

**CALIFORNIA STATE
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS 2020**

**FAITH
VOTES**
FOR LOVE AND JUSTICE



VOTER GUIDE

For Faith And Spiritual Communities Concerned About Racial Justice in California



PICO California
Unlocking the Power of People™

Published by PICO CA Action Fund, whose mission is to help build a world where everyone belongs, everyone thrives, and has agency over their lives.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

We all want a California where our families and neighbors are healthy, safe, and thriving. Yet together, we are traveling through a harrowing time full of uncertainty, fear, and pain. Blood and tears are being shed over the questions: **"Who matters?" "Who belongs?" "How shall we live?"**

Our calling in this chapter of the American story is clear: assert a **bold vision** for California and the country that reckons with its past, reconciles and erases the gap between the richest and the poorest, and **elevates the dignity** of those who have been historically excluded by our policies to ensure that – regardless of our skin color, where we come from or how much we have in our wallets – we all share in the beauty of what is the best of the American dream; a dream in need of being re-imagined, re-articulated, and re-applied to include all those who reside on this holy ground.

We believe, along with our beloved late congressman John Lewis, that **we have a spiritual destiny as a nation, that politics and legislation are a means to a spiritual end, and that end is the building of the beloved community. Our fuel is love.**

The promise of this November's election, especially in California, is that we have the opportunity to leverage this moment to open more hearts and widen the circle of human concern. In particular, this is a unique moment to assert that Black lives matter not just in rhetoric, but that Black lives matter **ENOUGH** to VOTE for Black life this November. When we fight for Black lives, we begin to make a better California – and country – that includes all of us.

THIS GUIDE

So, together over these next few weeks, leading to November 3rd, we can take big steps in the direction of eradicating white supremacy so that our communities, and our world, become more human dwelling places.

1. Get informed about the racial justice statewide propositions
2. Share with friends, family, congregations, and other love and justice voters
3. Use the moral values that underpin each proposition to preach and teach, start discussion groups

Get involved and **PLEDGE** to support the Faith Votes platform for Love and Justice.

HOW TO USE

Our Recommendations for the Ballot



Will bring \$12 Billion to schools and local communities each year by closing a corporate property tax loophole, maintaining homeowner, agricultural, and small business protections. Love and justice organizations have been working on this initiative for over 5 years and it represents a key pillar for a racial justice agenda because it will begin to rectify over 40 years of disinvestment in communities of color in California.

Love and justice seeks to dismantle the school to prison pipeline and the current two-tiered racially based education system in our state. We can vote for Schools & Communities First and end the racist legacy of Prop 13's enabling of the hoarding of so much wealth in the hands of so few wealthy corporate landowners. This is a time of reckoning when the chains of injustice that shackle people rattle in the light of day and expose our segregated and under-resourced schools. This system is rooted in the same white supremacist ideology that brutalizes, incarcerates, and murders our Black and Brown families.



Will overturn a 25-year old restriction on affirmative action in California and ensure that Black residents, in particular, have access to educational and professional opportunities, addressing historic discrimination and exclusion from educational and economic opportunities. Will promote diversity (race, gender, national origin, etc.) in public institutions.

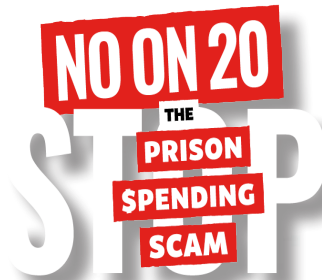
This is a moral opportunity to reestablish affirmative action in California. We do this because we see a nation which possesses the spiritual abundance to acknowledge and confess our racist history, and to repair that history with a narrative of a new American dream accessible to all - life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and dignity for all - and to reclaim that accessibility in public institutions.



Yes on 17 will restore the right to vote for the 50,000+ people who were convicted of a felony and are on parole. This initiative follows in the footsteps of a Florida initiative that was passed by voters in 2018 and is part of decriminalizing communities and restoring their democratic rights.

Yes on 18 will allow 17-year-old U.S. citizens to vote in a primary and special election as long as they will turn 18 by the subsequent general election.

We have the sacred obligation to expand voting rights and to lift up that fundamental truth that every life matters, every voice has something to say, and every vote counts.



Will overturn the criminal justice reforms, Props 47 and 57, that thousands of faith and spiritual leaders helped pass in 2014 and 2016, respectively. These reforms give adults who have committed nonviolent crimes a second chance, reduces our prison population, expands opportunity for parole and allows judges discretion for how to charge juveniles. Overturning these reforms would return people to prison and expand our prison system once again. Transforming the criminal justice system, which has over-incarcerated Black and Brown residents, is a central goal of our racial justice agenda.

We can vote to defend Propositions 47 and the hard-won progress we've made to dismantle mass incarceration. We are determined, driven by our love and our hunger for a different world, to remove the knee of white supremacy resting on the neck of our Black and Brown family members, as it corrupts the conscience and souls of those who seek to identify as white. We commit ourselves to the sacred act of emancipation, which demands that we do our part to end the unjust criminalization and incarceration of black and brown bodies.

YES ON 21

Will overturn a restriction in California that limits the ability of local governments to enact rent control. If passed, local governments could choose to expand existing or new rent control ordinances. This is not automatic, statewide rent control. Many communities across California have been working to prevent the displacement of low-income renters from our cities, and local tenant protections are a key way to do this.

The promise of California has not been fulfilled because we are not yet a state of belonging. Promises are broken and dreams deferred by the immoral and unjust raising of rents particularly on our most vulnerable. Housing is a sacred right and, in our state, that “right” is not protected.

YES ON 25

#ENDMONEYBAIL

Affirms a bill that was passed in 2018 that removed the cash bail system and the profiting from pre-trial detention. The bill expedites appeals, prohibits the requirement of payment of other defendant fees, and requires some data collection.

Love and justice demands that someone’s economic status should not determine whether they are held in jail until their hearing. Pretrial detention should only be based on whether the accused is likely to fail to appear in court or is a threat to public safety. Racial justice organizations are taking different positions on this proposition because of the discretion it leaves to judges. A **YES** vote is not the end of reforming the bail system but the beginning of deeper reforms that are needed and that Love and Justice voters are committed to.



Take ACTION!

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO GET INVOLVED!



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“THE PLEDGE FOR A BETTER CALIFORNIA”



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Faith Votes is a coalition of faith and spiritual leaders led by PICO California, California's largest faith-based community organizing network. We are people of faith and spiritual practice, whose north star is a moral vision that breathes life and love into our very bones, and that guides our sacred task of going to the polls and casting our vote for love and justice. We are animated by a narrative of inter-dependency and connectedness that speaks to the dream of a new social and economic order based on radical love and a hope that transforms us and our society for future generations.

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Communities First- Yes on 15, No on 20.

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