

## 31% support racial preferences in California

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### Body

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Sep 17, 2020( Joanne Jacobs: <http://www.joannejacobs.com/> Delivered by Newstex) Affirmative action is on the ballot in California, but only 31 percent of voters support Proposition 16, concludes a poll[1] by the Public Policy Institute of California. Another 47 percent plan to vote 'no' and 22 percent are undecided.

Proposition 16 would repeal a 24-year-old ban on racial or sex-based preferences in state university admissions, employment and contracting[2].The ballot title is: 'Allow Diversity as a Factor in Public Employment, Education, and Contracting Decisions.' 'Forty-six percent of Democratic likely voters support Proposition 16, compared with 26 percent of independents and 9 percent of Republicans,' writes John Fensterwald on EdSource. 'Twice as many white voters oppose as favor the measure, and Latinos were evenly divided at 41% for and against, with 18% undecided.' Voters of all ages and in all regions of the state oppose Proposition 16, the poll found. Typically, when voters aren't sure about an initiative, they vote 'no.' Proposition 16 'supporters havedwarfed their opponents in fundraising and endorsements[3], but Asian-American families[4] are fighting back, writes Nico Savidge in the San Jose Mercury News. The No on 16 campaign has held car parades and rallies in East Bay and Peninsula suburbs with large Asian populations, and even picketed outside the Los Gatos headquarters of Netflix after founder Reed Hastings' wife donated \$1 million to the Yes campaign. Under the campaign nameCalifornians for Equal Rights[5], the opponents have embraced the rhetoric of those who argue that the 'racial preferences' it would grant amount to discrimination, when government should be colorblind. 'As an immigrant, I really appreciate the equal treatment and equal opportunities provided by this country,' said Frank Xu, a San Diego IT consultant and member of the No campaign who came to the United States from China in 2005. 'The government simply cannot have the power to choose some groups of citizens over others.' University of California admissions is the big issue for Asian Americans. At elite campuses, Asian students, who tend to earn high grades and test scores, are 'over-represented' relative to their share of California high school graduates. All other groups are under-represented. [ 1]: <https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-september-2020.pdf> [ 2]: <https://edsource.org/2020/california-ballot-measure-to-lift-ban-on-affirmative-action-widely-opposed-by-surveyed-voters/640237> [ 3]: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/09/08/what-is-proposition-16-affirmative-action-back-on-the-ballot-in-a-more-diverse-and-democratic-california/> [ 4]: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/09/17/proposition-16-why-some-asian-americans-are-on-the-front-lines-of-the-campaign-against-affirmative-action/> [ 5]: <https://californiansforequalrights.org/>

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