Rubicon's Stances on Propositions for California Voters, with Additional Information on Local Measures in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
Introduction

Rubicon Programs is an anti-poverty organization located in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We work at the individual and systems levels to remove barriers to economic mobility in our communities. We provide comprehensive workforce development and reentry services across Contra Costa and Alameda Counties to help participants build assets, income, wellness, and community connections. We live by our values of hope, justice, and humility in all of the actions we take.

About this guide

The following pages contain Rubicon's stances on California propositions and local measures that affect the communities we serve. Our positions were decided by Rubicon's Voter Guide Committee, which consisted of Rubicon staff and Participant Advisory Board members. For each recommendation, the Committee looked at the potential impacts of the proposed legislation, previous case studies, and the relevance to Rubicon's work, among other considerations.

We have included information regarding all California propositions, even if the Committee decided not to make a recommendation. Please note that several measures in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties that do not have a close connection to our work have been left out of this guide. We encourage you to read more about the measures on the ballot where you live and vote on them according to your own values and community needs.

Exercise your right to vote:

- Register to vote or check your registration status before the October 24 deadline: https://registertovote.ca.gov
- Find your polling place: https://tinyurl.com/cavote22
- Missed the deadline? Follow these steps for same-day voter registration: https://tinyurl.com/sameday22
Proposition 1: Establishes a California Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom

Rubicon's stance: Yes

Proposition 1 proposes amending the State Constitution to establish a constitutional right to reproductive freedom, which is defined to include a right to an abortion and a right to contraceptives.

Issues around access to reproductive freedom disproportionately affect people of color and low-income communities. Rubicon’s mission to transform the East Bay by breaking cycles of poverty is aligned with combating the economic impacts of forced parenthood, and the cycles of generational poverty it creates.

Proposition 26: Legalizes Sports Betting on American Indian Lands

Rubicon's stance: No position

Proposition 26 proposes legalizing sports betting at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed race tracks in California, establishing a 10% tax on profits derived at race tracks, and legalizing roulette and dice games at tribal casinos.

Sports betting is currently illegal in California, both in casinos and online. Prop 26 legalizes sports betting only in casinos.

This proposition does not seem to be particularly relevant to the work of Rubicon.
Proposition 27: Legalizes Online and Mobile Sports Betting and Creates Revenue for Homelessness Prevention

Rubicon's stance: No position

Proposition 27 proposes legalizing online and mobile sports betting for persons 21 years of age or older, establishing regulations for the mobile sports betting industry, imposing a 10% tax on sports betting revenues and licensing fees, and allocating tax revenue to an account for homelessness programs and an account for tribes not operating sports betting.

Sports betting is currently illegal in California, both in casinos and online.

Rubicon is an economic justice organization providing support to unhoused populations; however, Prop 27 is not directly related to our work and the homeless service providers in the East Bay have not come out to support this Proposition.

Proposition 28: Additional State Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools

Rubicon's stance: Yes

Proposition 28 proposes that the state's general fund will provide additional funding that will increase arts instruction and/or arts programs in CA public schools. Prop 28 requires that 80% of the funds be used to hire arts and music teachers/aides. The remaining funds are to be used for educational partnerships with community and arts organizations.

60% of California’s public schools are comprised of low-income students. To address equity issues, Prop 28 would allocate more funding to schools serving many low-income students.
Proposition 29: Establishes Necessity for On-Site Licensed Medical Professionals at Kidney Dialysis Clinics

Rubicon's stance: No position

Proposition 29 would enact requirements that include the mandated presence of one on-site physician, NP or PA, and multiple patient health-related reporting requirements to the California Department of Health.

Prop 29 prohibits clinics from closing or substantially reducing services without state approval. This initiative prohibits clinics from refusing to treat patients based on the source of payment.

This proposition does not seem to be particularly relevant to the work of Rubicon.

Proposition 30: Addresses the Reduction of Air Pollution and Prevention of Wildfires with Tax Increase for $2 million+ Annual Income Earners

Rubicon's stance: No position

Proposition 30 proposes increasing taxes on income of $2 million annually to fund wildfire management and electric vehicle incentives and infrastructure. The revenue generated will provide funding to programs designed to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Initiative and allow for rebate provision programs for zero-emission vehicle purchases and charging stations.

Lyft, a rideshare corporation, is the primary funder for this initiative and will face mandates in 2030 to shift rideshare vehicles to electric operation only.

This proposition does not seem to be particularly relevant to the work of Rubicon.
Proposition 31: Prohibits the Retail Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products

Rubicon's stance: No position

Proposition 31 ends the sale of flavored tobacco, including e-cigarettes and minty menthol cigarettes.

This proposition is a referendum on Senate Bill 793, which was passed by the CA State legislature in August 2020. SB 793 was designed to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers, with exceptions for hookah tobacco, loose leaf tobacco, and premium cigars. Retailers would be fined $250 for each sale violating the law.

Rubicon is an economic justice organization that acknowledges the impact that health and wellness has on our community; however, Prop 31 is not directly related to our work.
City of Richmond Measure P: Lowers Maximum Rental Increase Under Rent Control Ordinance

Rubicon's stance: Yes

Measure P would change the City's Rent Ordinance and lower the maximum allowable rent increase on rent-controlled units from 100% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to 60% of CPI or 3%, whichever is lower. This measure would mean that the maximum rent increase in Richmond would be lower than it is under the current rent control ordinance.

The proposed formula is the same as the recently-enacted Rent Control Ordinance in Antioch.

Housing affordability and stability are key indicators that affect people's ability to maintain employment and break the cycle of poverty.
Local Initiatives: Alameda County

City of Oakland Measure Q: Allows the City to Potentially Add 13,000 Low-Rent Residential Units in Social Housing Projects

**Rubicon's stance: Yes**

Measure Q authorizes the City of Oakland to develop, construct, acquire, or assist in the development of up to 13,000 low-rent residential units in social housing projects.

The CA Constitution requires a city to get voter approval before building any public housing. This measure does not provide any funding for the housing, just permission to build it in the future.

This measure creates the opportunity for more affordable housing to be built in Oakland. Housing affordability and stability are key indicators that affect people's ability to maintain employment and break the cycle of poverty.

City of Oakland Measure R: Amends the City Charter with Gender-Neutral Language

**Rubicon's stance: Yes**

Measure R would amend the City Charter to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language and use gender-neutral pronouns.

The City Charter currently uses terms like “fireman” or “policeman” and refers to a surviving spouse as a “widow.” This measure would replace these terms with things like “firefighter,” “police officer,” and “surviving spouse.”

Rubicon strives to be an anti-oppression organization, and this measure is a small step towards shifting the official narrative in support of gender equality.
City of Oakland Measure S: Amends the City Charter to Expand Voting Eligibility for the Office of Oakland School Board Director

**Rubicon's stance: Yes**

Measure S would amend the City Charter to authorize voting by noncitizen residents to vote for the Office of Oakland School Board Director if they are the parents, legal guardians, or legally recognized caregivers of a child.

The City Charter currently only allows citizens to vote for the Office of Oakland School Board Director. This measure does not expand voting rights for other offices or measures.

Rubicon supports parental involvement in their children's education, and this measure provides expanded opportunities for nonresident parents to positively impact their children's education.

City of Oakland Measure U: Issues $850 Million in Bonds to Contribute to Affordable Housing and Infrastructure

**Rubicon's stance: Yes**

Measure U would issue $850,000,000 in general obligation bonds to contribute to affordable housing and infrastructure. The bonds would be funded by increased property taxes at a rate of $71 per $100,000 of assessed value. The measure would provide $350,000,000 for affordable housing and $290,000,000 for transportation. Other projects could include repaving streets and removing potholes, updating fire stations and other public facilities like parks and libraries.

If this measure passes, the City will be able to keep the current property tax rate because older bonds are expiring. The City Council's Capital Improvement Plan would set priorities regarding which projects would be financed by the bonds.

This measure creates the opportunity for more affordable housing to be built in Oakland. Housing affordability and stability are key indicators that affect people's ability to maintain employment and break the cycle of poverty.
City of Oakland Measure V: Amends the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance

Rubicon's stance: Yes

Measure V would amend and expand the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance. It would prohibit evictions of households with children and educators during the school year. It would also expand eviction protections to tenants in RVs, tiny homes on wheels, and newly constructed units (except during the first ten years after construction).

Oakland's current Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance only applies to units built before 1996; this measure amends the ordinance to include any building that is at least 10 years old.

This measure expands eviction protections in Oakland. Housing affordability and stability are key indicators that affect people's ability to maintain employment and break the cycle of poverty.

City of Oakland Measure W: Amends Oakland Municipal Code and City Charter to Create Public Financing for Election Campaigns

Rubicon's stance: Yes

Measure W would amend the Oakland Municipal Code and City Charter to create resident public financing for local candidate election campaigns.

This measure would allocate public financing by providing four “Democracy Dollars” vouchers of $25 each to every eligible Oakland resident. They could then award their vouchers to participating candidates for redemption. This measure is based on a similar program in Seattle

Rubicon believes it is important for participants and community members to participate in local government. This measure expands access to the political process to people who would not normally be able to afford to financially support local candidates.
Read the full text of statewide and local initiatives at the links below:

- California Propositions: https://tinyurl.com/CAprops22
- Alameda County Measures: https://tinyurl.com/ACvote22
- Contra Costa County Measures: https://tinyurl.com/CCCvote22

Connect with Rubicon Programs

- If you are a low-income resident of Alameda or Contra Costa County, Rubicon has resources that can help you grow your assets, income, wellness, and community connections.
- Specific supportive programs and services are available for parents (custodial or non-custodial) and justice-impacted community members.
- We operate seven locations in Richmond, Concord, Antioch, Oakland, and Hayward, with services available in person and remotely.
- Click here to connect with an intake specialist or visit rubiconprograms.org/get-help.