



CWOW Lunch and Learn

Prop. 17: Restoration of voting rights to
people on parole

What we are
going to
cover:

- 1) Proposition content and history
- 2) Impact numbers – who does this affect?
- 3) Why I am inclined to support
- 4) Discussion/questions/unintended consequences




Proposition Content & History

What the proposition does:

- A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to allow people on parole for felony convictions to vote.

History:

- Legislature/Senate voted to put this measure on the ballot by 2/3's majority.
 - Voters amended the state constitution in 1974 to allow those who had been convicted of a felony to vote after parole completed, those convicted of felonies could not regain voting rights prior.
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Impact numbers – who does this affect?

- 50,000 people in CA; 2,000 in Alameda County
- Difference between parole and probation
- People who still can't vote:
 - People still incarcerated on state or federal felony sentence
- People who already can vote:
 - People serving probation (suspended sentence)
 - People with a felony sentence to county jail (county felony sentences generally have shorter terms which cannot be longer than 3 years)

Quick CA
Population
Primer
(approximate)

39 million residents	12% of United States
30 million adults	75% of CA population
25 million eligible to vote	80% of adults
21 million registered to vote (as of July)	85 % of eligible voters
14 million voted in 2016	75% of registered voters
50,000 thousand parolees CA	0.2% of registered voters
2,000 parolees Alameda CO	Same as for CA

Why I am inclined to support Prop. 17

- Our God is a god of restoration
- Engaging with community issues helps connect people and is an important factor to their support and successful reentry
 - Open up ways to contribute to and envision greater good
- History of disenfranchisement of black voters and use of criminal justice system against the rights of black citizens
 - Both an issue of justice and a pain spot
- Can't see much downside - arguments against 17 don't make sense to me
 - Scary people voting, justice for victims, devalues voting privilege



Discussion & Next Steps

- Other aspects or views, possible unintended consequences
- Next Steps
 - Who can I tell about this?
 - Consideration of your own relationship to community members re-entering from incarceration
 - Review other ballot measures for how they will impact those re-entering from incarceration