

California Initiative Editorial Scorecard

November 9, 2016 Edition

With Election Day behind us and the final votes still being tallied, here is the final edition of the California Initiative Editorial Scorecard.

During the past nine weeks, we have tracked editorial endorsements (pro and con) from the top 20 California newspapers by circulation. We gave each of the 17 initiatives a score for the number of “yes” or “no” endorsements received, as well as a weighted score based on the size of the paper’s circulation.

Of the 10 initiatives with a weighted “YES” score of 50% or higher, 9 won passage. Of the 7 initiatives with a weighted “NO” score of 50% or higher, 4 were defeated. The chart below shows whether a ballot measure’s endorsements correlated to its success.

Endorsement Correlation to Election Results		
Proposition	Consensus (and by what %)	Election outcome
Proposition 51 (Education bonds)	No (88%)	Yes
Proposition 52 (Changes to hospital fee program)	Yes (100%)	Yes
Proposition 53 (Voter approval of revenue bonds)	No (81%)	No
Proposition 54 (Bills published 72 hrs. before vote)	Yes (100%)	Yes
Proposition 55 (Extend income taxes on wealthy)	No (65%)	Yes
Proposition 56 (Cigarette tax to \$2 per pack)	Yes (81%)	Yes
Proposition 57 (Parole for non-violent crimes)	Yes (61%)	Yes
Proposition 58 (Bilingual education)	Yes (65%)	Yes
Proposition 59 (State position on <i>Citizens United</i>)	Yes (51%)	Yes
Proposition 60 (Condoms in pornographic films)	No (99%)	No
Proposition 61 (Prescription drug price regulations)	No (94%)	No
Proposition 62 (Repeal death penalty)	Yes (100%)	No
Proposition 63 (Background checks for ammunition)	Yes (74%)	Yes
Proposition 64 (Legalization of marijuana)	Yes (87%)	Yes
Proposition 65 (Grocery and retail carry-out bags)	No (100%)	No
Proposition 66 (Death penalty procedures)	No (100%)	Yes
Proposition 67 (Prohibits single-use plastic bags)	Yes (88%)	Yes

The chart below represents how each paper’s ballot measure endorsements reflected the results of the election. A “Yes” or “No” indicates how the paper editorialized on the measure and a green or red box indicates whether the paper’s position was indicative of the electorate’s vote. The San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco Examiner each had the highest percentage (82%) of endorsements aligned with the election outcome.

Seven papers had less than half of their endorsements (47%) match the election outcome. These include the Riverside Press-Enterprise, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, the Torrance Daily Breeze, the Los Angeles Daily News, the Long Beach Press-Telegram, the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin and the Chico Enterprise-Record.

California Paper Endorsement																		
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	% Correct
Los Angeles Times	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	70.5%
San Jose Mercury News	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	70.5%
OC Register	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	53%
San Diego Union Tribune	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	59%
San Francisco Chronicle	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	82%
East Bay Times	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	65%
Sacramento Bee	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	76%
La Opinión	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	76%
Riverside Press-Enterprise	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	47%
San Francisco Examiner	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	82%
San Gabriel Valley Tribune	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	47%
Torrance Daily Breeze	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	47%
Fresno Bee	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	65%
Los Angeles Daily News	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	47%
Santa Rosa Press-Democrat	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	65%
Long Beach Press-Telegram	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	47%
Bakersfield Californian	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	59%
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	47%
Chico Enterprise-Record	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	47%

The final California Initiative Editorial Scorecard is based on 323 editorials.

California Initiative Editorial Endorsement Scorecard				
Proposition	Yes	No	Weighted Yes	Weighted No
Proposition 51 (Education bonds)	3	16	12	88
Proposition 52 (Changes to hospital fee program)	19	0	100	0
Proposition 53 (Voter approval of revenue bonds)	7	12	19	81
Proposition 54 (Bills published 72 hrs. before vote)	19	0	100	0
Proposition 55 (Extend income taxes on wealthy)	6	13	35	65
Proposition 56 (Cigarette tax to \$2 per pack)	12	7	81	19
Proposition 57 (Parole for non-violent crimes)	13	6	61	39
Proposition 58 (Bilingual education)	14	5	65	35
Proposition 59 (State position on <i>Citizens United</i>)	9	10	51	49
Proposition 60 (Condoms in pornographic films)	1	18	1	99
Proposition 61 (Prescription drug price regulations)	2	17	6	94
Proposition 62 (Repeal death penalty)	19	0	100	0
Proposition 63 (Background checks for ammunition)	8	11	74	26
Proposition 64 (Legalization of marijuana)	14	5	87	13
Proposition 65 (Grocery and retail carry-out bags)	0	19	0	100
Proposition 66 (Death penalty procedures)	0	19	0	100
Proposition 67 (Prohibits single-use plastic bags)	12	7	88	12

Methodology: Our scorecard gives both scores for the total number of positive and negative endorsements weighted scores based on the circulation size of the Top 20 papers in California. For instance, an endorsement from the Los Angeles Times would give a paper 20 points, since it represents 20 percent of the total circulation of the top 20 papers in California.

NOTE: Because the San Luis Obispo Tribune did not publish endorsements on statewide ballot propositions, our final scorecard was based on the top 19 papers by circulation and reweighted accordingly.

Endorsements from the Top 20 California Papers

	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
Los Angeles Times	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
San Jose Mercury News	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
OC Register	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
San Diego Union Tribune	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
San Francisco Chronicle	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
East Bay Times	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Sacramento Bee	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
La Opinión	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Riverside Press-Enterprise	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
San Francisco Examiner	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
San Gabriel Valley Tribune	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Torrance Daily Breeze	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Fresno Bee	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Los Angeles Daily News	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Santa Rosa Press-Democrat	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Long Beach Press-Telegram	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Bakersfield Californian	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
San Luis Obispo Tribune																	
Chico Enterprise-Record	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes