

Peace and Freedom on the 2004 Propositions:

Vote NO on Proposition 62: Stop the “No Choice” Initiative

Proposition 62 would eliminate choices for California voters. If this No Choice initiative passes with more votes than Proposition 60, November elections would only have two candidates, who would almost never be from Peace and Freedom or any other third parties. Just a Democrat and a Republican is No Choice. In some districts, it would even give us November elections with two Democrats or two Republicans.

The backers of the No Choice initiative want to narrow the political spectrum represented in California government, to go from Dianne Feinstein clones on the left to Richard Riordan clones on the right. If they had their way, only socially-moderate, pro-business centrists would have any voice in Sacramento, but not the working class. That's No Choice.

Vote YES on Proposition 66: Roll back “three strikes”

The current “three strikes” law is expensive, unfair and racist in its application. Proposition 66 would amend the “three strikes” law to remedy this by requiring that second and third strikes, not just first strikes, be violent felonies. It costs the state of California more than \$1 billion dollars a year to jail thousands of nonviolent 2nd and 3rd strike offenders in maximum security prisons. Passing Prop 66 would save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

California's current “three strikes” law is unfair and out of step with the rest of America – no other state includes nonviolent offenses as “strikeable” offenses. Jailing people in a maximum security prison for the rest of their lives because they stole a loaf of bread or a few video tapes is mindless vengeance, not a “punishment that fits the crime”.

Nearly 75% of offenders charged under the “three strikes” law are African-Americans or Latinos, who are a much lower percentage of actual criminals. Prosecutors are abusing their discretion, which Prop 66 would reduce, to discriminate.

Vote YES on Proposition 72: Preserve health care rights

In 2003, the legislature passed a Health Insurance Act that requires large and mid-sized companies to pay for health insurance for employees, limits how much employees have to pay for health care, and keeps employers from making big reductions in coverage. Californians really need a comprehensive, quality health-care system that is paid by taxes and free to users and not tied to their jobs. Low-wage, low-benefit employers found even the legislature's small step too much, and they paid signature-gatherers to force a referendum on the bill and run misleading TV ads against it.

Over the last three years, health care premium costs have almost doubled for California employees, and experts say there's no end in sight. Prop 72 *won't* provide health care for everyone, but it *will* protect employees from these cost increases and it *will* extend health insurance to over 1.1 million currently uninsured working people and their children.

And don't forget about the other propositions:

Vote **YES** on Prop **59**: Protect public access to government information.

Vote **YES** on Prop **60**: "Election Rights of Political Parties".

Vote **NO** on Prop **61**: We're not against children's hospitals, but against bond financing.

Vote **YES** on Prop **63**: Tax millionaires to support mental health services.

Vote **NO** on Prop **64**: Don't give corporate criminals a free pass.

Vote **NO** on Prop **65**: Don't lock into place local government reliance on regressive taxes that distort land use decisions.

Vote **NO** on Prop **67**: Emergency medical services should be properly funded, but not by a regressive tax.

Vote **NO** on Prop **68**: Stop the scheme to let card-rooms and race tracks run casinos in cities.

Vote **NO** on Prop **69**: Don't let police take DNA samples without a warrant from anyone they arrest for a felony.

Vote **YES** on Prop **70**: Permanently ban all other casino gambling in California, in exchange for financial contributions from tribal casinos to the state government

Vote **NO** on Prop **71**: We're not against stem cell research, but against bond financing.

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