LUTHERAN OFFICE of PUBLIC POLICY –CALIFORNIA

# November 2026 Ballot Measure Voting Guide

*The Policy Council of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy–California presents the following recommendations, grounded in the framework, principles, values, and commitments of the ELCA as expressed in its 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

*'Position' Explanation:*

- Strong Support or Strong Oppose = ELCA social teaching addresses the issue directly.
- Support or Oppose = ELCA social teaching addresses the issue generally.
- Neutral = The proposition brings two or more social teachings into conflict.
- No Position = The ELCA lacks social teaching upon which to make a recommendation.
- LOPP-CA Priority = LOPP-CA plans to invest time and resources in the campaign.

| Proposition | Position | ***What It Does* and Our Position** |
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| **1 [Bond] Veteran & Housing Assistance Programs** | **Support** | *Authorizes the state to issue $11.25 billion in bonds to fund income-qualified housing programs, including the Multifamily Housing Program, CalHome, and the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program.* "Sufficiency" means adequate access to income and other resources that enable people to meet their basic needs, including nutrition, clothing, housing, health care, personal development, and participation in community with dignity. God has created a world of sufficiency for all, providing us daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life. Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All p. 9. |
| **2 [Amendment] Budget Stabilization Account Cap Increase** | **Support** | *Increases the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) cap from 10% of general fund revenue to 20% of general fund revenue.* Increasing BSA reserves allows for greater budget flexibility while maintaining budget stability. Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All calls for "adequate, consistent public funding for the various low-income services nonprofit organizations provide for the common good of all" p. 10. |
| **37 [Statute] [Second Mortgage Homebuyer Program and Revenue Bond]** | **Support** | *Establishes a second mortgage homebuyer program for qualified homebuyers who earn at or below 200% of the area median income.* "Sufficiency" means adequate access to income and other resources that enable people to meet their basic needs, including nutrition, clothing, housing, health care, personal development, and participation in community with dignity. God has created a world of sufficiency for all, providing us daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life. Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, p. 9. See also A Message on Homelessness: Renewal and Commitment |

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| **38 [Bond] Immunology and Immunotherapy Research Funding** | **Oppose**[1] | *Authorizes the state to issue $8.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund immunology and immunotherapy research.*<br>"We call for… efforts to increase the participation of low-income people in political and civic life, and citizen vigilance and action that challenges governments and other sectors when they become captive to narrow economic interests that do not represent the good of all." Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, p. 4. |
| **39 [Amendment] Voter ID + Citizenship Identification, and Registered Voter List Administration Initiative** | **Strong Oppose**<br><br>***LOPP-CA Priority*** | *Requires voters to present a government-issued ID for in-person voting or provide the last four digits of a government-issued ID designated during voter registration for mail-in voting.*<br>"[G]overnment becomes oppressive when its goals, policies, and programs are designed or transformed into vehicles for oppressing the neighbor—such as voter suppression laws or gerrymandering. Civic participation cannot be fully realized without confronting the structural barriers that limit access for many. These barriers, which function to silence voices and restrict public engagement, disproportionately affect already marginalized communities and contradict both democratic ideals and the biblical call to seek justice." Faith and Civic Life, p. 65. |
| **3 [Amendment] [Renew State Income Tax Increase for Education Funding]** | **Support** | *Amends the state constitution to indefinitely extend the top marginal tax rates set to expire in 2031. Of the resulting revenue, 89% would go to K-12 schools; 11% to community colleges.*<br>Prop 30 in 2012 and Prop 55 in 2016, which LOPP-CA supported, did not contain threshold or inflation adjustment mechanisms. The proposed initiative increases the threshold and ties it to inflation. Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All supports a yes vote: "we call for… policies that support strong schools" p. 8. |
| **40 [Amendment] + [State Statute] One-Time Wealth Tax for State-Funded Programs** | **Strong Support** | *Levies a one-time 5% tax on accumulated wealth of taxpayers and trusts with covered assets over $1 billion. These funds would go toward health care programs, food assistance, and public education.*<br>Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All states: "Those who are rich and those who are poor are called into relationships of generosity from which each can benefit" p. 11. |
| **41 [Amendment] Prohibit Excluding New State Taxes from Spending Limit and Require Special Tax Audits Initiative** | **Oppose** | *Requires pre-election audits for ballot initiatives proposing special taxes. The audit would take place once proponents report collecting 25% of the signatures required to qualify for the ballot, and the results would be included in the voter information pamphlet if the initiative qualifies. State audits would then be conducted every four years to assess program effectiveness and identify cost-saving measures.*<br>Audit costs are currently unknown, and limiting the legislature's ability to levy taxes through audits would hinder good governance. ELCA social statement, Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All states: "Paying taxes to enable government to carry out these and other purposes is an appropriate expression of our stewardship in society, rather than something to be avoided" p. 11. |

[1] LOPP-CA has concluded that this measure represents a misuse of the ballot proposition mechanism.

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| **42 [Amendment] Prohibit New Taxes on Retirement Holdings** | **Oppose** | *Prohibits enacting new taxes after January 1, 2026 on ownership or control of retirement holdings, individually-owned assets, and other forms of personal savings.*<br>Prohibiting any new taxes on retirement holdings could limit the legislature's ability to fund programs that benefit the most vulnerable in our state. Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All explains: "While a market economy assumes people will act to maximize their own interests, we acknowledge that what is in our interest must be placed in the context of what is good for the neighbor" p. 4. |
| **43 [Amendment] Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Special Tax Initiatives** | **Oppose** | *Requires a two-thirds vote by the electorate to enact, extend, or increase local special tax initiatives. It would also prohibit local jurisdictions and ballot initiatives from enacting ad valorem property taxes. Restores Prop 13.*<br>The ELCA "calls for an end to practices that contribute to hyperpartisan polarization" Faith and Civic Life p. 60. This proposition encourages hyperpartisan polarization. |
| **44 [Statute] Spending Requirements for Federally Qualified Health Centers** | **No Position**[2] | *Requires nonprofit federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to spend at least 90% of their annual total revenue on expenses that advance the health center's mission.*<br>LOPP-CA has concluded that there is not adequate social teaching foundation upon which to make a recommendation on this proposition. Therefore, we take no position. |
| **45 [Statute] Expedited Environmental Review Process for Certain Projects** | **Oppose**<br><br>***LOPP- CA Priority*** | *Makes changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations, including establishing deadlines for public agencies to complete environmental review and limiting public agencies' existing requirement to consider a range of project alternatives to reduce environmental impacts.*<br>Caring For Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice states: "Neither economic growth that ignores environmental cost nor conservation of nature that ignores human cost is sustainable" p. 8. |
| **4 [Statute] Allow Public Financing of Election Campaigns** | **Strong Support** | *Repeals the 1988 ban on campaign public financing. Allows state and local governments to create programs that provide candidates with public funds within spending limits and eligibility rules.*<br>Faith and Civic Life addresses public financing: "Civic participation cannot be fully realized without confronting the structural barriers that limit access for many" p. 65. Prop 4 will also help "expand the ability of citizens across the economic spectrum to run for political office" p. 65. |
| **5 [Amendment] Eliminate State Officer Recall Successor Elections** | **Strong Support** | *Eliminates the simultaneous election of a successor when a state officer is recalled, thereby leaving the office vacant until it is filled according to state law.*<br>"Government may often seek its own advantage or that of its most influential constituencies at the expense of many of its people" Faith and Civic Life p. 39. This measure changes the state's recall process so that recalls are less politically motivated in favor of one party over the other. |

[2] LOPP-CA has concluded that this measure represents a misuse of the ballot proposition mechanism.