

appointed attorneys to work on death penalty cases.

**BWW Analysis:** Ok, so this one is serious. Proposition 66 is terrible, just terrible. We know that there has been innocent people on death row, and that there is high possibility, that they are still a number of innocent people on death row. This proposition will speed up the death penalty process, increasing the risk of putting to death innocent people. And like Prop 62, it also makes the folks who are on death row essentially slaves until they are killed by the state, by taking 70% of their wages as restitution to victims and families of victims.

The tricky part of this bill is that if Prop 62 and Prop 66 both pass, Prop 66 nullifies Prop 62 if it passes with more votes. Again a terrible terrible proposition.

### Proposition 63: Background Checks for Ammunition Purchases and Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazine Ban Initiative (NO)

**Explanation:** Proposition 63 would prohibit the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines and would require most individuals to pass a background check and obtain authorization from the California Department of Justice to purchase ammunition.

**BWW Analysis:** At the time when it feels like there are mass shootings every month, this proposition attempts to make it harder for people to legally buy high capacity ammunition magazines. It also attempts to add an additional step to background checks prior to gun sales. Sounds all good, right? Well the tricky part about this bill is that it also creates a Proposition 47 loophole, where certain gun possession gets kicked back up to a felony. And that is not good. In addition, Prop 63 would create a new court process to make sure people convicted of felonies and other "prohibited individuals" do not continue to have firearms. It leaves the door open for probation officers to "check" for firearms, something that makes us feel a bit uncomfortable when applied in the real world.

### Proposition 64: California Marijuana Legalization Initiative (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 64 would legalize recreational marijuana use for individuals aged 21 and older and create two new taxes on cultivation of marijuana and retail prices. Smoking would remain illegal while driving a vehicle, in all public places and anywhere it is illegal to smoke tobacco.

**BWW Analysis:** This is an important proposition on the ballot, here's why:

- Prop 64 creates the opportunity for people who are currently serving time for recreational use of marijuana to be resentenced, or in the best case scenario, people are able to vacate their charges.
- Prop 64 would allow for those folks who have been convicted of selling/using recreational drugs to be able to participate in the marijuana economy.
- The potential taxes revenue of Prop 64 would go to social services. The state could earn up to \$1 billion each year, while also saving millions of dollars on court and law enforcement costs.

### Proposition 65: Dedication of Revenue from Disposable Bag Sales to Wildlife Conservation Fund Initiative (NO)

**Explanation:** Proposition 65 would require all revenue generated by state-mandated sale of carryout bags to be earmarked for special fund for specific categories of environmental projects. The fund would be managed by the Wildlife Conservation Board

**BWW Analysis:** This prop is being used to confuse voters about the other grocery bag initiative. It was put on and supported by plastic bag manufacturers, because if both propositions 65 and 67 passes, the proposition with the most "yes" votes would supercede the other.

### Proposition 67: Plastic Bag Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 67 would uphold the contested legislation banning plastic bags that was enacted by the California State Legislature through Senate Bill 270. SB 270 prohibits large grocery stores and pharmacies from providing plastic single-use carryout bags and ban small grocery stores, convenience stores and liquor stores from doing so in the following year.

**BWW Analysis:** We know We know, we love a good plastic bag as much as the next person. It can be reused for so many things. However, the fact is that plastic bags are unnecessary for our groceries and other products, but have a real impact on our environment. This proposition would uphold the grocery bag ban legislation, a hard fought agreement between grocery stores and the state legislature.

Please note that if both Props 65 and 67 pass, the Proposition with the most "yes" votes would supersede the other proposition.

Black Women for Wellness is delighted to share this proposition guide with you. As we prepare for another election, we want to offer voter education, registration, voting day information and other issues that might come up while participating in our civic duty. Please visit [vream.life](http://vream.life) for more information.

## PROPOSITION GUIDE AT A GLANCE:

Proposition 51 – YES

Proposition 52 – YES

Proposition 53 – NO

Proposition 54 – YES

Proposition 55 – YES

Proposition 56 – YES

Proposition 57 – YES

Proposition 58 – YES

Proposition 59 – YES

Proposition 60 – NO

Proposition 61 – Neutral

Proposition 62 – YES

Proposition 63 – NO

Proposition 64 – YES

Proposition 65 – NO

Proposition 66 – NO

Proposition 67 – YES

#### CONTACT BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS:

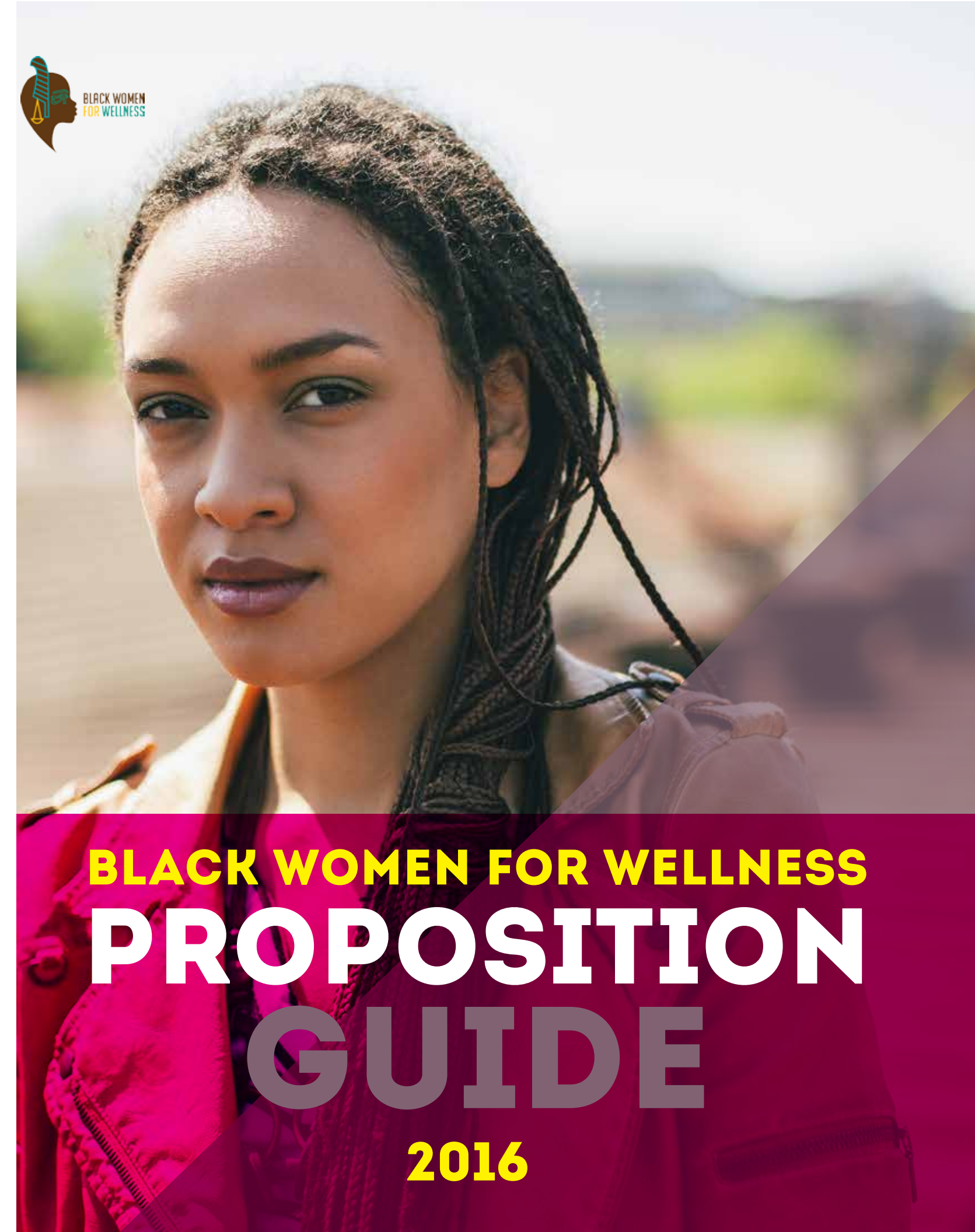
[bwwla.org](http://bwwla.org)

[info@bwwla.com](mailto:info@bwwla.com)

323-290-5955

F: Black Women for Wellness | T: BW4WLA | I: BWWLA

Sources: [Ballotpedia](http://Ballotpedia) - [ballotpedia.org](http://ballotpedia.org), [Voter Edge California](http://Voter Edge California)



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

# PROPOSITION GUIDE

2016



### Proposition 51: California Public School Facility Bonds Initiative (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 51 supports the state issuing \$9 billion in bonds to fund improvement and construction of school facilities for K-12 schools and community colleges.

**BWW Analysis:** Although this is not the ideal way to get more public school funding, it's one of our best bets. Not only does it provide more money for K-12, it also beefs up spending for our community colleges that is so desperately in need of funding. For many people, community college is the first chance at higher education. What we are not feeling about this proposition is the crazy amount that taxpayers are going to have to pay in interest. For the \$9 billion we borrow, we are paying \$8.6 billion more in interest (which feels like mafia type levels of interest). In a perfect world we hope that the state legislature would be able to invest in our public schools without a bond, but it's not a perfect world and this is the best we have right now.

### Proposition 52: Requires Voter Approval of Changes to the Hospital Fee Program (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 52 would require voter approval to change the dedicated use of certain fees from hospitals, which is used to draw matching federal money and fund Medi-Cal services. The initiative was also designed to require a two-thirds majority vote by the state legislatures to end the hospital fee program.

**BWW Analysis:** Currently, private hospitals are required to pay a fee to help cover the cost of Medi-Cal. These fees draw down an extra \$2 billion federal dollars that go to hospitals to cover Medi-Cal services for low-income families and children. These fees are set to expire in 2018. This proposition if passed, would make these fees permanent, unless there is a 2/3rd vote within the state legislature to change it. Without costing taxpayers any

money, this proposition could generate 3 billion dollars in federal matching funds. This is an important source of funding for Medi-Cal services to ensure medical care for low-income families and children.

### Proposition 53: Elections and Campaigns: Voter Approval Requirement for Revenue Bonds above \$2 Billion Initiative (NO)

**Explanation:** Proposition 53 requires voter approval before the state could issue more than \$2 billion in public infrastructure bonds that would require an increase in taxes or fees for repayment.

**BWW Analysis:** Although it sounds like a good idea, in practice, not so much. Anytime major money needs to be moved quickly using bonds, California would need to have a vote, which also costs taxpayer dollars. In addition, communities that have nothing to do with a certain project would be able to vote for or against it, setting up the potential for smaller communities being disenfranchised. We put our elected officials in office for a reason. If we feel like they are mismanaging bonds, we need to replace the representatives, not replace the system.

### Proposition 54: The Public Display of Legislative Bills Prior to Vote proposition (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 54 prohibits the legislature from passing any bill until it has been in print and published on the Internet for 72 hours prior to the vote.

**BWW Analysis:** As an organization that is often engaged in the state legislative process, we understand how sometimes legislation needs to move fast. However when it comes to accountability, we think a 72 hour period for all parties involved is actually a good thing. Having a period of time for both elected

officials and advocates to see any changes before a major floor vote protects against sneaky amendments and backroom dealing. In addition this prop requires that within 24 hours, the legislature publish online audiovisual recordings of the public proceedings and allows any individual to make an audio or visual recording of such public proceedings for any legitimate purpose. This all increases transparency and we believe these measures will be good overall to the state legislative process.

### Proposition 55: Taxes (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 55 extends the temporary personal income tax increases on incomes over \$250,000 implemented by Proposition 30.

**BWW Analysis:** Remember a few years ago when we voted yes on Prop 30 to save California from fiscal death? Well Proposition 55 keeps that tax increase until 2030 for wealthy Californians, however it lets the temporary sale tax increase expire at the end of 2016. The revenue would be used for things such as helping fund K-12 education, community colleges and healthcare as well as add to our budget reserves and debt repayment.

### Proposition 56: Increases the Cigarette Tax to \$2.00 per pack (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 56 would increase the cigarette tax to \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increases on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.

**BWW Analysis:** This sales tax does two things, one, hopefully have folks think twice about buying a pack of cigarettes. Two, uses the funds from this cigarette tax to help fund physician training, Medi-Cal, as well as other educational and tobacco-use prevention programs.

### Proposition 57: Parole, Sentencing and Court Procedures Juvenile Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 57 supports increasing parole and good behavior opportunities for felons convicted of nonviolent crimes and allows judges, not prosecutors, to decide whether to try certain juveniles as adults in court.

**BWW Analysis:** Unfortunately, children as young as 14 are being charged as adults up and down the state. Although this bill does not stop that practice, it's a step in the right direction. Prop 57 gives the power to judges instead of prosecutors to determine if a minor should be charged as an adult. In addition, for some non-violent crimes, adults would be eligible for parole sooner, and have more opportunities for time off for good behavior and/or earning job and education credits. In addition, folks who got caught up in

"gang injunctions" will be able to seek early parole.

### Proposition 58: Non-English Languages Allowed in Public Education (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 58 repeals most of the 1998 Proposition 227, the "English Only in Public Schools" Initiative, thus effectively allowing non-English languages to be used in public educational instruction.

**BWW Analysis:** Proposition 227 was more about making a statement as opposed to determining what is actually best for learning a different language and getting students ready to progress in school. Imagine being in another country, trying to learn a different language, and your teachers are forced to only speak to you in the language you're trying to learn. It makes it really difficult to try to learn the nuances of the language. In addition, this proposition authorizes schools to establish dual-language immersion programs for both native and non-native English speakers. This is a benefit to English speakers learning different language also.

### Proposition 59: California Overturn of Citizens United Act Advisory Question (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 59 supports allowing the state's elected officials to use their authority to overturn the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision, potentially through an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**BWW Analysis:** Although we would love to be able to vote away Citizens United, this is really just an advisory question, or in other words a state poll. If this proposition passes, it would be a symbolic gesture, signaling that the majority of Californians are not feeling Citizens United. However, BWW believes we do need to send this message to the rest of the country so it is clear that Californians do not share the view that corporations have the same "rights" as human beings and can therefore spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections.

### Proposition 60: Condoms in Pornographic Films Initiative (NO)

**Explanation:** Proposition 60 requires the use of condoms and other protective measures during the filming of pornographic films, as well as requiring pornography producers to pay for certain health requirements and checkups.

**BWW Analysis:** BWW wants everyone to engage in safe sex practices, whether it is for work or for play. Having the leverage for adult entertainers to be protected on set is needed. However

the definition of "pornography" and the grey areas is a part of the problem here. The proposition is worded in such a way that it can open up the door for people to intrude into our personal lives and create situations where people can sue private couples. The largest porn workers union is against this and given that we believe they have the best interest of the porn workers (not to be confused with industry) at heart - we will go with them on this.

### Proposition 61: Drug Price Standards Initiatives (NEUTRAL)

**Explanation:** Proposition 61 supports regulating drug prices by requiring state agencies to pay the same prices that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) pays for prescription drugs.

**BWW Analysis:** Big Pharma has made it quite clear through recent actions that drug companies put profits over people; returns for stockholders over cures for patients. There is undoubtedly a need for the regulation of drug pricing. BWW is just not sure that Proposition 61 is the appropriate action for the state to take. The proposition fails to definitively define the impacts of its passage. In its current form, it is estimated that there are three possible fiscal scenarios that could result from the passing of Prop 61:

1. Drug manufacturers offer VA prices to the state.
2. Drug manufacturers decline to offer VA prices to the State, which would lead to state programs having to modify, negating prop 61
3. Drug Manufacturers raise VA drug prices.

Due to the uncertainties of this proposition BWW is uncomfortable providing a Yes or No guidance regarding this proposition.

### Proposition 62: Repeal of the Death Penalty (YES)

**Explanation:** Proposition 62 supports repealing the death penalty and making life without the possibility of parole the maximum punishment for murder.

**BWW Analysis:** The most important fact here is that overall there have been too many people who were innocent of crimes sentenced to death and executed. There are additional reasons why we should repeal the death penalty:

- The use of capital punishment does not deter crime.
- The justice system is flawed, and people of color and/or low income individuals are traditionally unfairly punished.
- It's just tacky. The United States is one of the last remaining western countries that still puts prisoners to death. With passing this proposition, at least California can catch up to the rest of the western world in this manner.
- Real costs savings. Taxpayers have spent more than \$5 billion since 1978 to carry out 13 executions - a cost of \$384 million per execution. There is a potential to save the state \$150 million annually within a few years.

California has not executed a prisoner since 2006. There are 748 prisoners currently waiting to be executed on "death row." Yet, DNA technology and new evidence have proven the innocence of more than 150 people on death row after they were sentenced to death. In California, 66 people had their murder convictions overturned because new evidence showed they were innocent.

We do have concerns with this proposition because it would require prisoners sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole to work and pay restitution to victims' families. The portion of wages to be provided as restitution would be increased to 60 percent. That's even more closer to slave labor than what prisoners currently experience in the low wages earned in prison employment.

### Proposition 66: Death Penalty Court Procedures (NO)

**Explanation:** Proposition 66 changes death penalty procedures to speed up the appeals process by putting the Supreme Court in charge of initial petitions challenging death penalty convictions, establishing a time frame for death penalty review, and requiring



FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT VREAM.LIFE