

# Easy Voter Guide

MAKING ELECTIONS MAKE SENSE



## **YOUR QUICK GUIDE TO:**

- The Election
- The Candidates
- Ballot Propositions
- How to Vote

## **California November 2, 2004 Election**

### **BE COUNTED**

Supporters and partners of the nonpartisan Easy Voter Guide include the California Secretary of State's Office, the California State Library, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, The James Irvine Foundation, Common Knowledge and Literacyworks.

**This FREE guide is available in: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean.**

**Visit [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) for copies and voting information in these languages.**



# About This Election

## What's on Your Ballot in this Election?

### Candidates:

These elected offices are being voted on in the November 2, 2004 General Election:

- U.S. President and Vice President (see pages 3-5)
- U.S. Senate (see pages 6-7)
- U.S. House of Representatives (Congressperson)
- California State Senate
- California State Assembly

You can vote for any candidate you choose, even if they are not with the political party you are signed up with.

In your city or county, you may also be voting on candidates running for other offices. Check the Sample Ballot mailed to you by your county elections office to learn about these local races.

### Propositions:

This election also includes proposed laws called “propositions.” The Easy Voter Guide covers 16 statewide propositions that would affect state law (see pages 8-15). In your city or county, you may also be voting on local propositions. You can read about them in your Sample Ballot.

## **When You Vote**

- To vote on November 2, you must register (sign up) to vote by October 18. If you have moved since the last election, you need to register to vote again.
- If you are voting for the first time, you may need to show your I.D. at the polling place.
- If you don't have your I.D. when you vote, or if your name is not listed at the polling place, you can vote with a "provisional" ballot. This means your ballot will be checked after the election to see if your vote can be counted. You can get more information at your polling place.
- Many counties will have new voting equipment. For more information, visit [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) or [www.myvotecounts.org](http://www.myvotecounts.org) — or contact your county elections office.

### **Remember:**

You do not have to vote on everything.

Choose the candidates and issues you care about, learn more about them and just vote for those.

# Credits

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## Candidates for President

The candidates for President and Vice President run together as a pair or “ticket.” You vote for a pair of candidates. They are elected for a four-year term.

### **The President:**

- Oversees most federal departments
- Approves or rejects new laws
- Presents a budget each year to Congress
- Is in charge of foreign policy and the armed forces

### **The Vice President:**

- Takes over if something happens to the President
- Runs meetings of the U.S. Senate
- Attends important events for the President
- Has other duties chosen by the President

## **How We Elect the President**

You can think of the election for President as 51 separate elections (one for each state and Washington, D.C.). To win a state, a candidate must win the majority of the people’s votes — which is called the popular vote. In most states, the winner of the state’s popular vote takes all of that state’s electoral votes.

Each state has a certain number of electoral votes, based on how many people live in the state. States with the most people have the most electoral votes.

The total number of electoral votes from all the states is 538. To become President, a candidate must win at least 270 electoral votes. In December, after the General Election, the “Electoral College” officially counts the electoral votes (but in fact, we already know who the winner is). The winner will take office in January 2005.

**Your vote for President really matters** because just a few people’s votes can decide if a candidate wins all of a state’s electoral votes. Elections for President have been very close, and each state makes a big difference.

## Electoral Votes by State





## Candidates for President

We asked the candidates for President to tell us why they are running, their qualifications and their priorities. The order of the candidates is based on the size of their party in California.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY



#### **John Kerry**

Occupation: U.S. Senator

Lives in: Boston, Massachusetts • Age: 60

*Running Mate:*



#### **John Edwards**

Occupation: U.S. Senator

Lives in: Raleigh, North Carolina • Age: 51

I'm running to make America stronger at home and more respected in the world. I will ensure our nation's security, create good-paying jobs at home, and restore our place in the world.

My experiences as a combat veteran, a prosecutor, a Senator, and a father have instilled in me the values of America and shown me the greatness of our country when we believe in ourselves.

**[www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com)**

## Priorities:

- Make America safer by making our military stronger, rebuilding our alliances, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.
- Create good-paying jobs, cut middle-class taxes, and restore a responsible budget in Washington.
- Ensure all Americans have quality, affordable health care.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY



### **George W. Bush**

Occupation: U.S. President

Lives in: Washington, D.C. • Age: 58

### *Running Mate:*



### **Dick Cheney**

Occupation: U.S. Vice President

Lives in: Washington, D.C. • Age: 63

I want to build on the progress we have made in strengthening the economy, creating good jobs, winning the war on terrorism, and securing America against the threat of terrorism.

I have a record of accomplishment in making America more secure; creating almost 1.5 million jobs since last August; reforming education so no child is left behind; and providing tax relief for every income tax-paying American.



[www.georgewbush.com](http://www.georgewbush.com)

### **Priorities:**

- Keep America safe from terrorism and win the war against terrorism.
- Build a strong economy that creates jobs and promotes entrepreneurship.
- Ensure that every American who wants to work can find a job.

## **AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY**



**Michael Anthony Peroutka**

Occupation: Attorney

Lives in: Millersville, Maryland • Age: 52

*Running Mate:*



**Dr. Chuck Baldwin**

Occupation: Pastor

Lives in: Pensacola, Florida • Age: 52

Someone has to stand up for an American view of law and government: there is a Creator-God and rights come from Him.

The purpose of government is to protect and secure those rights.

I am the Founder of The Institute on the Constitution, a nation-wide program teaching the principles incorporated in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

**www.Peroutka2004.com**

### **Priorities:**

- Honor God by putting the 10 Commandments back in the courts.
- Defend the Family by ending “legal” abortion.
- Restore the Republic by securing the borders and remaining obedient to the Constitution.

## **GREEN PARTY**



**David Cobb**

Occupation: Community Organizer/Lawyer

Lives in: Eureka, California • Age: 41

*Running Mate:*



**Patricia LaMarche**

Occupation: Activist/Radio Programmer

Lives in: Yarmouth, Maine • Age: 43

I am running to grow the Green Party and give voice to issues ignored by the two establishment parties: ending the occupation of Iraq, repealing the “Patriot” Act, providing health care and a living wage.

I do not accept corporate money, nor do I accept the dominant role of corporations in our lives. I was born into poverty and have lived the American dream, putting myself through law school.

**[www.votecobb.org](http://www.votecobb.org)**

**Priorities:**

- Bring our troops home from Iraq. Shift funding from the Pentagon to social programs and the environment.
- Provide a living wage—not just a minimum wage.
- Provide universal, single-payer health insurance for everyone in this country.

## **LIBERTARIAN PARTY**



**Michael Badnarik**

Occupation: Computer Programmer

Lives in: Austin, Texas • Age: 50



*Running Mate:*

**Richard Campagna**

Occupation: Attorney/Educator/Counselor

Lives in: Fairfield, Iowa • Age: 51

Americans have lost many of their rightful freedoms to a large and interfering federal government. I'm running to restore Constitutional government and return those freedoms to the people.

I understand the Constitution and the limits that it places on government. More importantly, unlike the other candidates, I am willing to abide by those limits and restore American freedom.

**[www.badnarik.org](http://www.badnarik.org)**

### **Priorities:**

- End the war in Iraq and restore America's successful foreign policy of non-intervention.
- Repeal the Patriot Act and restore government's respect for civil liberties.
- Repeal gun control and restore the Second Amendment.

## PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY



### **Leonard Peltier**

Occupation: Artist and author

Lives in: Leavenworth, Kansas • Age: 60



*Running Mate:*

### **Janice Jordan**

Occupation: Student and mother

Lives in: San Diego, California • Age: 40

I have been caged for over 28 years for a crime I did not commit.

I will stop the policies which oppress people of color and those who think differently or try to change things.

I am a Native American. I have survived poverty, discrimination and genocidal policies. I want all people to have education, employment, housing and health care. We need equal rights, liberty and justice for all.

**[www.peaceandfreedom2004.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom2004.org)**

### **Priorities:**

- Abolish the federal death penalty and release all political prisoners.
- Make the U.S. government abide by all its treaties with Native Americans and other nations.

- Remove all U.S. troops from other countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

## **Candidates for U.S. Senate**

We are voting on one of the two U.S. Senators who will:

- Represent the people of California in Washington, D.C. for a 6-year term.
- Work with other Senators to make new U.S. laws.
- Help shape the budget and policy for our national government.

We asked the candidates for U.S. Senate to tell us about their qualifications and priorities. The order of the candidates is based on the size of their party in California.

### **DEMOCRATIC PARTY**



**Barbara Boxer**

Occupation: U.S. Senator

Lives in: Greenbrae, CA • Age: 63

As your Senator, I have increased after-school programs, made drinking water safer and supported increasing the minimum wage. My mother was an immigrant. When I fight for the American Dream, it comes from the heart.

**[www.boxer2004.org](http://www.boxer2004.org)**

## **Priorities:**

- Quality education for every child.
- Health insurance for every family.
- Good jobs so that everyone has a chance to live the American Dream. I hope I have earned your vote on November 2.

## **REPUBLICAN PARTY**



### **Bill Jones**

Occupation: Farmer, Rancher, Businessman

Lives in: Fresno, CA • Age: 54

I served in the Legislature and as Secretary of State, wrote the “Three Strikes Law” that cut crime 42% by keeping dangerous felons behind bars, and co-chaired Proposition 204, one of California’s largest environmental initiatives.

**[www.jonesforcalifornia.com](http://www.jonesforcalifornia.com)**

## **Priorities:**

- Rebuild jobs by opposing over-taxation, regulation, and litigation that sent jobs overseas.
- Secure our fair share of federal spending—now only 76 cents for every California tax dollar.
- Ensure our troops are equipped to win the war on terrorism.

# AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY



**Don J. Grundmann**

Occupation: Doctor of Chiropractic

Lives in: San Leandro, CA • Age: 52

I am the only candidate who is confronting the two biggest financial crimes in history (see my website) which are ongoing to this moment, and I am able and willing to stop this corruption.

**[www.truthusa.org](http://www.truthusa.org)**

## **Priorities:**

- Replace the Federal Reserve—replace Federal Reserve Notes (dead money) with United States Notes (interest-free money).
- Stop the corruption of the IRS.
- Stop abortion and homosexual marriage.



# **LIBERTARIAN PARTY**



**James P. Gray**

Occupation: Superior Court Judge

Lives in: Newport Beach, CA • Age: 59

I am a Superior Court Judge where for the past 22 years I have been in touch with real people in real life. I can relate to the problems that this nation is going through.

**[www.JudgeJim.com](http://www.JudgeJim.com)**

## **Priorities:**

- Healthcare—I will work to stop the monopoly of our Healthcare system.
- Inland economy—Utilize sunset provisions for agencies that do not show productivity.
- Foreign Policy—Open the Middle East, Near East and Far East to American goods.

# PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY



## **Marsha Feinland**

Occupation: Public school teacher

Lives in: Berkeley, CA • Age: 55

I taught in our schools. I helped to keep rents from rising in Berkeley. I want to help meet human needs and protect our earth. We don't need profits for big businesses or rich people.

**[www.peaceandfreedom2004.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom2004.org)**

### **Priorities:**

- Bring all troops home from Iraq now.
- Give health care to everyone without insurance company profits.
- End poverty by raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Provide income to all who cannot work. Let everyone attend college for free.

### **Other Elected Offices**

Besides the President and U.S. Senate, there are many other candidates you can vote for. Your representatives in the U.S. Congress and the State Assembly will be chosen in this election. Some districts will vote for State Senate seats.

Your ballot may also have candidates for your local government, such as county supervisor, city council or school board.

All of the candidates for your area will be listed in the Sample Ballot that is mailed to you by your county elections office.

Visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for more information about local candidates.

## **U.S. Government**

### **President and Vice President**

- Elected for 4 years
- Being chosen in this election

### **U.S. Congress**

*Works on U.S. laws and budget*

### **U.S. Senate**

- 2 Senators for each state
- Elected for 6 years
- 1 Senator chosen in this election

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

- 53 members for California
- Elected for 2 years
- All being voted on in this election

# **California State Government**

## **Governor**

- Elected for 4 years
- Next election in 2006

## **State Legislature**

*Works on state laws and budget*

## **State Senate**

- 40 Senators
- Elected for 4 years
- Half in this election and half in 2006

## **State Assembly**

- 80 Assemblymembers
- Elected for 2 years
- All being voted on in this election



## Propositions

Propositions are proposed laws presented to the public to vote on. Props 1A, 59, 60 and 60A were put on the ballot by the State Legislature. Props 61 through 71 are “initiatives” that were placed on the ballot by people who collected enough signatures.

Prop 72 is a referendum which means voters are asked to decide on a law that was already passed. Propositions that would change the State Constitution are called Constitutional Amendments.

**You do not have to vote on everything! Choose what is important to you and learn more about that.**

The descriptions about what the propositions would do and cost are taken from the official Voter Information Guide. The arguments for and against are from people who support or oppose the proposition.

Some propositions cover the same topic: 1A and 65 are about local government funds; 60 and 62 affect primary elections; 68 and 70 are about Indian gaming. If parts of these measures conflict with each other, the one with the most votes may overrule the other.

## **PROP.1A: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

### *Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** Local governments count on property taxes, sales taxes and vehicle license fees to help pay for local services. The state has a lot of control over this local tax money. To help balance the state budget, the state sometimes uses local tax money or delays payments to local governments for state mandates.

Local governments put another measure, Prop 65, on the ballot to change this situation. Prop 1A was added later by the State Legislature.

**What Prop 1A would do:** Change the State Constitution to reduce state control over local tax money. The state could not reduce the taxes that local governments are now getting. The state's ability to use local tax money would be very limited. The state would have to pay local governments for mandates or drop the requirements.

**Effect on government spending:** Local government funding would be higher and more stable. Local funds could no longer be used to help balance the state budget. So, the state probably would have to cut spending on state programs or raise taxes.

## Arguments for:

- Prop 1A protects local tax dollars for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical and other important services.
- Local governments, the Legislature and the Governor have all said this is a good solution.

**[www.YESonProp1A.com](http://www.YESonProp1A.com)**

## Arguments against:

- This gives local governments a spending guarantee with no oversight.
- This prevents the Legislature from lowering the local sales tax rate. It locks in a local finance system that has a lot of problems.

## **PROP.59: PUBLIC RECORDS**

### *Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** California has laws that give the public the right to see government records and attend government meetings.

Some records, such as medical testing and law enforcement, are not made public to protect people's privacy.

These laws are not part of the State Constitution.

**What Prop 59 would do:** Make it part of the State Constitution that government meetings and the writings of public officials and agencies be open to the public. To limit access to the public, the government would have to show a reason why.

**Effect on government spending:** Small cost to state and local governments to make information available to the public.

**Arguments for:**

- Prop 59 strengthens our right of access to information about state and local government by putting it in the State Constitution.

[www.prop59.org](http://www.prop59.org)

**Arguments against:**

- Our laws about access to public records are good enough. We do not need to change the State Constitution.

## **PROP.60: POLITICAL PARTIES IN ELECTIONS**

### *Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** California has a two-step election for many elected offices. The Primary Election in the spring lets political parties choose which candidates they want to run for each office in the November General Election. In the Primary Election, voters can only choose candidates from their own party. In the General Election, voters can choose a candidate from any party.

There is another proposition in this election, Prop 62, that would change primary elections.

**What Prop 60 would do:** Make sure that the November ballot will include the winning candidate from every party



that was in the Primary Election. This is the current law, and Prop 60 makes it part of the State Constitution.

**Effect on government spending:** No effect on the cost of primary or general elections.

**Arguments for:**

- Prop 60 makes sure that every political party will have candidates in the November election. If Prop 60 gets more votes, it can stop Prop 62, which is trying to change that.

[www.Yeson60.com](http://www.Yeson60.com)

**Arguments against:**

- There are many problems with our current primary election system. Prop 60 would make it even harder to make changes in the future.

**PROP.60A: SURPLUS PROPERTY**

*Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** When the state has land or buildings it no longer needs, it can sell this “surplus property.” The money usually goes into the state’s General Fund and can pay for any state program.

**What Prop 60A would do:** Direct all money from selling state property towards paying off Prop 57 bonds. These bonds were approved by voters in March 2004 to pay for past state deficits. Once the Prop 57 bonds are paid off, sales of state property would go into the General Fund.

**Effect on government spending:** Paying the bonds off sooner could save millions of dollars by lowering interest.

## **Arguments for:**

- Prop 60A will save the state money by paying off bonds faster.

## **Arguments against:**

- Prop 60A does not require the state to sell the extra property, so the savings may not happen.

# **PROP.61: BONDS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS**

## *Initiative*

**The way it is now:** Children's hospitals provide health care for children and infants with serious illnesses.

**What Prop 61 would do:** The state could sell \$750 million in bonds and use the money to build or expand children's hospitals in California, or to buy medical equipment for them.

**Effect on government spending:** New spending of about \$1.5 billion to pay off \$750 million in bonds and \$756 million in interest over thirty years. This would cost the state about \$50 million per year.

## **Arguments for:**

- Children's hospitals need more space and the latest equipment to serve all of the really sick kids who need special care.

**[www.SaveTheChildrensHospitals.com](http://www.SaveTheChildrensHospitals.com)**

## **Arguments against:**

- We should not borrow any more money when our state's debt is so high. We should first work on getting basic health care for more kids.

## **PROP.62: PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

### *Initiative · Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** California has a two-step election for many elected offices. The Primary Election in the spring lets political parties choose which candidates they want to run for each office in the November General Election. In the Primary Election, voters can only choose candidates from their own party. In the General Election, voters can choose a candidate from any party.

There is another proposition in this election, Prop 60, that would keep primary elections the way they are now.

**What Prop 62 would do:** Change the State Constitution so that all voters in the Primary Election get a ballot with candidates from all parties (except candidates for President and party central committee).

Just the two candidates who get the most votes in the Primary Election would be on the November ballot (instead of the winner from each party). It is possible that both candidates in November could be from the same party.

**Effect on government spending:** No major change to state or local budgets.

**Arguments for:**

- Prop 62 gives every voter a chance to choose the best candidate for office in the primary election. Even voters not registered with a party will get to vote in primary elections.

[www.openprimary.org](http://www.openprimary.org)

### **Arguments against:**

- Only having the top two candidates for each office on the November ballot gives voters far fewer choices. This favors candidates from big parties with big budgets.

[www.NoOn62.com](http://www.NoOn62.com)

## **PROP.63: TAX FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

### *Initiative*

**The way it is now:** People needing mental health services use private insurance or get that care through counties. The counties pay for services for the mentally ill with a mix of local, state and federal money.

**What Prop 63 would do:** People with incomes over \$1 million would pay an additional 1% tax on the part of their income above \$1 million. This new tax money would pay for new and expanded services for mentally ill children, adults and seniors. It could not be spent for current mental health services or for any other programs.

**Effect on government spending:** The new income tax would bring in about \$750 million next year for new spending for mental health services.

Expanding these services could save a few hundred million dollars on prisons/jails, medical care, homeless shelters and social service programs.

**Arguments for:**

- This will give children, adults and seniors with mental health problems a chance to be healthy and lead normal lives.

[www.YESon63.org](http://www.YESon63.org)

**Arguments against:**

- This new tax on millionaires depends too much on the economy. Tax dollars could go down and leave people without services.

[www.HealthyCalifornia.org](http://www.HealthyCalifornia.org)

**PROP.64: LAWSUITS ABOUT UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES**

*Initiative*

**The way it is now:** Companies or people can be taken to court for misleading advertising or for breaking laws that protect the public's health or safety. These lawsuits about unfair business practices can be filed by the government or by any individual. Anyone can file this kind of lawsuit on behalf of the public.

**What Prop 64 would do:** Change the rules about who can file lawsuits about unfair business practices. Only government lawyers could file these lawsuits on behalf of the general public. Private individuals could sue only if they had been injured and lost money or property.

**Effect on government spending:** State and local governments get penalty money for cases they win in court. That money can now be spent on any kind of government program.

With Prop 64, penalty money won from cases about unfair business practices could only be spent on enforcing laws that protect consumers.

**Arguments for:**

- This protects small businesses from petty lawsuits where nobody is hurt, and still lets a person sue when they have been hurt.

[www.YESon64.org](http://www.YESon64.org)

**Arguments against:**

- This makes it harder to file lawsuits against businesses that break laws protecting the environment, public health and consumers.

[www.NOonProp64.org](http://www.NOonProp64.org)

**PROP.65: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

*Initiative • Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** Local governments count on property taxes, sales taxes and vehicle license fees to help pay for local services. The state has a lot of control over this local tax money. Because of the state's budget problems, in recent years local governments have gotten less of this tax money. The State Legislature put another measure, Prop 1A, on the ballot to change this situation.

**What Prop 65 would do:** Change the State Constitution to require voter approval for any reduction in money to local governments from sales taxes, vehicle license fees or property taxes. Prop 65 would also let local governments ignore state mandates if they are not paid by the state to follow them.

**Effect on government spending:** Local government income would be higher and more stable. More money going to local government would also mean less money for state government programs.

## **Arguments for:**

- Prop 65 keeps the state from raiding local government to balance the state budget. Local services like public safety will be protected.

**[www.ProtectLocalServices.com](http://www.ProtectLocalServices.com)**

## **Arguments against:**

- The group of local governments that put Prop 65 on the ballot now supports Prop 1A. They say Prop 1A is a better way to protect local services.

# **PROP.66: CHANGES TO “THREE STRIKES” LAW**

## *Initiative*

**The way it is now:** In 1994, California voters passed the “Three Strikes” law. If someone has already been convicted of a serious or violent felony, they get a longer sentence when convicted of any new felony, even if it is not violent. Examples of violent felonies are murder and armed robbery.

**What Prop 66 would do:** Only serious or violent felonies would make repeat offenders get “Three Strikes” sentencing, not any felony. Prop 66 also cuts back the number of crimes that are considered a serious or violent felony.

“Three Strikes” inmates convicted of nonviolent felonies would go back to court to get shorter sentences. There would also be longer sentences for sex crimes against children.

**Effect on government spending:** The savings from lowering the number of prisoners could grow to hundreds of



millions of dollars each year. Courts and local jails might spend tens of millions of dollars to change inmates' sentences.

### **Arguments for:**

- Prop 66 keeps serious and violent felons in prison, but saves money by reducing sentences for nonviolent crimes.
- About 65% of those serving “Three Strikes” sentences were convicted of nonviolent offenses.

**[www.voteyeson66.org](http://www.voteyeson66.org)**

### **Arguments against:**

- Judges can already give shorter sentences for nonviolent third felonies. Prop 66 makes too many crimes not serious or violent.
- Local jails and courts already have too much work to change inmates' sentences.

**[www.noProp66.org](http://www.noProp66.org)**

## **PROP. 67: TAX FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

*Initiative • Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** State and U.S. laws say that any person who needs emergency medical care must be given care even if they cannot pay. State and county governments cover only part of those unpaid costs. California hospitals and doctors reported that unpaid emergency medical services cost them about \$540 million a few years ago. The cost now is not known.

**What Prop 67 would do:** Provide new money for emergency services by adding a 3% tax on in-state phone calls. Most of this money would go to hospitals and doctors, and some would support urgent care clinics and other emergency services. The phone tax would be limited to 50 cents each month for residential phones. There would be no limit for business phones and cell phones.

**Effect on government spending:** The new phone tax would bring in about \$500 million for new spending on emergency services. Prop 67 would also lock in about \$32 million of current state spending on these services.

**Arguments for:**

- Emergency rooms have been closing. Prop 67 will help make sure emergency medical care is available close by when you need it.

[www.saveemergencycare.org](http://www.saveemergencycare.org)

**Arguments against:**

- We don't need another tax that hurts business and consumers. Prop 67 does nothing to help more people get basic health care.

[www.stopthephonetax.com](http://www.stopthephonetax.com)

## **PROP.68: SLOT MACHINES**

*Initiative · Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** California only allows slot machines on Indian lands. The state has gaming agreements with about 70 Indian tribes. Most of these agreements allow only 2,000 slot

machines per tribe. In 2004, nine tribes made new agreements that let them have more slot machines. In return, they are making payments that could bring hundreds of millions of dollars each year into the state's General Fund. More tribes are expected to ask for new agreements.

**What Prop 68 would do:** Keep slot machines just on Indian lands if the tribes with slot machines agree to pay 25% of what they take in to a new special fund. If all of these tribes do not agree, then 5 racetracks and 11 card rooms not on Indian lands would be allowed to operate 30,000 slot machines. They would pay 30% of what they take in on slot machines to the new fund plus 3% more to local governments.

**Effect on government spending:** Prop 68 would provide over \$1 billion each year for a new special fund, whether from the tribes or from the card rooms and racetracks. This special fund would increase local spending for abused or foster children and add police officers and firefighters. There could also be a loss of hundreds of millions of dollars to the state's General Fund by undoing the recent agreements with nine tribes.

### **Arguments for:**

- It is only fair that part of the billions earned by Indian casinos go to government in return for having the only slot machines.
- Other states make Indian casinos pay a 25% "fair share" in return for being the only ones who can have slot machines

**Arguments against:**

- It is unlikely that all tribes will agree to Prop 68. So card rooms and racetracks could run 16 casinos in urban areas.
- This could undo recent agreements that are helping with the state's budget problems. Instead, Prop 68 money is set aside in a special fund.

[www.Stop68.com](http://www.Stop68.com)

**PROP.69: DNA SAMPLE COLLECTION**

*Initiative*

**The way it is now:** DNA is used by law enforcement to identify and convict criminals. It can also be used to prove people are innocent of a crime. Current law requires DNA samples from anyone convicted of a serious felony. This DNA information is added to state and FBI databanks.

**What Prop 69 would do:** Collection of DNA samples would be expanded to include people convicted of any felony plus those convicted or arrested for some other offenses. Criminal penalties, such as fees for traffic tickets, would go up to help pay for keeping track of more DNA samples.

**Effect on government spending:** This would start off costing the state up to several million dollars and increase to about \$20 million each year. Increased costs to local government would be fully repaid from increased criminal penalties.

## **Arguments for:**

- Building a DNA databank of all convicted felons will help solve crimes and free innocent people.

[www.DNAyes.org](http://www.DNAyes.org)

## **Arguments against:**

- This puts people who are never charged or never convicted into criminal DNA databanks.

[www.protectmyDNA.com](http://www.protectmyDNA.com)

# **PROP.70: INDIAN GAMING AGREEMENTS**

## *Initiative · Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** The state has agreements with about 70 Indian tribes allowing them to have casinos with slot machines and card games like Twenty-one. Most tribes have agreements lasting until 2020 that limit how many slot machines they can have. In 2004, the Governor and nine tribes made new agreements that let tribes have more slot machines in return for new payments to the state's General Fund and local governments.

These new agreements end in 2030. Indian tribes are not required by U.S. law to pay taxes.

**What Prop 70 would do:** Let each Indian tribe choose to change to a gaming agreement that would last for 99 years. In new agreements, the state could not limit the number of slot machines, the number of casinos or the types of gambling on Indian land. In return, a tribe would make

payments to the state's General Fund at the current business tax rate (now about 9 percent of net income). If the state allowed anybody but the Indian tribes to have the same types of gambling, the tribes could stop making the payments to the state.

**Effect on government spending:** State income could go up or down, possibly by over a hundred million dollars each year. Local governments would probably lose millions of dollars each year.

**Arguments for:**

- This is a fair type of payment, like what any business would pay in taxes.
- Prop 70 lets each tribe decide for itself how many casinos and what types of games it wants to offer. Unlike Prop 68, it keeps slot machines on Indian lands.

**[www.indianfairshare.com](http://www.indianfairshare.com)**

**Arguments against:**

- Prop 70 could undo the Governor's recent Indian gambling agreements that limit gaming and give the state more money per tribe.
- This allows tribes to open as many casinos as they want, with no limits, for the next 99 years.

**[www.no68and70.org](http://www.no68and70.org)**

**PROP.71: BONDS FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH**

*Initiative • Constitutional Amendment*

**The way it is now:** Many scientists believe that stem cell research will lead to new treatments for a variety of diseases. The University of California spends millions of dollars each year on this type of research, and the U.S. government spent \$180 million in 2002.

**What Prop 71 would do:** A new state medical research institute would be created to give out grants and loans for stem cell research in California. The money would come from the sale of \$3 billion in state bonds. The right to do stem cell research would be added to the State Constitution.

**Effect on government spending:** Up to \$350 million in state bonds could be sold each year to fund stem cell research. To pay off the full \$3 billion in bonds plus interest would cost the state about \$6 billion over 30 years.

**Arguments for:**

- This would make California a leader in stem cell research and create new jobs.
- This is needed because stem cell research is being restricted by Washington politics.

**[www.YESon71.com](http://www.YESon71.com)**

**Arguments against:**

- We should not spend taxpayer money for research that can benefit large corporations.
- These bonds would add to California's debt at a time when we cannot afford it.

**[www.NOon71.com](http://www.NOon71.com)**

## **PROP.72: HEALTH CARE COVERAGE**

### *Referendum*

**The way it is now:** Employers in California can choose whether they want to provide health care coverage for their employees and their dependents. In 2003, a law was passed by the State Legislature to expand health care coverage for workers at large and medium-sized employers. This law has not gone into effect yet. Prop 72 is a referendum, which means the voters have to approve this law, not just the State Legislature.

**What Prop 72 would do:** Require large and medium-sized employers in California to either provide health care coverage or pay into a state program to purchase health coverage. Employers of 200 or more would have to start in 2006. Employers with 50 up to 200 employees would start in 2007.

Employees would pay no more than 20% of their health plan premium. Low-income employees would have their contribution limited to 5% of wages. The measure would help employees who are eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families pay their premiums and receive additional medical services.

**Effect on government spending:** The total effect on the state budget is hard to predict. Costs for the state program for purchasing health coverage would be covered by fees from employers. The state may lose tax income from companies whose profits are lowered by health care



payments. County health program costs could go down by hundreds of millions of dollars.

**Arguments for:**

- At least one million more Californians from working families will get health care coverage they can afford.
- Prop 72 levels the playing field by requiring all large and medium-sized companies to pay for health care so some don't have an unfair advantage.

**[www.YESonProp72.com](http://www.YESonProp72.com)**

**Arguments against:**

- Employees could get forced out of their current health plans into a program chosen by the government.
- Many employers will have to cut jobs or services to pay this new health care tax. Prop72 affects businesses, public agencies and nonprofits.

**[www.NOProp72.org](http://www.NOProp72.org)**

# Easy Voter Guide

## California General Election

### Tuesday, November 2, 2004

Voting is as easy as 1-2-3!

## 1. Sign up to vote

- To vote in the November 2 election, you must register (sign up) to vote by October 18. It's free!
- To get a voter registration form, you can:
  - Call 1-800-345-8683 to have a form sent to you.
  - Pick up a form at the library, post office, DMV, or other public places.
  - Visit [www.myvotecounts.org](http://www.myvotecounts.org).
- You must fill out a new voter registration form if you move to a new address, change your name, or want to change your political party.

## 2. Get ready to vote

- To learn about the election, registered voters get two booklets in the mail:
  - The Sample Ballot lists all of the candidates and measures that will be on your ballot, including those for your city and county.

- The Voter Information Guide covers information about statewide candidates and ballot measures.
- You don't have to vote on everything on your ballot. Choose the things that matter to you and learn more about them.

### **3. Vote!**

- Vote in person: Look at the mailing label of your Sample Ballot for where to go. Your polling place will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some counties also have places where you can vote before election day.
- Vote by mail:
  - The form to request an “absentee ballot” comes with your Sample Ballot. Fill out the form and mail it in to arrive by October 26.
  - If you want to be able to vote by mail in every election, you can check the box for “Permanent Absentee Voter” on your absentee ballot request.
  - When your absentee ballot comes in the mail, fill it out and mail it back to arrive by election day. Or, drop it off at any polling place in your county by 8 p.m. on election day.

**Visit [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) and [www.myvotecounts.org](http://www.myvotecounts.org) for more information about how to vote and about this election.**