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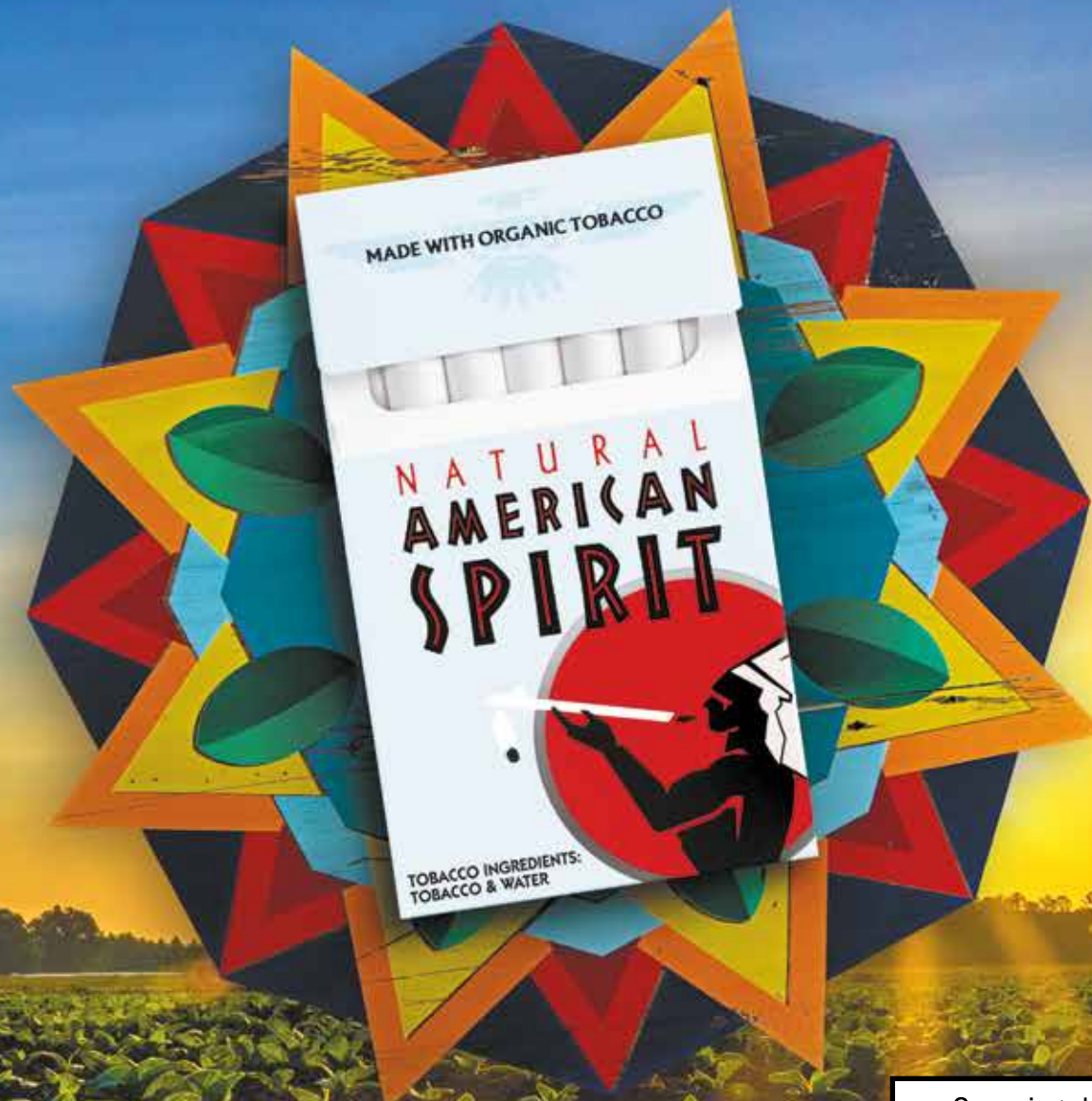
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A GUIDE TO THE 2020 CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER AND ISAI ROCHA



In addition to selecting a candidate for president of the United States, state Assembly and state Senate, along with local elected offices, California voters will also decide the fate of a dozen ballot measures in this upcoming election. By now, Californians have seen the political ads pop up, asking for the public's "Yes" or "No" vote to support a specific proposition.

Still, without balanced information on both sides, it may be difficult to gain a clear picture of what a vote in either direction will impact.

With ballot measure topics ranging from reinstating the voting rights of convicted felons to repealing affirmative action laws from 1996, there is plenty for voters to understand prior to casting their votes.

Now, with less than two weeks until Election Day, this Proposition Guide offers an explanation on each of California's 2020 ballot measures, in order to help voters better understand what those "Yes" or "No" votes will actually mean in the real world.

Proposition 14: Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative (2020)

Prop. 14 would distribute \$5.5 billion to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), California's primary stem cell research agency. Of the \$5.5 billion CIRM would borrow

from taxpayers, \$1.5 billion would be allocated for research for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's Disease and stroke, along with other degenerative diseases.

The CIRM was established in 2004, when California voters passed Prop. 71, in response to a federal funding ban on research using embryonic cells — a critical component of stem cell research. In doing so, the state allocated \$3 billion, along with the constitutional right to conduct stem cell research in California.

However, the CIRM is now running low on funding — with approximately \$132 million at hand — and has paused all projects and research, as of July 2019.

If passed, the funds will be paid through California's General Obligation Bonds — non-collateral bonds issued by a creditor to municipalities based on creditworthiness — with the belief that funds can be regenerated through taxation. The initiative's fiscal impact is estimated to cost California taxpayers \$260 million per-year for 30 years.

Supporters of Prop. 14, such as the California Democratic Party, including Gov. Gavin Newsom and Mayor Eric Garcetti, say CIRM research has led to medical breakthroughs, along with thousands of jobs in the biotech industry.

Those who oppose the proposition, such as

the California Pro-Life council, say that while research is useful, it has yet to produce groundbreaking cures for degenerative diseases. And now that federal funding for embryonic research is no longer banned, California should look into federal funding options.

While more than \$13 million were contributed to the "yes" campaign for Prop 14, \$250 were contributed for opposers, all coming from the California Pro-Life Council.

Yes: Allocates \$5.5 billion through general obligation bonds for the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

No: Opposes allocating \$5.5 billion through general obligation bonds for the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

Proposition 15: Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative

Prop. 15 looks to raise property taxes on commercial properties in order to create more funding for schools and local government. Currently, commercial and industrial properties in California pay property taxes based on the purchase price. Each year after that, the property's taxable value is adjusted for inflation by up to 2 percent. However, Prop. 15 would amend the California Constitution and require commercial and industrial properties to be taxed on their current market value.

This is an attempt to institute a "Split Roll Tax," defined by the process in which the state assesses taxes on commercial and industrial properties at market value, while the taxes on residential property taxes are assessed by purchase price.

The state would make exemptions for farm land and for small businesses with less than \$3 million in holdings in California. If passed, Prop. 15 would also define small business by independently owned companies on state property, with 50 employees or less.

Supporters include current Vice Presidential Candidate Joe Biden, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and the California Teachers Association. A "Yes" vote would increase property taxes on commercial businesses, a move that could potentially generate between \$6.5 billion to \$11 billion in new tax revenue annually.

The Prop. 15 opposition, which includes the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Association of Retailers, feel the economy must strengthen prior to adding massive taxes on commercial properties amid the financial hardships and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yes: Supports a Constitutional amendment to require commercial and industrial properties — with an exception for properties that are commercially-zoned for agriculture — to be taxed based on market value, rather than purchase price.

No: Opposes the constitutional amendment. Commercial and industrial properties would continue to be taxed based on purchase price.

Proposition 16: Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment

Affirmative Action was known as a set of social policies and resources aimed at helping advance the employment and opportunities of minority groups.

In 1996 California voters passed Prop. 209, which stated that California "shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to,

any individual individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting," which essentially eradicated Affirmative Action practices.

Considering the heightened climate due to social injustice across the nation, Prop. 16 has received more than \$16 million in support from organizations like the California Teachers Association, and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, as supporters want to see Affirmative Action policies reintegrated into the workforce and public education.

The opposition had significantly less in contributions (\$1.2 million), notably from the Students for Fair Admissions organization and San Diego-based attorney Gail Heriot.

The Prop. 16 opposition looks to keep the policies the same, and claims that the meaning of true equality is based on the non-preferential treatment of all individuals.

Yes: Repeals Prop. 209 (1996), which states that, "the government and public institutions cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting." Repealing Prop. 209 would allow government and public entities to use affirmative action to grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, and ethnicity when it comes to public education, employment and public contracting.

No: Keeps Prop. 209, prohibiting the state from granting any individuals preferential treatment based on race, sex or ethnicity.

Proposition 17: Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment

By state law, those who are convicted of a felony in the state of California need to complete prison and parole sentences, prior to regaining the right to vote. Prop. 17 would change the rules by allowing people on parole to vote — and run for office, as long as the crime committed did not result in a perjury or bribery conviction.

Supporters say Prop. 17 will lead to more civic engagement from convicted felons, which could have a positive result on rehabilitation.

However, the opposition for Prop. 17 emphasizes that voting is a right that's earned and the right will still be available to individuals once rehabilitated.

Prop. 17 has received nearly \$1 million in funding from supporters. There are no major donors in opposition of Prop. 17, but the Republican Party of California is part of the opposition.

Yes: Supports a constitutional amendment to allow individuals convicted of a felony or who are on parole the right to vote.

No: People on state parole would continue to be unable to vote in California.

Proposition 18: Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds

A "Yes" vote on Prop. 18 would allow 17-year-olds, who will turn 18 by the following general election to vote in primaries and special elections.

Currently, more than a dozen states and Washington D.C. allow 17-year-olds to vote in the primary election, as long as they will be 18 by the next general election.

California voters will now have the opportunity

to lower the voting age in their state. However, there are mixed emotions behind lowering the voting age. Supporters argue that individuals are already paying taxes prior to the age of 18, so giving them a right to vote should be an incentive for those in the workforce and already contributing to society.

Those that oppose say that 17 years old is too young to be tasked with civic responsibility. Additionally, many teens are impressionable and lack the resources needed to make informed decisions about the real world — without parental supervision.

Yes: Allows 17-year-olds, who will turn 18 by the following general election, to vote in primaries and special elections.

No: No one younger than 18 years of age may vote in any election.

Proposition 19: Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties Amendment

For homeowners over the age of 55, homeowners suffering from severe disabilities, and victims of natural disasters, a “Yes” vote on Prop. 19 would make them eligible for a tax assessment transfer, in the event they buy a new home.

Considering the unforgiving nature of California Wildfires and the potential for other natural disasters like landslides and earthquakes, this proposition would allow homeowners to seek new property anywhere in the state, even to a more expensive home.

Prop. 19 would also limit the tax benefits for certain transfers of property between family members, including inherited property.

There is major support for Prop. 19 from the real estate industry, including the California Association of Realtors, the California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization PAC and the National Association of Realtors.

In terms of funding, Prop. 19 have received more than \$37 million from supporters. On the opposition side, donors are scarce, as less than \$25,000 has been raised for a “No” vote on Prop. 19.

Yes: Allows all homeowners 55 and older, along with the severely disabled or those affected by natural disaster, to buy a newer home anywhere in California with an incentive for lower property taxes, even on a more expensive home. Only inherited properties used as primary homes or farms would be eligible for property tax savings.

No: Some homeowners who are over 55 (or who meet other qualifications) would continue to be eligible for property tax savings when they move. All inherited properties would continue to be eligible for property tax savings.

Proposition 20: Restricts Parole for Non-Violent Offenders. Authorizes Felony Sentences for Certain Offenses Currently Treated Only as Misdemeanors.

Over the last decade, there have been two props (47 and 57) and one bill (AB 109) that passed with the intention to reduce California’s inmate population. The initiatives took several non-violent, non-serious and non-sexual crimes, and made them misdemeanors.

Prop. 20 seeks to repeal the classifications in those initiatives, and return the option to charge some of those crimes, such as car theft and shoplifting, as felonies. It would also restrict early parole for those inmates. Additionally, the proposition would lead to DNA collecting for



certain misdemeanor property crimes.

The increase in jail population would have an estimated fiscal impact in the tens of millions of dollars a year, both at the state and local levels. There would also be an increase in court-related costs in the millions, annually, as well as millions in costs for collecting DNA samples.

The measure is supported by Assemblyman Jim Cooper and several law enforcement agencies in California and is openly opposed by former Gov. Jerry Brown, as well as organizations such as the ACLU and Black Lives Matter Los Angeles.

Yes: Categorizes additional crimes as felonies and restricts early parole, similar to pre-2011.

No: Keeps the current system as is.

Proposition 21: Expands Local Governments’ Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property.

Prop. 21 seeks to decrease the landlord’s power over rent and allow local governments to enact rent control. The initiative would replace the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, which exempted certain residential units from rent control ordinances, giving landlords the power to set the rental rates.

A similar rent control proposition (Prop. 10) was rejected in 2018, that would have given full rent control to local governments. Prop. 20 would only enact rent control on properties over 15 years old and exempts people who own more than two homes.

Passing the proposition could lead to a reduction in state and local revenue by tens of millions of dollars per year over time.

The campaign is sponsored by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and supported by the Democratic Party, although Gov. Gavin Newsom is opposed to the proposition, as is the Republican Party.

Yes: Allows local government to enact rent control for properties over 15 years old.

No: Landlords keep their current abilities to name rental rates.

Proposition 22: Exempts App-Based Transportation and Delivery Companies from Providing Employee Benefits to Certain Drivers.

Prop. 22 seeks to keep application-based drivers classified as “independent contractors” instead of “employees.”

In 2019, California passed Assembly Bill 5, which created three factors in deciding whether

third party drivers should be classified as independent contractors or not. The bill led companies such as Uber and Lyft to a legal battle where they were deemed to be misclassifying employees. The 2019 bill would require the app companies to treat its drivers as employees, measuring their hours, providing health benefits and providing occupational insurance.

The proposition is being funded by Lyft, Uber and DoorDash, each putting \$30 million into the initiative. The Democratic Party opposes it, including Senator Kamala Harris and presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Yes: Would keep the status quo for app delivery drivers, where they get paid as independent contractors and manage their own work rate.

No: Would make the app companies comply with AB 5 and classify their drivers as employees.

Proposition 23: Establishes State Requirements for Kidney Dialysis Clinics. Requires On-Site Medical Professional.

Prop. 23 would require at least one licensed physician on-site during treatment at outpatient kidney dialysis clinics. It would also require clinics to report dialysis-related infection data to state and federal governments, prohibit clinics from closing or reducing services without state approval and would prohibit clinics from refusing to treat patients based on the source of payment for care.

The measure is supported by the Democratic Party and opposed by the Republican Party, as well as the two leading dialysis companies, DaVita Inc. and Fresenius Medical Care. The dialysis companies argue that the proposition would lead to the closure of centers and services, although in the language of the initiative, it is written that a center cannot close without state approval.

The fiscal impact on state and local governments is estimated to be tens of millions of dollars annually.

Yes: Requires dialysis centers to have a licensed physician on site, report infection data and prohibits reduced services, or closure of clinics without state approval.

No: Opposes the above requirements on dialysis centers.

Proposition 24: Amends Consumer Privacy Laws.

Prop. 24 seeks to expand and/or amend the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 and

not allow businesses to correct violations before being fined. As with 2018’s CCPA, businesses would not be allowed to share a consumer’s personal information and must provide consumers with an opt-out option for having their sensitive personal information used or disclosed for advertising or marketing.

The proposition is supported by former presidential candidate Andrew Yang, the California NAACP and the Consumer Watchdog organization. It is opposed by the Green, Libertarian and Republican parties, as well as notable organizations such as ACLU of California, the California Small Business Association, Black Lives Matter and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, believing that the proposition would still allow social media platforms and big tech companies to misuse personal information.

An estimated increase in state costs of at least \$10 million annually are expected for the state to oversee and enforce consumer privacy laws.

Yes: Keeps businesses from sharing personal consumer data and allows businesses to be penalized for the violating privacy laws.

No: Allows businesses to amend privacy violations before being penalized and continue to share consumer demographic data.

Proposition 25: Referendum on Law that Replaced Money Bail with System Based on Public Safety and Flight Risk

Prop. 25 seeks to uphold Gov. Brown’s 2018 Senate Bill 10, which was meant to eliminate cash bail in California before trial, with “risk assessment.” The risk assessment for SB 10 would require superior courts to determine if a suspect is a “low risk, medium risk or high risk” to fail to appear in court, or be a risk to the public.

The proposition is supported by the California Democratic Party, and is opposed by both the Republican Party of California and the Orange County Board of Supervisors. It is also opposed by BLM-LA, saying, “If passed, it will end cash bail and subject defendants to racial profiling by replacing it with racist/classist ‘risk assessments’ algorithms to imprison defendant before trial.”

Passing the proposition would have an annual state and local fiscal impact of hundreds of millions to release people before trial.

Yes: Approves AB 10’s bail elimination and creates a risk assessment process.

No: Rejects AB 10.

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WHO'S FOR PROP 16?

Los Angeles Times



SENATOR
KAMALA HARRIS



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WHO'S AGAINST PROP 16?

THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR (and current Trump supporter) PETE WILSON¹

Anti-civil rights activist GAIL HERIOT, supported by MITCH MCCONNELL²

Anti-civil rights activist WARD CONNERLY, who has said that Latinos "want to see affirmative action policies remain so they can take advantage of them," and that the UC system is admitting unqualified Latinos "using race through the back door."³

Which side will you be on?
Vote YES on Proposition 16 by November 3!

Ad paid for by Yes on 16, Opportunity for All Coalition, sponsored by civil rights organizations.
Committee major funding from
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Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and the Hospitals
Patricia Quillin
Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov

voteyesonprop16.org

1. Source: "Pete Wilson endorses Trump, says president has very good judgment." Politico, October 1, 2020. <https://www.politico.com/states/california/story/2020/10/01/pete-wilson-endorses-trump-says-president-has-very-good-judgment-1319581>
2. Source: The American Conservative Union. <http://acuofoundation.conservative.org/policy-fellows/gail-heriot/>
3. Source: "California Battles over Racial Identification." The Washington Post, September 13, 2003. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2003/09/13/california-battles-over-racial-identification/153f5519-e3a0-4e0b-95dd-0a3b902f65ee/>

COUNTING ON WOMEN

How a Latina Women's March Organizer is Mobilizing Voters Online

BY LINA LECARO

A Q&A with Emi Guereca, founder of Women's March Action – a group using phones and computers to educate and inspire women voters.

Earlier this month, one of the largest digital voter events on record – in alignment with a special Women's March on Washington in the streets to protest against the hasty filling of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Supreme Court seat – took place. It was just one of many mobilization events moved online in the wake of the coronavirus. While the impact that these kinds of drives will have on the election remains to be seen, they serve an important function regardless – bringing women of all colors and backgrounds together in opposition to the current administration and its discriminatory policies. Under the banner hashtag #CountOnUs, Women's March and the offshoot Women's March Action group have mobilized thousands of volunteers to send well over 3.5 million texts across the country to registered women voters.

After helping organize the L.A. Women's March in 2016 in the wake of Trump's election, Emiliana Guereca felt a responsibility to continue the fight, so she spearheaded the online efforts by founding Women's March Action. A first generation Latina immigrant, born in Chicago and based in Los Angeles, Guereca was the first person in her family to vote and go to college, going on to become a successful businesswoman while seeking to help marginalized communities.

Taking to phones and computers, her Action group's volunteers are seeking to reach women in key battleground states, helping them make early voting plans, educating them on the rules, and deadlines. We spoke with Guereca about her motivations, experiences and vision for bringing women together to make their voices heard during what is clearly one of the most contentious elections in U.S. history.

L.A. WEEKLY: Beyond the obvious, why is the women's vote so important, and what does our participation, or lack thereof, say about our cultural perspective and priorities?

EMI GUERECA: The history of women voting is really the history of our democracy, it's the story of people who were excluded for generations fighting back and building power to have our say. Many marginalized communities have had to fight for their right to vote, and continue to fight today as voter suppression still keeps millions of people from making their voices heard, because of their race or class. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th

Amendment, it's only fitting that women are on course to make up the biggest voting block in the 2020 elections. Despite being excluded for so long, women have actually voted at higher rates in every presidential election since 1964, according to data from the U.S. Census. Women will decide the next president – which means women's issues are at the forefront of this election.

Women's March was an amazing event that really made a statement about our power to mobilize, but many women of color took issue with some of the ways it evolved over the years, in terms of women of color (and non-binary people as well) not being heard, or not being involved as overtly as white cis gender women. Add to this, the feeling that white female votes helped Trump win, and the division that's been sowed isn't surprising. As a Latina who was part of the movement early on, what are your thoughts on this and how can we address the problem?

That narrative of division is really not my experience as a Latina immigrant organizer in the Women's March movement. I work with women from all communities and we're building a multiracial and multigenerational movement. The original Women's March after Trump's election was the largest single-day protest in U.S. history, and each year the Women's March has become more diverse and reflected the leadership and vision of more women of color. Together we are working to elect leaders who will fight for the rights of all women. With that said, organizing is *not* easy – however, we will continue to organize because if we are not at the table or in the room where decisions are made then WE are on the menu.

Voter suppression and misinformation have been rampant. How do you restore faith in the system, and educate the public here in L.A. and across the country?

We focus on empowering voters to cast their ballot no matter what voter suppression tactics are thrown against us, because exercising our rights to vote is the *only* way we can protect it. Our voter contact volunteers have been texting



Emi Guereca.
Photo courtesy of
Women's March Action

millions of voters in swing states to help them make a plan to vote early. They're equipped with the rules and deadlines in each state, resources to find polling places and drop-off locations, and tips to help voters avoid common mistakes that can prevent them from voting.

Women's March Action has a goal of reaching 10 million voters. Tell me about the group's plans to mobilize voters and the challenges due to Covid-19.

Covid-19 has made traditional voter contact more dangerous, and we all have so much more on our minds as we struggle to care for our families amid so much uncertainty. We've had to pivot our mobilization efforts to focus on digital engagement, primarily texting – it's an every-tool-in-the-shed approach so we have done phone banks and postcard campaigns, but we've found that texting is accessible to the most volunteers and has the widest reach. We've also had to pivot in terms of how we care for our community and each other. So we've held Zoom happy hours, community care events, and keep a Slack channel for volunteers to connect in their off hours. Those kinds of digital community spaces have become vital ways to fight against the isolation of quarantine and keep building community.

We knew Trump was a threat back in 2016 and we marched to say so. ... Four years later our worst fears have come to fruition. What are your fears if he is re-elected and what is the plan in terms of actions if he is?

The nightmare of the Trump administration is this country's daily reality, and has been for four years. From children and families separated within cages, to forced sterilization without informed consent, to the Covid-19 pandemic sweeping through the country – and then dishonesty spewed through every news source – it is self-evident that our fears are a reality. We filed an official protest with the UN for Crimes Against Humanity when that was revealed. Once we open our eyes to crimes against humanity being committed against women on our soil, we don't need to imagine what might come next, it's already here. We will fight against the crimes of Trump and his administration any and every way we can, as long as they stay in power. If Trump is re-elected, expect the country to take to the streets, on a daily basis in November. We don't believe he will be re-elected, as such, we are scheduled for a January 23rd March, *across the globe.*



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JELLO BIAFRA WANTS YOU!

Nobody Escapes the Former Dead Kennedys Man's Wrath

BY BRETT CALWOOD



When considering who to feature in the music section of the issue the week of the election, former Dead Kennedys man Jello Biafra seemed like an obvious choice. From the very start of his celebrated career, the man has never been short of a word about current affairs. Incisive and insightful, you might not always agree with every single thing he says, but he is at least always worth listening to.

He's currently in the midst of dropping a string of singles/music videos which built up to the release of *Tea Party Revenge Porn*, the new album from his Guantanamo School of Medicine project. Typically incendiary, Biafra is understandably insistent that we study the lyrics in written form rather than just listen to the songs and soak them in that way. A Biafra song can be like a Monty Python movie – there are subtle but brilliant lines that you might not catch onto on first listen. This being an election year, he wants to make sure that everyone's paying attention.

"We wipe out your jobs; Blame the immigrants too; Shot through the back; For breathing while

black; Make racism great again," he sings on the wonderfully titled "Satan's Comover." So despite the fact that the COVID lockdown has made it harder to produce physical copies right now, Biafra didn't want to delay. We need to hear this now, so the album is being released in electronic format prior to the election.

"I felt with times being what they are, they're staging a so-called election and what not, I really want to get a lot of this stuff out now," Biafra tells us by phone. "I do think it came out pretty well overall too. I'm just not one of these people who tries to recapture my past or do formula old man punk, safe for older punk people my age. It's designed to tear your head off and then out comes your mind and hopefully your body too."

An interview with Biafra is different from any other. Yes, the guy can talk – anybody who has listened to his podcast or standup can tell you that.

But the thing is, no words are wasted. He considers everything carefully, and asks questions while answering others. It's maybe a little surprising that the album preceding this one, *White People and the Damage Done*, came out a full seven years ago given his desire to get word out.

"White People... was an anti-austerity concept album," he says. "I don't usually do concept albums – the Dead Kennedys' *Frankenchrist* was an accidental concept album because when I saw HR Giger's infamous painting which wound up inside it on the poster, great art makes your brain spin. I realized this was Reagan America on parade. I hadn't done all the vocals yet so I could tweak a word here and there, and connect the songs. *White People...* was a little more planned out but also influenced by circumstances. You can guess what movement 'Shockupy' was celebrating."

Yeah, Biafra is unsurprisingly no fan of Trump – keen to point out that he stole the 2016 election, not just because of the electoral college but also because of the Interstate Crosscheck Project detailed by journalist Greg Palast.

"Twenty-nine states opted in and gave their entire database of voters to one of the really powerful and scary Tea Party fascists behind the scenes – a guy named Kris Kobach from Kansas," Biafra says. "He put all those 29 states' voters together and set his program loose to flag any matching names which would mean they obviously voted twice. They claimed they flagged social security numbers and middle names, but he found a way in there and found they weren't doing that at all. His program was skewed to eliminate people with names like Washington and many others, who were mainly African-American. If your name is Jose Martinez, all 5,000 of you didn't vote."

But don't make the mistake of thinking that Biafra swears blind allegiance to Democratic politicians either. He's very critical, for example, of Gavin Newsom's record on the homeless, and he defines the likes of Dianna Feinstein, "Newscum," Nancy Pelosi and Kamala Harris as a "heavy handed corporate machine." Meanwhile, he says that Joe Biden is a very corporate animal and "not your friend." When we ask him if he's a lesser of two evils sort of guy regarding Biden, he says, "absolutely not."

"Luckily, I'm not in one of the swing states," he says. "If I was back in Colorado where I'm from, I might seriously find myself holding my nose and voting for Biden. In California, we continue to have the luxury of voting with our conscience. I would rather vote for something I want and not get it than vote for something I don't want and get it. I might go Green Party again."

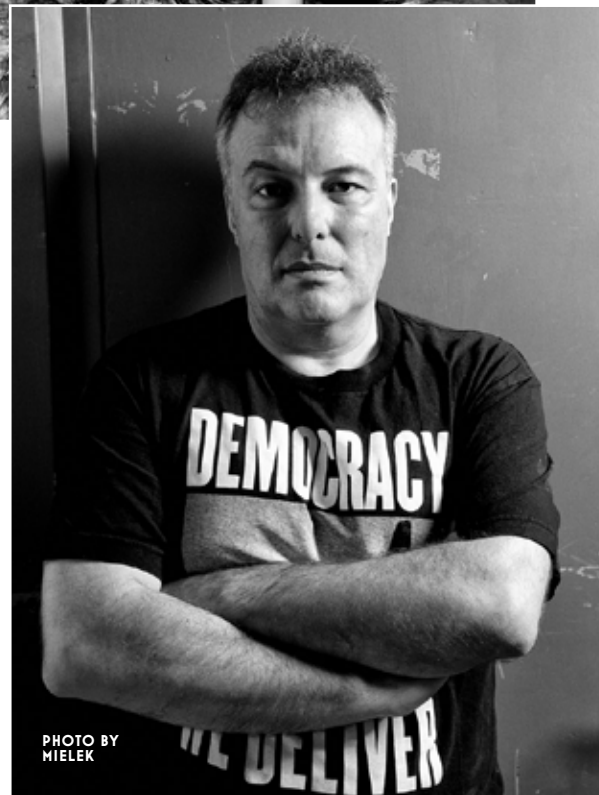
So there's obviously plenty of criticism on *Tea Party Revenge Porn*, notably on the title track, "Taliban USA" and "We Created Putin." Elsewhere, Biafra tells us to hold a mirror up to ourselves. "No More Selfies," for example, is self-explanatory.

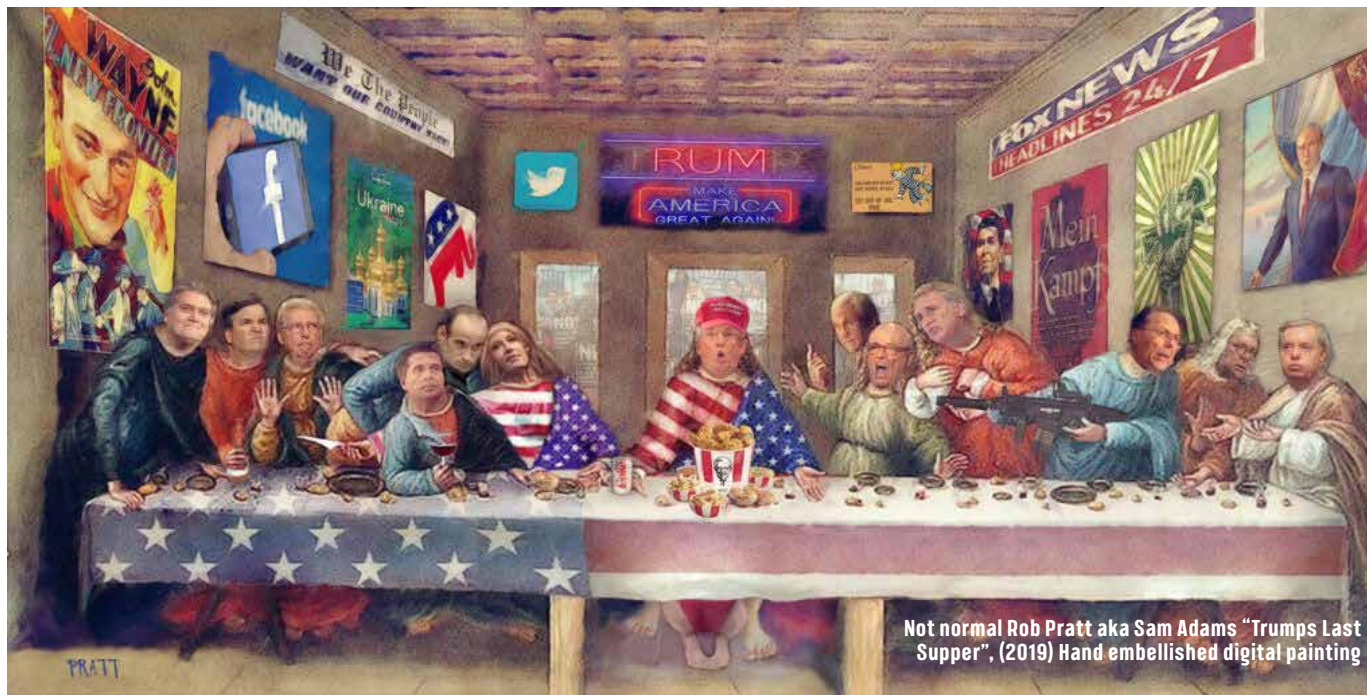
"People lose all sense of borders or how they would normally treat human beings," Biafra says. "I've had people yank on me with both hands when I'm trying to go on stage when the band is already playing. There's been several incidents including one in Pomona when somebody has jumped on stage right in the middle of the show and demand we stop so they can get their selfie with me. Several cases, including at the Hoedown in Long Beach, where somebody wanted to fight me because I wouldn't drop what I was doing just to do a selfie. This is how bad this has gotten."

And then there's "People With Too Much Time on Their Hands," about the bullshit that fills the internet and our propensity to believe it. "I died again today; Internet says; Rumors, they start to snowball; With gruesome details," he sings.

Ultimately, *Tea Party Revenge Porn* is exactly the album one would expect Biafra to make in these turbulent times, and more. He bashes Trump, but also everyone else including us, the public, for putting up with this shit. It's always been the Jello way to question everything and demand more from our elected officials, and that remains the case today.

Jello Biafra & the Guantanamo School of Medicine's *Tea Party Revenge Porn* is out now.





Not normal Rob Pratt aka Sam Adams "Trumps Last Supper", (2019) Hand embellished digital painting

FROM BILLBOARDS TO POSTCARDS: ART OF GETTING OUT THE VOTE

Creative campaigns make a final push for ballot turnout

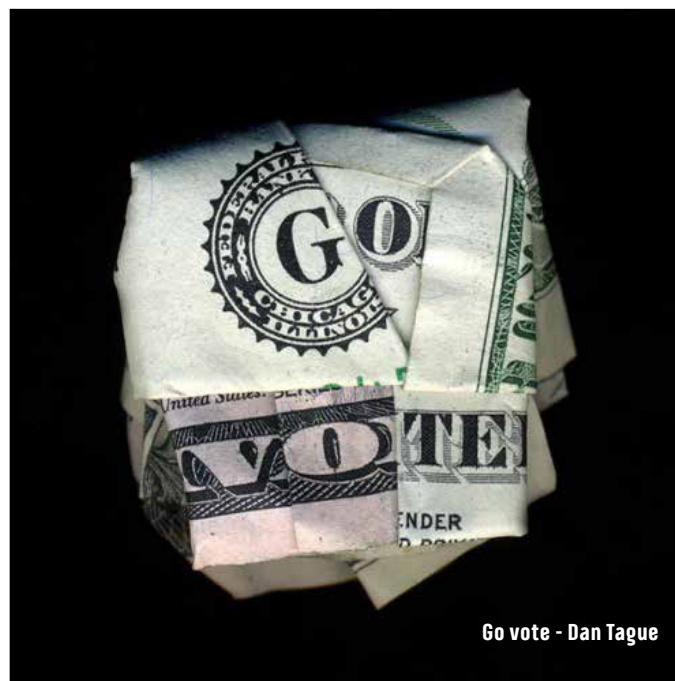
BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

On the dual theory that higher turnout makes for a healthier democracy in general and benefits progressive policies in particular, a panoply of arts-centric initiatives have been working overtime to inspire folks to make their voices heard in this epic election cycle. From hand-made postcards to nationwide billboard deployments, issues-based books and print editions, and downloadable activist art resources, here are a few of the most interesting and eclectic efforts out there. And in case you haven't heard, early voting is now in full effect in California – by mail, dropbox, and in-person centers. Let's get this done.

Orange Barrel Media's #ArtforAction nationwide digital billboard campaign. This nationwide public art initiative and voter awareness campaign features artists Jenny Holzer, Carrie Mae Weems, Jeffrey Gibson, Tomashi Jackson, and more, and runs on some 350 digital screens in 16 cities on IKE Smart City kiosks. In partnership with artists and the Wexner Center for the Arts, Art for Action includes voter resources, links, and individual state-specific registration and voting deadlines in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta, Denver, Cleveland, Charlotte, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, San Antonio, Kansas City, Columbus, Tempe, Norfolk, and Coral Gables.

TRANS> These Times artists stamp project. Organized by the non-profit organization TRANS>, the project is a printed and digital project with contributions by 50 artists and institutions across

Spain, Portugal, Ibero-America, and the U.S. and includes artworks by Héctor Zamora, Laura Lima, Beatriz Milhazes, Ernesto Neto, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and more. Acting as "a tribute and gesture of



Go vote - Dan Tague



Plan your vote Laurie Simmons

love, grief, and solidarity for the lives lost to COVID-19," the stamps are marked with a symbolic currency of love. The project began during the pandemic, but also stresses the urgency of voting and creating grassroots structures for political response within the art world.

The PlanYourVote.org commissioned and crowd-sourced artist portfolio. A 2020 visual arts initiative from Vote.org that harnesses the power of art to promote and encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote. This ever-growing public library of voting advocacy artworks is available to anyone to download and post. **The GoVote.org artists portfolio.** Hundreds of artists have come together to make original art to encourage voter turnout through grassroots and social media channels. The more intimate but no less powerful **The Last Draw activist print series** offers up downloadable graphics to enliven lawn signs and inspire community electoral action.

The new book project, Not Normal: Art in the Age of Trump. A powerful and frequently unsettling collective archive organized by curator Karen Gutfreund, the book interprets the presidential lowlights of the last four years across contributions from scores of artists whose eclectic mediums and styles share one thing – a sense of urgency to reverse this destructive course on which our democracy has been set. This unequivocal protest against the malfeasances of the Trump administration features nearly 150 artists and more than 350 original works.

Mark Mothersbaugh & Beatie Wolfe's Postcards for Democracy. This idea is a collective demonstration to support the 225-year-old U.S. Postal Service and the right to vote, especially in light of the threat to the mail service coming at a time that could jeopardize democracy itself. How to Join: Buy stamps or USPS postcards. Make a card. Mail it to Mark at 8760 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA 90069 (and post to social using #postcardsfordemocracy). The cards will become part of an eventual IRL and digital gallery installation as a testament to these times.

U.S. CANNABIS TAX REVENUE POISED TO BREAK \$2 BILLION WITH ELECTION SWEEP

If cannabis continues to ride the energy of past election nights, the U.S. market will be generating more than \$2 Billion in taxes annually in the near future.

BY JIMI DEVINE



On the eve of another huge election for cannabis, the experts at the Tax Foundation talked with *L.A. Weekly* about their look at the potential value of each new cannabis market to state coffers.

Ulrik Boesen is a senior policy analyst with the Center for State Tax Policy at the Tax Foundation. He recently highlighted his continued concerns over states relying on excise tax models for cannabis while taking a look at the potential tax for each state with legal cannabis sales on the ballot.

Boesen argues while there are legitimate reasons for levying excise taxes on marijuana, legislatures and voters should proceed with caution.

“Due to their narrow base, excise taxes are not a sustainable source of revenue for general spending priorities. That is not to say that there is no new revenue available to states that choose to legalize. Beyond the general sales tax, legal marijuana businesses would also pay business taxes, and employees would pay personal income taxes,” Boesen said in his analysis. “Revenue from these broad-based taxes, combined with a potential saving as illicit operations decline, does represent general fund revenue. Expecting a large and sustained boost from marijuana-specific taxes, however, is shortsighted and represents poor tax policy.”

Even for an expert like him, it can actually be tricky to follow all the dollars cannabis is providing to state economies. Boesen said when he looked at these cannabis tax numbers he wasn't always sure of the exact makeup.

“I looked at Washington state recently and I

couldn't tell if the cannabis number was sales and excise and gross receipts taxes, and you know income taxes from people who work in the dispensaries and property taxes from the dispensaries in corporate income tax from just measures if that was all included there or if it was some of them,” Boesen told *L.A. Weekly*.

Boesen said Washington state and California are outliers from generally reasonable tax rates in the other states where markets are developing.

“California is very high when you add up all the different jurisdictions' taxes. They'll have local taxes on the laboratory, local taxes on the cultivator, local taxes on the processor, local taxes on the realtor, and then their state tax on top. So they can easily jump above a 50 percent effective tax rate,” Boesen said. “Then we're talking really high taxes, but most of the other states are closer to 20, 25 percent effective tax rates of what the consumer is paying and that doesn't seem crazy to me.”

Boesen called Washington the best model despite it being just under California when it comes to how high rates are. He believes the reason Washington is able to be successful with that rate is the looser regulations making the market more accessible.

As for the markets that will vote on Election Night 2020, the Tax Foundation released their expectations for how much each state voting would collect in Fiscal 2025 when the markets mature. Arizona's Prop. 207 is expected to generate \$166.3 million, Montana's I-190 would generate \$38.5 million and South Dakota's amendment would generate \$29.3 million. New Jersey hasn't set a tax rate to go with Question 1 yet, but it would be in addition to the state sales tax that will be applied.

How much is the industry worth in each state? Here are some tax numbers from past years and predictions for new markets.

California

California collected \$636 million last year, a big jump from \$397 million in 2018.

Colorado

It's a record year in Colorado. While the \$302 million the state made last year was great, through August Colorado had collected \$244 million in revenue from taxes and fees.

Washington

Fiscal 2019 saw Washington make \$395.5 million in total cannabis revenue.

Oregon

One of the nation's oldest legal markets, Oregon collected a total \$102 million in fiscal 2019.

Michigan

Michigan only started recreational sales last December. There are a couple schools of thought on the value of the market to state coffers once the market matures. While the state only brought in around \$107,000 in the first week of sales, the state expected to see about \$95 million in taxes in 2020 as the market launched. A recent report by Michigan State University and Department of Agriculture dropped in March projecting \$495.7 million in revenue.

\$298.6 million is from excise taxes and the other \$197.1 million is sales tax as the market matures.

Nevada

Nevada made \$105 Million in fiscal 2020

Illinois

The Illinois Department of Revenue announced in mid-October the state has collected over \$100 million in tax revenue from the industry. With the holidays are yet to hit, it's fair to estimate the market bringing in \$120 million by the end of the year.

Alaska

Alaska is another developing market. It's expected to bring in \$27.2 million for the whole year.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20BBC00257 PETITION OF William Michael Duffy FOR CHANGE OF NAME To All Interested Persons: 1. Petitioner: William Michael Duffy filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: William Michael Duffy to proposed name: Michael Moreno Duffy 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show

cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 11/20/2020 Time: 8:30am Dept: B The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, BURBANK COURTHOUSE 300 East Olive Burbank, CA 91502 MAILING ADDRESS: SAME. 3. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA Weekly. Date: 08/17/20. Darrell Mavis Judge of the superior court.

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