



Election Guide 2010

A primer on the races and issues that will affect the fight against HIV/AIDS

Exercise Your Right To Vote!

AIDS Project Los Angeles is proud to provide you with this comprehensive voting guide on the issues and races that will have the most impact on the fight against HIV/AIDS. Voting is one of the most important rights we have in a democracy and it is always important to make your voice heard so you can influence the policy decisions that will affect your daily life.

Whatever you do, and however you have to do it, get out and VOTE!

Below you will find information on candidate positions regarding HIV/AIDS specific policy, health care policy, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender rights issues as well as summaries of selected state-wide initiatives that may affect the HIV/AIDS community.

Voter registration and election day information:

- Election Day is **November 2, 2010** and polling locations are open from **7:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.**
- [Check your polling location now](#) so you know where to go on Election Day.
- If you are already registered to vote, it's still important to [verify your registration status](#).
- If you have not already registered to vote, or have recently moved to a new address, [make sure to register to vote](#)! The last day to register is **Monday, October, 18, 2010**. All registration forms must be postmarked by this day for you to be eligible to vote.

For more information on restriction and requirements for voter registration please [visit the California Secretary of State website](#).

Voter Guides

For more details on all the races and state initiatives in the upcoming election visit one of the following non-partisan voting guides:

- [League of Women's Voters "Smart Voter" Guide](#)
- [The California Voter Foundation 2010 Voting Guide](#)

California Governor

The race for California’s new governor is of great importance to the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities. The governor has the power to approve or veto the state budget passed by the California Legislature, leaving important HIV/AIDS funding at risk. The governor also has authority to line item veto or “blue pencil” the budget, which was used by the current administration in 2009 to eliminate nearly all direct state funding to HIV prevention and services. The governor also appoints the head of the state Office of AIDS which can make important decisions about how both state and federal funds are divided up throughout the state. This year Californians will likely elect former governor and current attorney general, Democrat Jerry Brown, or former eBay CEO, Republican Meg Whitman. Other contenders include Libertarian candidate [Dale F. Ogden](#), a management consultant and accountant; the Peace and Freedom candidate [Carlos Alvarez](#), a community activist; the Green Party candidate, [Laura Wells](#), a former finance and computer programming professional; and the American Independent candidate, [Chelene Nightingale](#), a former actress and political consultant.



Meg Whitman

Republican Party Candidate

When asked if California should join other states in suing the federal government over the individual health insurance mandate in health care reform, Whitman said she would strongly encourage the state’s attorney general to do so. She has provided few statements on health care issues or HIV/AIDS specifically. In the past she has stated that civil unions are an appropriate substitute for gay marriage and believes that the attorney general and Governor should support the will of California voters by directly appealing the recent federal court decision on Proposition 8.

Proposals and Resources:

- [California Republican Party Platform](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Meg Whitman says state should defend Prop. 8](#)
- [Meg Whitman joins the fray of health reform reformers](#)



Jerry Brown

Democratic Party Candidate

Brown has “scoffed” at the idea of joining the multi-state lawsuit against the individual health insurance mandate in national health care reform. In the context of his gubernatorial campaign, Brown has said little directly regarding HIV/AIDS issues. As attorney general, Brown has supported gay marriage by refusing to join legal challenges against the appeal to overturn Proposition 8.

Proposals and Resources:

- [California Democratic Party Platform](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Whitman and Brown Duel on Health Care Reform](#)
- [Brown Defends His Decision Not to Fight for Prop. 8](#)

United States Senate

The United States Senate, along with the House of Representatives, has played a significant role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This year Californians will most likely reelect Democrat Barbara Boxer or select a new Senator in former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina. Other contenders include American Independent candidate Edward C. Noonan, computer store owner; the Libertarian candidate Gail K. Lightfoot, a retired nurse; and [Marsha Feinland](#), a retired teacher; and the Green Party candidate, [Duane Roberts](#), a community volunteer.



Carly Fiorina
Republican Party Candidate

According to Fiorina’s website, she has pledged to repeal and replace health care reform. The specifics on what she would replace it with, and whether that would include important provisions for the HIV/AIDS community, have not been detailed. Fiorina, like Whitman, supports civil unions over gay marriage and supports Proposition 8.

Proposals and Resources:

- [California Republican Party Platform](#)
- [On Healthcare](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Boxer Fiorina Debate Marriage Equality](#)



Barbara Boxer
Democratic Party Candidate

Senator Boxer is a long-time supporter of the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides the largest federal investment in community-based HIV/AIDS health care services. She has repeatedly supported the program’s reauthorization and continues to press for the highest level of funding possible. In addition, she supported legislation to allow states to extend Medicaid coverage to low-income HIV-infected individuals and voted to increase funding for the AIDS drug assistance program. The Senator strongly and publicly supports gay marriage.

Proposals and Resources:

- [California Democratic Party Platform](#)
- [On Health Care and HIV/AIDS](#)

Interviews, Articles, and Statements:

- [Boxer Fiorina Debate Marriage Equality](#)
- [Boxer on Improving HIV Prevention](#)
- [Highlights of Senator Boxer's Record on LGBT Rights](#)



California Legislature

The California Legislature's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Caucus has played a major role in shaping state HIV/AIDS policy legislation and funding, with colleagues in both houses often following Caucus recommendations on HIV-related issues.

Of the current Caucus members, two – Speaker of the Assembly John Pérez (D – Los Angeles) and Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (D – San Francisco) are running for re-election.

John Perez, currently the first openly gay speaker of the assembly, was a community organizer who served as political director for UFCW Union Local 324 before being elected. (In the interest of full disclosure, John Pérez served three two-year terms on the APLA board of directors). Democrat Tom Ammiano was a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Speaker Perez is running unopposed for his seat and Assemblymember Ammiano faces Republican Laura Peter in the 13th District.

Congress

The U. S. Congress plays a pivotal role in passing legislation and appropriations in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Southern California legislators such as Rep. Henry Waxman, Rep. Howard Berman, Rep. Maxine Waters, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Rep. Judy Chu, Rep. Xavier Becerra, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and Sen. Boxer have championed a broad range of measures that have increased access to care, treatment and other essential services for people living with HIV/AIDS and provided on-going funding for all-important HIV/AIDS prevention.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Congresswoman Diane Watson representing APLA headquarters in California's 33rd Congressional District for being a valuable partner in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Running to replace Rep. Watson are former California Assembly Speaker, Democrat Karen Bass, and Republican Phil Jennerjahn.

For more information on the various Congressional races, please check out the links below.

Links:

[Karen Bass for Congress](#)

[Phil Jennerjahn for Congress](#)

[VoteSmart Congressional Elections](#)

[California Secretary of State: Voter Information](#)

Candidate Survey

AIDS Project Los Angeles has joined with other HIV/AIDS organizations across California to create a candidate questionnaire that addresses HIV/AIDS policy. This questionnaire will be distributed to major party candidates running for governor and lieutenant governor. We will update this guide as we receive responses from their campaigns.



Propositions

While there are a number of important ballot initiatives up for vote, five could have significant impact on the health and well-being of many Californians living with HIV/AIDS, and on the make-up of the California legislature:

Proposition 19: Marijuana Legalization, Regulation and Taxation

APLA recommends: Vote YES

This measure changes state law to (1) legalize the possession and cultivation of limited amounts of marijuana for personal use by individuals age 21 or older, and (2) authorize various commercial marijuana-related activities under certain conditions.

Numerous studies have shown that marijuana can be used for medicinal purposes by people living with HIV/AIDS to alleviate a number of symptoms and side-effects related to the virus and its standard medical treatment. Legalization would further reduce existing barriers to marijuana consumption by making it easier for HIV-positive individuals to treat their symptoms as they see fit. Revenue from the taxation of legalized cannabis could also assist the state in balancing the budget, potentially enabling a recommitment to HIV/AIDS funding that has been slashed in the past few years.

For these reasons, APLA *supports* Prop 19.

Links:

[Yes on Prop 19](#)

[No on Prop 19](#)

[Legislative Analyst's Office Summary](#)

Proposition 20: Redistricting of Congressional Districts

A YES vote takes the responsibility to determine boundaries for California's congressional districts away from the State Legislature. Instead, the commission recently established by voters to draw district boundaries of state offices would determine the boundaries of congressional districts.

Some have argued that redistricting by the legislature is overly partisan resulting in safe seats and questionable district boundaries. Others contend a redistricting commission costs taxpayers more money and would be less accountable to voters compared to our elected legislature.

Those in support of this measure include the California Republican Party, the AARP, and the California NAACP. Opponents include the California Democratic Party, the Sierra Club, and the California Black Chamber of Commerce.

Links:

[Yes on Prop 20](#)

[No On Prop 20](#)

[Legislative Analyst's Office Summary](#)



Proposition 25: Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget from Two-Thirds to a Simple Majority. Retains Two-Thirds Requirement for Taxes.

A YES vote on this measure means the Legislature’s vote requirement to send the annual budget bill to the Governor would be lowered from two-thirds to a majority of each house of the Legislature. A NO vote on this measure means the current two-thirds vote requirement would remain unchanged.

Some groups have complained that the two-thirds requirement has stymied the state budget making process, allowing a minority to block budget passage. Others argue a two-thirds vote is required to protect citizens from hasty budget decisions.

Supporters include the League of Women Voters, California Federation of Teachers, and the California Democratic Party. Opponents include the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association and the California Republican Party.

Links:

[Yes on 25](#)

[No on 25](#)

[Legislative Analyst’s Office Summary](#)

Proposition 26: Increases Legislative Vote Requirement to Two-Thirds for State Levies and Charges.

A YES vote on this measure means the state definition of taxes would be broadened to include many payments currently considered to be fees or charges. As a result, more state and local proposals to increase revenues would require approval by two-thirds of each house of the Legislature or by local voters. A NO vote means the current the constitutional requirements regarding fees and taxes would not be changed.

Supporters contend that the legislature has used a loophole to raise taxes by calling them “fees” while others believe this measure will limit fees on large corporations causing a drop in revenue during an already difficult economic climate.

Those in favor of Prop 26 include the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Taxpayers’ Association. Opponents include the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club.

Links:

[Yes on 26](#)

[No on 26](#)

[Legislative Analyst’s Summary](#)



Proposition 27: Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Consolidates Authority for Redistricting With Elected Representatives.

A YES vote on this measure means the responsibility to determine the boundaries of State Legislature and Board of Equalization districts would be returned to the Legislature. The Citizens Redistricting Commission, established by Proposition 11 in 2008 to perform this function, would be eliminated. A NO vote on this measure would leave the responsibility to determine the boundaries of Legislature and Board of Equalization districts with the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Supporters of the measure contend that the redistricting commission is too costly when this activity could be easily handled by the existing elected officials of our state legislature. Those in opposition call this measure a “politician power grab” and believe redistricting is better handled by an independent commission.

Groups in favor of Prop 27 include Californians Against Waste and the California Fair Political Practices Commission while opponents include the AARP and League of Women Voters.

Links:

[Yes on 27](#)

[No on 27](#)

[Legislative Analyst’s Office Summary](#)

***A note about Propositions 20 and 27**

If both Proposition 27 and Proposition 20 are approved by voters, the proposition receiving the greater number of “yes” votes would be the only one to go into effect.