

November 2024 Ballot Measure Voter Guide

These recommendations by the Policy Council of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy-California are made within the framework of the principles, values, and commitments of ELCA Social Statements and Social Messages. More information: ELCA.org

The 'Proposition' column contains the following information:

1. Number of the proposition as it will appear on your ballot.
2. [Type of proposition]
 - a. [Bond] = a legislatively approved bond measure
 - b. [Amendment] = a legislatively approved constitutional amendment
 - c. [Statute] = a citizen-initiated state statute
3. Brief title description of the proposition



**LUTHERAN OFFICE
of PUBLIC POLICY
-CALIFORNIA**

'Position' Explanation:

1. Strong Support or Strong Oppose = ELCA social teaching address this issue directly.
2. Support or Oppose= ELCA social teachings address this issue generally.
3. Neutral = The proposition implicates two or more social teachings in a contrary or contradictory fashion.
4. No Position = ELCA lacks social teachings upon which to decide.
5. LOPP-CA Priority = LOPP-CA plans to invest time and resources to these campaigns

Proposition	Position	What it Does and the Explanation of our Position
<p>2 [Bond]</p> <p>Education Finance</p>	Support	<p><i>Authorizes \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to fund construction and modernization of public education facilities.</i></p> <p>LOPP-CA champions education and school funding. 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: Our Calling in Education. We also supported other recent school bonds- Prop. 51 in 2016 for \$9million (passed) and Prop 13 in March 2020 for \$15million (failed.)</p>
<p>3 [Amendment]</p> <p>Marriage Equality</p>	<p>Strong Support</p> <p>LOPP-CA Priority</p>	<p><i>Repeals Proposition 8 and establishes a constitutional right to marry.</i></p> <p>As ELCA Lutherans, we recognize that gender-based equity happens "...through laws, policies, and practices that support an equitable common good- abundant life for all." Lutheran churches throughout our state already support and sanction marriage for all people. We support full marriage equality as a civil right as well as the consecration, blessing, and celebration of the unions of LGBTQ+ couples within our churches. We support this amendment and advocate strongly for lasting policy changes that will protect the civil rights of those who are married.</p>
<p>4 [Bond]</p> <p>Climate Resilience</p>	<p>Strong Support</p> <p>LOPP-CA Priority</p>	<p><i>Issues \$10 billion in bonds to fund state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, energy projects, and flood protection projects.</i></p> <p>Several LOPP-CA priorities have been defunded or vetoed in recent cycles due to budget constraints. This may be our last opportunity to invest in climate resilience during this administration. Safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, protecting coastal and tidal habitats, and improving air quality are all longstanding LOPP-CA priorities. Guiding social statement: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, Justice.</p>
<p>5 [Amendment]</p> <p>Public Infrastructure Voting</p>	Support	<p><i>Lowers the vote threshold from 66.67% to 55% for local bond measures to fund housing projects and public infrastructure.</i></p> <p>We support this because housing is a fundamental human right, and this proposition works to ensure more affordable housing for a housing-deprived state. Our church has an outstanding commitment to securing resources for the vulnerable, especially the unhoused, as expressed in the ELCA Message on Homelessness. And this measure gives municipalities some of the tools they lack to address housing justice. It would repeal portions of Prop 13 (1978) and is functionally a reintroduction of Prop 21 from 2020, which LOPP-CA supported.</p>

<p>6 [Amendment]</p> <p>Slavery</p>	<p>Strong Support</p>	<p><i>Removes involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime from the state constitution.</i></p> <p>The ELCA social message on Human Rights states clearly: “society should not deny a person's dignity for any reason. This is true even if that person has acted maliciously and treated others inhumanely. God's gift of dignity is immutable, indivisible and inseparable from our being” (p 4) and “Humans may not be treated as commodities” (p 6).</p>
<p>32 [Statute]</p> <p>Raising Minimum Wage</p>	<p>Strong Support</p>	<p><i>Existing law requires annual increases to California's minimum wage until it has reached \$15.00/hour for all businesses on January 1, 2023. This measure extends these annual increases (\$1.00 per year) until minimum wage—currently, \$15.00/hour for businesses with 26 or more employees, and \$14.00/hour for smaller businesses—reaches \$18.00/hour.</i></p> <p>In Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, “We call for: a minimum wage level that balances employees' need for sufficient income with what would be significant negative effects on overall employment”(p 10) and for “corporate policies that lessen the disparities between compensations of top corporate executives and that of the workers throughout an organization” (p 14).</p>
<p>33 [Statute]</p> <p>Local Authority Over Rent Control</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p><i>Repeals key provisions of the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act (1995).</i></p> <p>LOPP-CA supported Prop 10 in 2018, which restored authority to enact rent control to local authority as a means of just and adequate economic regulation. We continue to support efforts to ensure safe and affordable housing in our communities. The ELCA asserts that “the proper concern of government is with the safety and well-being of the people within its boundaries, so it must serve as a referee in economic life. Consumers must be protected. The market economy creates abundant goods and services, but when left unchecked, it generates harmful inequalities of wealth and power. When the market economy fails to incorporate all social costs (pollution, exploitation, etc.) into the prices of goods and services, governmental action is needed to contain the harm done to the health and well-being of people and of creation” Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All (p 11).</p>
<p>34 [Statute]</p> <p>Health Care Revenue</p>	<p>No Position</p>	<p><i>Requires health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care.</i></p> <p>LOPP-CA does not believe that the ELCA has social teaching upon which to make a recommendation on this proposition. Therefore, we take no position.</p>
<p>35 [Statute]</p> <p>Medi-Cal Funding</p>	<p>Strong Support</p>	<p><i>Permanently authorizes a tax on managed care organizations to fund Medi-Cal programs.</i></p> <p>We feel this proposition is exactly what was intended by social teachings that state “[W]e call for government to provide adequate income assistance and related services for citizens, documented immigrants, and refugees who are unable to provide for their livelihood through employment” Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All (p 12).</p>
<p>36 [Statute]</p> <p>Reclassifying Felonies</p>	<p>Strong Oppose</p>	<p><i>Dismantles the criminal justice reforms enacted by voters in 2014 as proposition 47. It would reclassify certain drug offenses as felonies, increase penalties for certain drug crimes and increase sentences for theft based on the value of the property stolen.</i></p> <p>LOPP-CA was a strong supporter of Proposition 47 in 2014, and we oppose this attempted rollback of its provisions now, which would uphold a wrongful attachment to a punitive justice system. Our church has, in the ELCA social statement on The Church and Criminal Justice, recognized the “harm in the current criminal justice system, specifically [caused by] overreliance on incarceration as a response to criminality. Because of the significant harms both personal and social caused by incarceration the ELCA strongly urges those who make and administer correctional policies to take all appropriate measures to limit the use of incarceration as a sanction for criminal offences” (p 38).</p>