco Tax	Increases the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products. We support health-promoting measures. While regressive, Medi-Cal will receive the much needed revenue. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Caring for Our Health: Our Shared Endeavor</a>	YES
<b><u>Proposition 57</u></b> Juvenile and Criminal Justice Reform	We support broad-based efforts to re-orient the criminal and juvenile justice systems away from retribution alone. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries</a>	<a href="#">YES</a>
<b><u>Proposition 58</u></b> Multilingual Education	We speak against policy initiatives that discriminate on the basis of language, and advocate for those who are negatively affected by language. Guiding social statements: <a href="#">Race, Ethnicity, and Culture</a> and <a href="#">Education</a>	YES
<b><u>Proposition 59</u></b> ‘Citizens United’ Advisory Question	We advocate the enactment of campaign finance reform legislation at all levels, so that equal opportunity may be provided for all, regardless of wealth. Guiding social policy resolution: <a href="#">Campaign Finance Reform</a>	YES
<b><u>Proposition 60</u></b> Condoms in Adult Films	We encourage moral deliberation with this initiative and suggest <a href="#">Caring for Our Health: Our Shared Endeavor</a> and <a href="#">Human Sexuality</a> as guiding social statements and <a href="#">Commercial Sexual Exploitation</a> as a guiding social message.	NO POSITION

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<b><u>Proposition 61</u></b> Drug Price Standards	Drug costs are an urgent issue, and the industry is sparing no expense to defeat 61, setting up a symbolic David and Goliath battle. However, setting the price the state pays for drugs to the lowest Veterans Administration cost has uncertain policy consequences for price and access. We encourage moral deliberation and suggest <a href="#">Caring for Our Health: Our Shared Endeavor</a> as a guiding social statement.	NO POSITION
<b><u>Proposition 62</u></b> Death Penalty Repeal	Eliminates California’s death penalty and replaces it with life without parole. The ELCA’s message is clear: End the cycle of violence; abolish the death penalty. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">The Death Penalty</a>	<a href="#">YES</a>
<b><u>Proposition 63</u></b> Firearms and Ammo Regulation	Prohibition of the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines, and regulation of ammunition sales, is consistent with the guiding social policy resolution, <a href="#">Community Violence-Gun Control</a> , which calls for control of the sale/possession of assault weapons and their parts.	YES
<b><u>Proposition 64</u></b> Recreational Marijuana	We encourage moral deliberation with this initiative and suggest <a href="#">Caring for Our Health: Our Shared Endeavor</a> and <a href="#">The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries</a> as guiding social statements.	NO POSITION
<b><u>Proposition 65</u></b> Carry-Out Bag Revenue	While sounding well-intentioned, this is a manipulation of the initiative process intended to create confusion around Proposition 67. It is our <u>priority</u> to pass Prop 67. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Care for Creation</a>	NO
<b><u>Proposition 66</u></b> Death Penalty Procedures	These changes in the appellate process would increase the risk of executing innocent people, add to costs (especially to local government), and potentially lengthen rather than shorten delays in execution. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">The Death Penalty</a>	<u>NO</u>
<b><u>Proposition 67</u></b> Plastic Bag Ban	As a matter of stewardship and environmental protection, we support the retail plastic bag ban adopted by the Legislature. This ban would add uniformity to measures being adopted locally across California. An East Coast bag manufacturer is sponsoring the challenge to this state law. Guiding social statement: <a href="#">Care for Creation</a>	<a href="#">YES</a>

*As the Policy Council of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California supports some ballot propositions, and opposes others, we understand that issues are multi-layered and that Lutherans have diverse views and experiences on matters of public policy. The tone and substance of campaign websites are their own. We seek to avoid, and resist, demeaning or excessive rhetoric or distortions on any issue. Humbly rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ, our office and council remain committed to seeking justice and equity for all God's people.*

**\*NO POSITION:** We encourage moral deliberation, discernment, and extra attention to the problem that these measures seek to address and the effects should they pass.

Propositions in **BOLD** are LOPP-CA Priorities with clickable links to campaign websites

For more information about elections in California, visit the [website of the California Secretary of State](#).



DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS **October 24, 2016**. [Register HERE](#).

The Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California is a justice advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Domestic Mission Unit) and the Pacifica, Southwest CA and Sierra Pacific Synods. For questions about these recommendations or the Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California: [director@loppca.org](mailto:director@loppca.org) or visit [www.lutheranpublicpolicyca.org](http://www.lutheranpublicpolicyca.org).