

SEIU Members Back Three Initiatives to Create a More Just California

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Body

SEIU California issued the following news release:

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in California endorsed Propositions 16, 17, and 18 on the November ballot.

April Verrett, President of SEIU Local 2015 and Executive Board member of SEIU California, made the following statement on SEIU California's endorsement of Proposition 16:

"SEIU members are proud to endorse Prop. 16. Institutional racism plagues every component of our state. Prop. 16 gives us an opportunity to rectify generations of structural racism, and creates an inclusive, just society. More than ever we need legislation that promotes inclusivity and provides opportunity post-COVID-19 pandemic. It will enable some of our most vulnerable residents the chance to obtain good public sector jobs and education."

Joseph Bryant, President of SEIU Local 1021 and Executive Board member of SEIU California, made the following statement on SEIU California's endorsement of Proposition 17:

"SEIU members have a vision for a justice rooted in hope and humanity; we believe that communities can heal, that individuals can recover, and that those who have paid the price for their crimes must have real opportunities to re-enter and integrate into our society. This must include the restoration of voting rights for those who have served their sentence and are now on parole. Prohibitions on voting for people who are on parole have always been designed to perpetuate the racial inequities built into our systems of policing and incarceration. Excluding a person from our society perpetuates alienation and prevents the process of repair."

Max Arias, Executive Director of SEIU Local 99 and Executive Board member of SEIU California, made the following statement on SEIU California's endorsement of Prop. 18:

"Wherever there is a fight for justice - from the front lines of the Black Lives Matter movement to the fight to free refugee children from cages - young people are leading the way. Their passion for justice deserves full inclusion in our democracy. Prop. 18 ensures that when young people are old enough to vote in a general election, their critical voice is included in the preceding primary election regardless of whether they are 17 or 18 at the time of the primary. SEIU California members urge a YES vote on Prop. 18."

SEIU members represent California in all its diversity; we are frontline workers in healthcare, homecare, janitorial, educational, social services and other sectors. We are Black, brown, API and white, and a majority of us are women and people of color. Together we are dedicated to eliminating the deeply rooted racial and economic inequities in

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our economy, our government, and throughout our society. Most recently, SEIU California helped launch the Commit to Equity: Invest in Our Communities coalition that demands legislators approve a package of progressive revenues to stop destructive cuts and fuel a just recovery for ALL Californians.

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