

Will Californians amend Prop. 13?

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Body

Sep 17, 2020(CalMatters: <https://calmatters.org> Delivered by Newstex) ;; Good morning, California. It's Thursday, September 17. So far, a close call Image via iStock Many schools[1] and local governments staggering under looming billion-dollar shortfalls are throwing their weight behind Prop. 15[2], a high-profile measure on California's November ballot that could raise up to \$11.5 billion annually[3]. But only 51% of likely voters support the measure, according to a Public Policy Institute of California report released late Wednesday night[4] — signaling that its future is anything but certain. The measure would amend Prop.

13 — the landmark 1978 measure that capped property taxes — by raising taxes on large commercial properties. Gov. Gavin Newsom endorsed Prop. 15 Monday[5] after remaining mum on it for months. Newsom: 'It's a fair, phased-in and long-overdue reform to state tax policy; it's consistent with California's progressive fiscal values; it will exempt small businesses and residential property owners.' Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable: 'Now is not the time to raise \$11.5 billion in new taxes and drive up the cost on everything from food, gas, daycare and other daily essentials.' Another ballot measure with an uncertain future: Prop. 16[6], which would overturn the state's ban on affirmative action[7]. Around 31% of likely voters would vote yes, compared to 47% no and 22% undecided, the PPIC report found. (Newsom endorsed Prop. 16[8] in August.) The news comes as 59% of Californians said race relations in the United States are deteriorating, in what PPIC CEO Mark Baldassare called 'a major shift in public opinion.' Around 45% of Californians said race relations were getting worse in January 2019. Newsom's approval rating remains high at 59%, though it dropped from a record high of 65% in May[9], the report found. Nevertheless, 62% of adults said they approve of how Newsom has handled the coronavirus pandemic. And as coronavirus positivity rates fall to an all-time low[10], 58% of Californians said the worst of the pandemic is behind us, compared to 69% who in May said the worst was yet to come[11]. When it comes to the presidential election, no surprises for deep-blue California: 60% of likely voters favor Joe Biden, while 31% favor Donald Trump. _____ The coronavirus bottom line: As of 9 p.m. Wednesday night, California had 762,963 confirmed coronavirus cases and 14,615 deaths from the virus, according to a CalMatters tracker[12]. Also: CalMatters regularly updates this pandemic timeline tracking the state's daily actions[13]. And we're tracking the state's coronavirus hospitalizations by county[14]. In a new campaign ad, the California prison guards' union put a target on the chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee. The Assembly member is calling for a criminal investigation and political consultants are calling it the end of an era. Read more from CalMatters' Ben Christopher[15]. Advertisement <https://www.dairycares.com/climate-smart-dairy> Other stories you should know 1. California wildfire update A firefighter sprays water on flames of the North Complex West Zone fires east of Oroville on Sept. 10, 2020. Photo by Carin Dorghalli, Chico Enterprise-Record More than 17,000 firefighters are battling 25 major fires across the state, Newsom said Wednesday, adding that so far this year wildfires have charred 3.4 million acres, killed 25, forced 38,114 evacuations and destroyed more than 4,200 structures — while also spewing

smoke as far as Europe[16]. With a death toll of 15, the North Complex Fire in Butte, Plumas and Yuba counties became the fifth-deadliest[17] and six-largest[18] wildfire in California history. Meanwhile, the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles County remains uniquely challenging for firefighters, remaining at 3% containment while threatening foothill communities and the iconic Mt. Wilson observatory[19]. To keep track of all the blazes, check out the Los Angeles Times' fire map[20].

2. California voting contract under investigation Photo illustration by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters A powerful U.S. House of Representatives committee is investigating a \$35 million voter-education contract[21] that the California Secretary of State's office awarded to a consulting firm tied to Joe Biden's presidential campaign, the Sacramento Bee reports[22]. The firm, SKD Knickerbocker, was chosen during an emergency bid process to run 'Vote Safe California,' a campaign to encourage voting by mail and share important election information. One of the firm's managing directors is a senior adviser to Biden's campaign, and several Vote Safe team members have worked extensively on the campaigns of prominent Democrats, including Kamala Harris and Hillary Clinton. In a Wednesday letter to Secretary of State Alex Padilla, three House Republicans said SKD Knickerbocker is also being targeted by Russian hackers, raising concerns over the security of California voter information. Also on Wednesday, state Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove demanded an investigation into the contract.

3. California surpasses 2010 census response rate A sign encouraging participation in the 2020 census hangs from the Alameda County Courthouse on April 28, 2020. Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters California on Wednesday exceeded its 2010 census response rate[23] with two weeks left in the counting period. Around 10.3 million households, or 68.4%, have responded so far — compared to 68.2% in 2010. Officials had feared an undercount — potentially costing California a seat in the House of Representatives along with billions in federal funding — due to the Trump administration slashing the counting period by a month, the coronavirus pandemic restricting door-to-door canvassing[24], wealthy Californians fleeing to vacation or secondary homes[25] and the general difficulty of connecting with the Golden State's hard-to-reach communities[26]. Ditas Katague, director of the California Complete Count — Census 2020: 'With two weeks left, our message is loud and clear: Californians need to act and fill out their Census forms. We have just days to secure funding and representation in our state for the next decade.'

4. Another year of online learning at UC? Royce Hall at UCLA on Aug. 7, 2019. Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters Zoom classes and extremely limited on-campus at the University of California will likely be the norm for at least another year, the system's top health official said Wednesday. Dr. Carrie Byington's remarks are the strongest indication that UC will follow in the footsteps of the Cal State system, which last week announced[27] an almost entirely online spring 2021 semester, CalMatters' Mikhail Zinshteyn reports[28]. Byington said the pandemic will require UC to keep its current modifications in place until September 2021, improving gradually each month through July 2022. Byington: 'This is not something that will go away quickly. The pandemic of 1918, which is the one that we would compare this to most easily, (it) was about four years before things began to really change.'

Advertisement <https://www.socalgas.com/vision> CalMatters events September 18: Can California Create a Future-Ready Workforce? Register[29] Submit Your Questions[30] CalMatters commentary CalMatters columnist Dan Walters[31]: The California Chamber of Commerce maintained its record of defeating 'job killer' bills despite the influence of COVID-19 and the recession. California must serve multilingual voters: Secretary of State Alex Padilla failed to provide Arabic-speaking Californians with the language services they need to vote, argue Sukaina Hussain of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and Christina Fletes-Romo of the ACLU of Northern California[32]. A water budget California can afford: The state water board needs to establish a balanced water budget, and the state needs to stop ignoring how out of balance it is, writes Chris Shutes of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance[33]. Advertisement <https://byebyemattress.com/> Other things worth your time As wildfires rage, California presses insurers to cut risks. // New York Times[34] Man, woman who died in California fires were ready to flee but stayed due to 'erroneous information.' // NBC News[35] California firefighters battle exhaustion, heat and pandemic during historic wildfire season. // San Francisco Chronicle[36] First big reform of California's school funding law awaits Newsom's signature. // EdSource[37] Why grocery stores are pushing California to be tougher on crime. // Los Angeles Times[38] ACLU sues Palo Alto over residents-only park. // San Francisco Chronicle[39] Placer County homeless quietly move into suburban homes. How the unusual program works. // Sacramento Bee[40] Why some Los Angeles hotels didn't house homeless people through new state program. // Los Angeles Times[41] See you tomorrow. Tips, insight or feedback? Email emily@calmatters.org [42]. Follow me on Twitter: @emily_hoeven[43] Subscribe to CalMatters newsletters here[44]. Follow CalMatters on Facebook[45] and Twitter[46]. CalMatters is now available in Spanish on Twitter[47], Facebook[48] and RSS[49]. [1]: <https://calmatters.org/education/2020/08/california-teachers-crisis-layoffs/> [2]: <https://calmatters.org/election-2020-guide/proposition-15-property-tax-big-business/>

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<https://lao.ca.gov/BallotAnalysis/Proposition?number=15&year=2020> [4]: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-september-2020/> [5]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/09/trump-california-visit-newsom-fires/> [6]: <https://calmatters.org/election-2020-guide/proposition-16-affirmative-action/> [7]: <https://calmatters.org/education/2020/09/affirmative-action-uc-admissions/> [8]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/08/california-firefighters-cal-fire-bonny-doon/> [9]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/06/many-believe-worst-of-pandemic-yet-to-come-california/> [10]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/09/california-coronavirus-positivity-record-low/> [11]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/06/many-believe-worst-of-pandemic-yet-to-come-california/> [12]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/03/california-coronavirus-by-the-numbers-cases-testing-masks-hospital-beds/> [13]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/gavin-newsom-coronavirus-updates-timeline/> [14]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/california-coronavirus-covid-patient-hospitalization-data-icu/> [15]: <https://calmatters.org/politics/post-it/2020/09/california-prison-guards-ad-democratic-legislator/> [16]: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/national/article245753720.html> [17]: https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/11416/top20_acres.pdf [18]: https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/11416/top20_acres.pdf [19]: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-16/new-evacuations-as-bobcat-fire-jumps-north-firefighters-battle-at-mt-wilson> [20]: <https://www.latimes.com/wildfires-map/> [21]: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article245279195.html> [22]: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article245759840.html> [23]: <https://californiacensus.org/press-release-california-exceeds-2010-census-self-response-rate-in-2020-count/> [24]: <https://calmatters.org/politics/2020/04/coronavirus-california-busting-census-campaign/> [25]: <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2020/09/california-census-wealthy-skipping-survey-manhattan-effect/> [26]: <https://calmatters.org/immigration/2020/03/california-coronavirus-census-undercount-citizenship-question/> [27]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/09/trump-california-visit-newsom-fires/> [28]: <https://calmatters.org/education/2020/09/uc-coronavirus-precautions-2021/> [29]: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-of-work-can-california-create-a-future-ready-workforce-tickets-120258936717> [30]: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5ZmxgTsn-Cx7q6FEhykGzL96KDT4Z0KA9EFMr3RGxMJM89Q/viewform> [31]: <https://calmatters.org/commentary/2020/09/california-chamber-job-killer/> [32]: <https://calmatters.org/?p=138371> [33]: <https://calmatters.org/?p=138360> [34]: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/16/climate/california-home-insurance-crisis.html> [35]: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/man-woman-who-died-california-fires-were-ready-flee-stayed-n1240200> [36]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/No-end-in-sight-California-firefighters-15570170.php> [37]: <https://edsourse.org/2020/first-big-reform-of-californias-education-funding-law-awaits-governors-signature/640142> [38]: <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-09-16/california-grocery-industry-supports-tougher-crime-laws> [39]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/ACLU-sues-Palo-Alto-over-residents-only-park-15569645.php> [40]: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/homeless/article245547480.html> [41]: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-16/hotels-not-participating-in-roomkey> [42]: emily@calmatters.org [43]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&id=fdbf3734c1&e=8df3ed9f4c> [44]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&id=2a7ce24a72&e=8df3ed9f4c> [45]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&id=9b9a39b357&e=8df3ed9f4c> [46]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&id=ad27afd972&e=8df3ed9f4c> [47]: https://twitter.com/calmatters_es [48]: <https://www.facebook.com/calmatterses> [49]: <https://calmatters.org/category/calmatters-en-espanol/>

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