

Mobilize the Immigrant Vote 2005 Campaign & The California Partnership (CAP)

OUR VOTE =

VOTER GUIDE

OUR VOICE

**OUR VOTE = OUR
VOICE!**



**NOVEMBER
8, 2005**

Use your vote to support ballot issues that address the most important needs of immigrants and low-income families: quality education, living wage jobs, health care and public benefits, safe and affordable housing, protecting civil rights, creating fair and just immigration policies.

www.immigrantrights.org/miv2005

www.california-partnership.org

VOTE November 8th, 7 AM – 8 PM!

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MIV 2005 & CAP Voter Guide

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The issues on the ballot and the language of the propositions can be confusing. We wrote this guide to help make the issues clearer. We hope the information and recommendations in this guide will help you support the ballot issues that will benefit immigrant communities, and oppose those that threaten them.

HOW THIS GUIDE WAS DEVELOPED

Mobilize the Immigrant Vote 2005 (MIV 2005) and the California Partnership (CAP) brought immigrants and advocates together from the diverse communities around the state who have joined our campaign to help us decide which propositions would help our communities. Together, we decided to recommend a "YES" vote on those. Some of the propositions could harm immigrant and low-income communities. We recommend a "NO" vote on those. We did not take a position on all the propositions. For those without a recommendation from MIV 2005 & CAP, we are including information about the pros and cons to help you make an informed choice. We encourage you to discuss all the issues on the ballot with others in your community to arrive at your own voting decisions.

USE THIS GUIDE TO

- 👉 Learn about issues on the ballot this Election Day!
- 👉 Decide how to vote!
- 👉 Educate your community, your family and friends!

YOU CAN ALSO

- 👉 Make copies and distribute this guide at community events!
- 👉 Take this Guide with you to the polling place!

Mobilize the Immigrant Vote 2005 (MIV 2005) is a statewide campaign led by a collaborative of diverse organizations throughout California committed to supporting the full inclusion of immigrant communities in the political process.

MIV 2005 is coordinated by: The Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition (BAIRC), Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), The California Partnership (CAP), National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), Partnership for Immigrant Leadership and Action (PILA) and Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)

The California Partnership is a statewide coalition of community-based organizations that fights poverty in California. We work together for our common goals by organizing and advocating at the local, state and national levels for the programs and policies that reduce and end poverty.

For more information about the MIV campaign go to:

www.immigrantrights.org/miv2005/

www.immigrantrights.org/miv2005/ **www.california-partnership.org**

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VOTE November 8th, 7 AM – 8 PM!

Proposition 73

Requiring Parental Notification Prior to Terminating a Teen Pregnancy

If Prop. 73 passes, the California Constitution would be changed to require health care providers to notify the parents of young women under the age of 18 before providing abortion services. Once a parent has been notified, a mandatory waiting period of 48 hours is required before the doctor can provide an abortion. Only those teens faced with a medical emergency or those who obtain a "judicial bypass" would be exempt from the parental notification requirement.

Supporters of Prop. 73 say this would decrease the number of unwanted teen pregnancies, and abortions, by changing teen behavior. Parents have a right to know before their daughters terminate a pregnancy so they can offer guidance and counseling.

Supporters of Prop. 73 include the California Congress of Republicans, California ProLife Council, Life Perspectives, Americans United for Life

Opponents of Prop. 73 say this would threaten young women's health by delaying access to appropriate care. Young women who can't talk to their parents may perform abortions on themselves and could die in the process. Voters should not be able to make decisions about the health and safety of young women who are not able to vote for themselves.

Opponents of Prop. 73 include the California Medical Association, California Nurses Association, California Primary Care Association, Catholics for a Free Choice, League of Women Voters of California, Republican Majority for Choice, California Democratic Party.

MIV & CAP are not taking a position on Proposition 73.

Proposition 74

Attack on Teachers

If Prop. 74 passes, new public school teachers would have to wait five years instead of two to become tenured. Tenure means that a teacher cannot be fired except under extraordinary circumstances. Without tenure, a teacher is on probation, and has no right to have a hearing before he or she can be fired. Taking away their job security could make the best teachers leave California to work in other states. Prop. 74 unfairly blames teachers for the problems in our schools, without giving them the resources they need to work toward real solutions. If Prop. 74 passes, our children lose!

We recommend: NO ON 74

Proposition 75

Weakening Unions

Prop. 75 would require public employees (teachers, police officers, firefighters) to provide written approval to use their dues for political purposes. This measure does not restrict corporations; corporations do not ask their shareholders' permission to use their money for political purposes. Prop. 75 is unnecessary because workers already have the right to "opt out" of political contributions anytime they wish to do so. If it passes, this law would significantly weaken the union's power to fight back against big corporate interest.

We recommend: NO ON 75

Proposition 76

Super Powers for the Governor

If Prop. 76 passes, the Governor would gain the power to cut spending in any way he chooses if the state budget is delayed or if there is a budget shortage. This threatens the democratic process because it increases the Governor's power at the expense of our elected legislators who should represent us during budget negotiations. Prop. 76 would also limit state spending to the previous year's budget if the budget is not passed on time. This is expected to reduce state spending over time, and could hit human services that benefit low-income and immigrant communities especially hard. Prop. 76 also weakens current requirements that provide for minimum spending levels for education. This could mean as much as \$4 billion a year less spent on our schools, money that could be used to reduce class sizes, give students textbooks and materials, and provide quality teacher training.

We recommend: NO ON 76

Proposition 77

Redistricting

Legislative districts are geographical boundaries within a state that are represented by an elected legislator. To ensure equal representation, legislative districts must contain the same number of people. Redistricting is the redrawing of these boundaries to reflect changes in population. Currently, our elected representatives in the state legislature have the constitutional authority to redraw the boundaries every ten years, based on census figures. Prop. 77 would take that authority away from the elected legislature. Instead, a three-member panel of retired judges would be selected to adopt a new redistricting plan now, and again after each census. Prop. 77 does not hold anyone accountable because retired judges would be making the decisions, instead of the people elected by the voters. It may be difficult for a panel of only three judges to guarantee ethnic, racial, gender and class diversity. Like other initiatives on the ballot, Prop. 77 seeks to take power away from our elected legislature and put it in the hands of a few.

We recommend: NO ON 77

Proposition 78 & 79

Prescription Drug Discounts

Propositions 78 & 79 are about offering prescription drugs at discount prices.

If Prop. 78 passes, pharmaceutical companies would be allowed to VOLUNTEER to offer discount drugs to seniors and working poor, but the State of California would not be allowed to enforce the program. Prop. 78 could end at any time if there are too few participating manufacturers, or insufficient discounts, or too few participating consumers. This initiative seems like it would benefit the community but it really leaves the decision to corporations that don't have our interest in mind.

If Prop. 79 passes, it would be MANDATORY for drug companies to provide low-income residents with low-cost prescription drugs, or face being barred from selling drugs through the Medi-Cal program. Medi-Cal recipients may find that their access to the full range of prescription drugs in a timely manner would be limited. But, overall, Prop. 79 would benefit nearly twice as many Californians who would be eligible for discounts under Prop. 79, but not under Prop. 78. This includes low-income people without health insurance AND people with health insurance who spend a high percentage of their income on prescription drugs.

MIV recommends: NO ON 78 & YES ON 79

CAP is not taking a position on Propositions 78 & 79

Proposition 80

Keep the Lights On

In 1996, a new law let electricity providers operate without government regulation. This allowed companies like Enron to manipulate the market and create blackouts to drive up the prices. California families paid the price, while power companies pocketed the money. The current Governor's energy plan calls for more deregulation. Prop. 80 would stop that from happening. If Prop. 80 passes, it will help protect Californians from another energy crisis. Electricity providers would have to offer the best rate to consumers and keep enough energy in supply to prevent blackouts. Californians would have more control over their energy supply because companies would have to plan for the long term. Prop. 80 would also protect the environment by requiring electricity providers to get at least 20% of their supply from renewable energy resources – like wind and solar power – by 2010.

We recommend: YES ON 80

For More Information in Your Community, please contact:

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MIV 2005 & CAP

Take this with you to the polls!!!

VOTE!

PROP 74	Attack on Teachers	NO
PROP 75	Weakening Unions	NO
PROP 76	Super Powers for the Governor	NO
PROP 77	Redistricting	NO
PROP 78	Volunteer Prescription Drug Discounts	MIV: NO
PROP 79	Real Prescription Drug Discount	MIV: YES
PROP 80	Keep the Lights On	YES

MIV 2005 did not take a position on Prop 73.

CAP did not take a position on Props 73, 78 or 79.

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS!

- ☛ You do not have to show proof of citizenship to register or to vote.
- ☛ You may bring notes, your sample ballot or this voter guide with you into the polling booth.
- ☛ When you vote you may bring someone with you into the polling booth if you need help with reading, translation or any other assistance.
- ☛ You do not have to vote on everything.
- ☛ Do not feel rushed; ask for help if you need it.
- ☛ If you make a mistake, you have the right to request a replacement ballot.
- ☛ You do not have to show your ballot to anyone.
- ☛ You can still vote if you are in line at the polling place before the polls close at 8 p.m.
- ☛ If your name is not on the list at your polling place, or you cannot find your polling place on Election Day, you can still vote at any polling place in your county. Ask for a special "provisional" ballot.
- ☛ Voting materials may be available in your language. Ask at your polling place.

To report any problems at the polls, call 1-800-345-8683

www.immigrantrights.org/miv2005/ www.california-partnership.org

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