



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

March Ballot Measure:

What Does it Mean?

Vote 411:

How Does it Work?

March 5, 2024 Primary Election



League of Women Voters

Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy for over 100 years – Since February 1920

- The League is a nonpartisan political organization for women and men encouraging informed and active participation in government.
- We never support or oppose political parties or candidates
- We have two separate and distinct roles:
 - Voters Service/Public Education
 - Action/Advocacy



What are Pros & Cons?

Unbiased, Non-Partisan Explanation of State Ballot Measures.
Creates an understanding of:



The Issues



The Context



The Arguments For & Against

So you can make an informed decision

Basic Election Facts

- **Primary election: March 5**
- **Register by February 20th, No Party Preference Form due (tho may request at Vote Centers)**
- **Voter Information Guide online now**
- **Vote by mail ballots mailed beginning 2/5**
- **Primary sources of Information used for this talk:**
 - Online Voter Information Guide
 - League of Women Voters® Pros and Cons
 - Legislative Analyst's Office reports
 - Vote 411 resources

LWV-hosted Candidate Forums

Scheduled so far:

- **District 5 of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors** Wed, January 31, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Zoom
- **US Congress District 16** Sat, February 3, 4pm – 6pm
Zoom
- **CA Assembly District 23** Wed, February 7, 7pm – 8pm

To register, and if any are added, go here:

<https://www.lwvsjsc.org/candidate-forums>

Or, go to the LWV County Leagues (5 locals) here:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-clara-county/election-events-march-5-2024-election>

How to Evaluate Propositions & Measures

- Be careful and thoughtful. Initiative laws are hard to change. Is it good government?
- Does the measure deal with one issue that can easily be decided with a Yes or No vote or should this be examined in the legislative arena?
- Consider the fiscal effects: Create its own revenue? Earmark or obligate General Fund?
- Be wary of the ads, appeals to emotion, and unsupported claims.
- Check facts and claims – e.g. [FactCheck.org](https://factcheck.org)
- Identify who is funding campaigns.
- Vote your principles.

What State & Local Offices Are On the Ballot

- United States President (depending on your party preference)
- United States Senator, Full Term
- United States Senator, Partial/unexpired Term
- United States Representatives, Congressional Districts 16-19
- State Senate, Senatorial Districts 13,15
- State Assembly, Assembly Districts 23-26, 28, 29
- Party Central Committees
- Judge, Superior Court
- City of San Jose, Mayor
- City of San Jose, Councilmembers (Districts 2,4,6,8,10)

Prop 1 - Authorizes \$6.38 Billion in Bonds to Build Mental Health Treatment Facilities for Those with Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges; Provides Housing for the Homeless



Proposition 1.

Legislative Statute & Bond Measure

- **THE QUESTION:** Should a greater share of county Mental Health Services Act funding be used, and new bonds issued, to build treatment facilities and housing for people with mental illness and substance use disorders as well as housing for other homeless individuals?

THE SITUATION

- \$2.0-3.5 billion for mental health services from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), funded by 1% tax on millionaires.
- 95% of funds to counties with relative flexibility for use for mental health services and substance abuse treatment for those at risk for mental illness. May include outpatient, crisis prevention, wraparound services for those with greatest MH needs.
- Approx. 75,700 homeless suffer mental illness or substance disorders (44% of total homeless), and 10,400 are veterans.

PROPOSAL



*Authorize bonds of \$6.4 billion for: Treatment facilities (4.4B), Build/renovate housing for those with MI or substance abuse disorders(~1B), Permanent supportive housing for homeless or at-risk vets (~1B).

*Shift ~ \$140M from counties to state to use to increase number of MH workers, prevention activities.

*Divert ~1/3 of county funding from community-based treatment to housing, support services e.g. employment assistance, education.

ESTIMATED COST



*Counties receive ~\$140M less, use greater % for housing and support services, less for community-based treatment services.

*Bond pays for ~6800 treatment beds in new facilities, ~4350 housing units, half for homeless vets.

*~ \$310M annually to repay bond from General Fund over 30 years. Total cost: \$6.38B+several more billion depending on interest rate (<0.05% of GF)

*Local areas gain grants/loans for new facilities, would need to pay maintenance, operating costs.

SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS

- Proposition 1 bond will pay for needed housing for those chronically unhoused, including veterans and people with MH, behav. health challenges.
- Bond will pay for needed construction/ rehab of psychiatric, other facilities needed for treatment.
- Provides treatment over incarceration.

Prop 1 Supporters

Ballot Signers

- CA Prof. Firefighters
- Veteran Mentor Proj.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness CA
- CA Assn of Veteran Service Agencies
- CA Chamb. Commerce
- Orange Co. COPS

Top contributors

- Bldg & Constr Trades Council
- CA Correctional Peace Officers Assn
- Kaiser Foundation
- CA Assn Hosps & Health Systems
- SEIU Gen. Fund

Total Support \$9M, 469 contributions

1/17/24 update

OPPOSING ARGUMENTS



- Number of housing units would have minimal impact on reducing homelessness
- Allows forced treatment and locked facilities that are less effective and associated with higher suicide risk.
- By reducing funds for community and evidence-based treatment and changing required allocations, it limits local flexibility to respond to MH needs.

Prop 1 Opponents

Ballot Signers

- Mental Health America of CA
- CA Assn Mental Health Peer-Run Orgs
- Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance CA
- Senate Min. Leader Brian W. Jones
- Assymemb. Diane B. Dixon

Top contributors

No Contributions yet reported

City of Santa Clara

Measure A

Charter Amendment (Appointed City Clerk)

Majority Vote

- **The Question:** Shall an amendment to the City Charter providing that the City Clerk position be appointed by the City Manager be adopted?
- **Summary:** City Clerk now an elected position with 4-year term. Should this change to one appointed by the city manager?

City of Santa Clara

Measure B

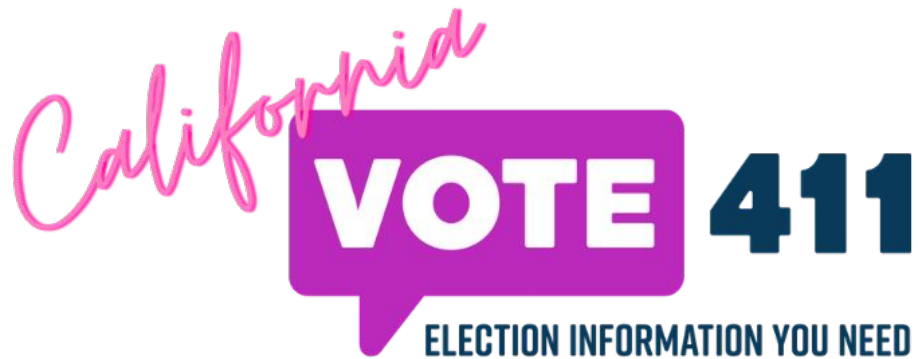
Charter Amendment (Appointed Chief of Police)

Majority Vote

- **The Question:** Shall an amendment to the City Charter providing that the Chief of Police position be appointed by the City Manager be adopted?
- **Summary:** Chief of Police now an elected position with 4-year term. Should this change to one appointed by the city manager?



Our New Go-To for Voting Info





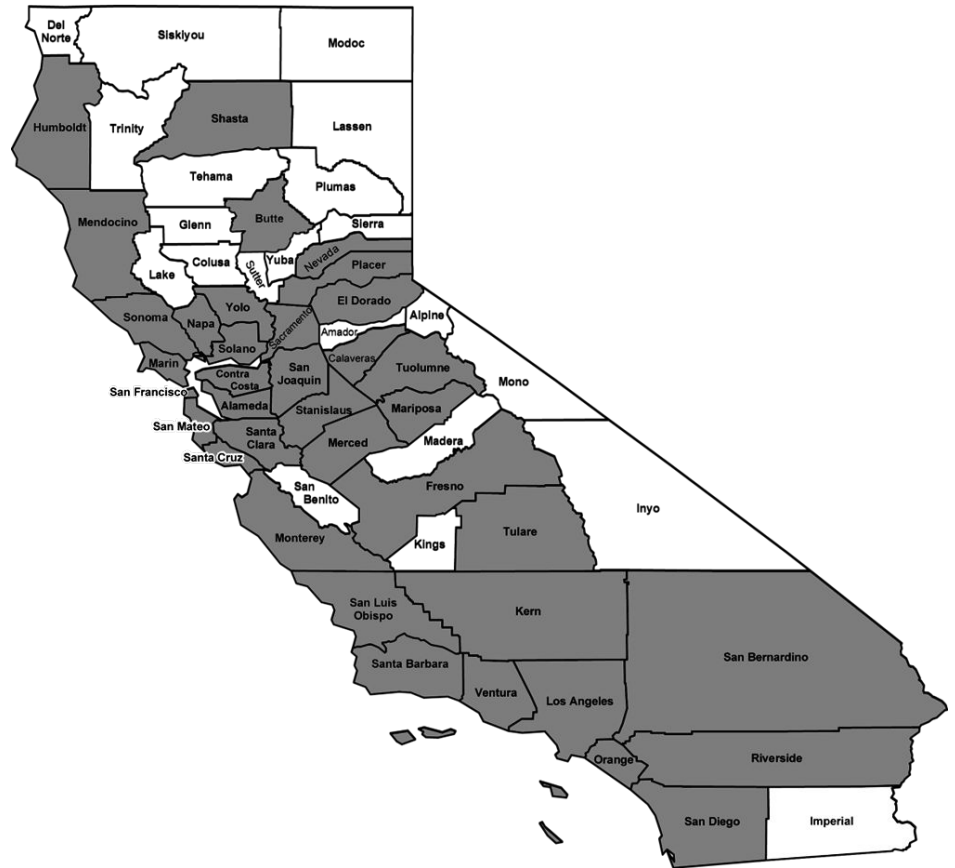
LWV new online ballot tool—one stop shop for election information

9-1-1 = Emergency Services

4-1-1 = Information

★ **VOTE411** includes local elections across the United States.

★ **In California, over 100 volunteers** are entering content and engaging with candidates.



≡ MENU

VOTE 411SM

English ▾

Register to Vote

Donate

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Brought to you by the League of
Women Voters Education Fund



Register to Vote



Check Your
Registration



Find What's on
Your Ballot








VOTE411.org

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO

Enter Your Address

 **HAVE YOUR CANDIDATES ANSWERED OUR QUESTIONS?** If not, see how you can help! [Find out](#) 

PERSONALIZED VOTING INFORMATION

-  See What's On Your Ballot
-  Check Your Voter Registration
-  Find Your Polling Place
-  Discover Upcoming Debates In Your Area
-  And Much More!

Enter Your Address to Get Started:



Submit

Find What's On Your Ballot – Races

<input type="radio"/>	United States Senator, Unfinished Short Term Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →
<input type="radio"/>	United States Senator, Full Term Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →
<input type="radio"/>	Proposition 1 – California – Mental Health Care and Addiction Treatment Reform & Bonds to Build Places for Treatment and Housing Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →
<input type="radio"/>	United States Representative, District 51 Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →
<input type="radio"/>	Member of the State Assembly, District 76 Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →
<input type="radio"/>	San Diego County Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 38 Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →
<input type="radio"/>	San Diego County Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 19 Please select a candidate(s)	View Race →

RACES

Details for Some Races & Measures

MEASURE DETAILS

Learn about each measure and its positions and decide which to vote for!



Race 3/12 ▾



REFERENDUM ⓘ

PROPOSITION 1 – CALIFORNIA – MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND ADDICTION TREATMENT REFORM & BONDS TO BUILD PLACES FOR TREATMENT AND HOUSING

About This Measure

OFFICIAL TITLE

PROPOSITION 1: Authorizes \$6.38 Billion in Bonds to Build Mental Health Treatment Facilities for Those With Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges; Provides Housing for the Homeless. Legislative Statute.

"Yes" votes needed to pass: 2/3

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**QUICK GUIDE** | [English PDF](#) |

*Put on the Ballot by the Legislature*

Amends Mental Health Services Act to provide additional behavioral health services. **Fiscal Impact:** Shift roughly \$140 million annually of

# Learn about Your Candidates for Offices



DEMOCRATIC

**Perry Pound**

☐ Compare Answers

My Choice



DEMOCRATIC

**Raji Rab**

☐ Compare Answers

My Choice



REPUBLICAN

**Jonathan  
Reiss**

☐ Compare Answers

My Choice

# Detail Example: Questions We Ask U.S. Representatives

(Showing questions we ask of US Reps.)

**If elected, what are your top 3 priorities?**

The candidate has not yet responded.

**What background, experience and/or education qualify you for this office? (You may use your candidate statement here if desired.)**

The candidate has not yet responded.

**What, if anything, would you do to protect our country's democracy and to improve and secure elections and voting access across the country?**

The candidate has not yet responded.

**What, if any, steps would you take to curb gun violence in our country?**

The candidate has not yet responded.

**Please list endorsements for your candidacy here.**

The candidate has not yet responded.



Edit Voting Settings



Edit Comparison Selections

Skip Race

# Thanks

Thank you for your interest in informed democracy and for your attendance. Please make sure you are correctly registered and **VOTE**. Your vote counts.



# Appendix

From the [LAO analysis](#):

- Changes to Mental Health Services Act
  - ~5% of MHSA funding (\$100-\$175M annually) moves from counties to state
  - Counties would be required to spend more on housing, employment assistance, and education
  - Counties could use MHSA money on treatment for drugs and alcohol for people without a mental illness, which they currently cannot
- \$6.4B bond
  - \$4.4 billion to the state program that builds more places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment (MHC/DAT).
    - The state estimates that the bond would build places for 6,800 people to receive MHC/DAT (Tom's calculation: \$647K per place)
    - The LAO states that at least 10K people per day can't get MHC/DAT -- they have to wait or receive care at not the right type of place
    - The state budget recently included about \$2 billion to build more places for MHC/DAT. This will address less than half of the shortage
  - \$2 billion to the state program that gives money to local governments to turn hotels, motels, and other buildings into housing and construct new housing.
    - The state estimates the bond would build up to 4,350 housing units, with 2,350 set aside for veterans. (Tom's calculation: \$460K per housing unit)
    - As of January 2022, there were 171,500 people who were experiencing homelessness in California. Of this total, 10,400 were veterans.
    - The state has spent \$3.7B to turn hotels, motels, and other buildings into housing and construct new housing
  - \$310 Million Annually for 30 Years to Repay the Bond (<0.5% of general fund revenue)
  - County/tribal governments would have to pay for some of the costs to operate these places and housing.
- Other info

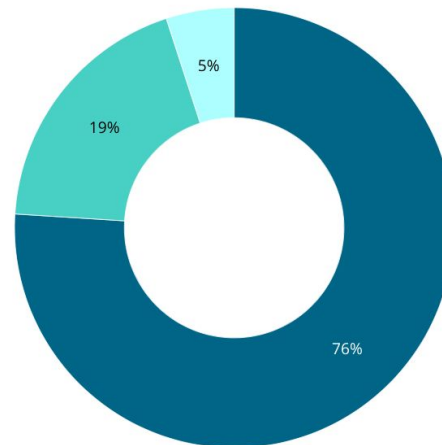
# Appendix

From [Understanding Proposition 1 - California Budget and Policy Center](#) :

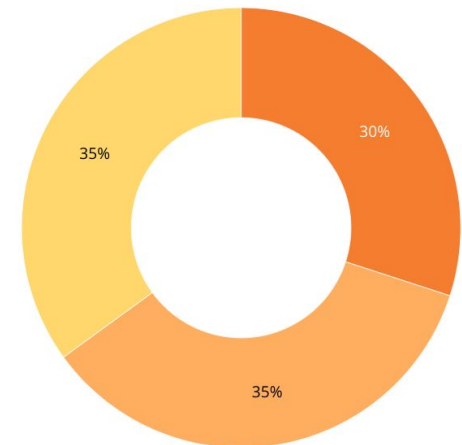
- The 2023 homelessness point-in-time count showed 25% of the 181,399 people experiencing homelessness in California had a severe mental illness and 24% had a substance use disorder. However, while there is likely overlap between these individuals, the full extent is not reported
- 5% MHSA funding from counties to state:
  - At least 3% to the Department of Health Care Access and Information to implement a statewide behavioral health workforce initiative.
  - At least 4% to the California Department of Public Health for population-based mental health and substance use disorder prevention programs.
- Short-term homeless (61%) ~110K
- Chronically homeless (39%) ~70K

## Prop. 1 Would Require Counties to Redirect About One Third of Mental Health Dollars to Housing Interventions

Community Services and Supports   Prevention and Early Intervention   Innovation   Housing Interventions   Full Service Partnerships  
Behavioral Health Services and Supports



County Allocation of Mental Health Services Act Dollars (Currently)



County Allocation of Behavioral Health Services Act Dollars (Prop. 1)

# Appendix

For information about donors and contribution totals for this election

- Use Searchlight for individual donation lists and grand totals :  
<https://powersearch.sos.ca.gov/advanced.php>.
- Use Fair Political Practices Commission for top contributors (grouped under their organizations):  
<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors/mar-24-primary.html>. If there are top individual donors under these organizations, they too are listed.