

Gold Filings



2020 Election Issue

Visit our Website amador-ca.aauw.net

To Our AAUW Amador County Branch Members

This issue of Gold Filings is a special one focused on the November 3 election and election process. We are not endorsing any candidates but are disseminating information about the voting process and some recommendations from the California AAUW organization.

As you read through this issue you will find the following:

Recommendations from AAUW-CA on propositions that deal with issues germane to the AAUW mission and goals.

Information about voting, tracking your vote and where/when to drop off ballots in Amador County.

Information about job and volunteer opportunities in support of the election. You will find these at amadorgov.org.

Also, all members will be receiving weekly updates from CA-AAUW about election issues. They are asking that you share this information with your contacts and networks (electronic and otherwise).

What else can you do? If you have time to volunteer but don't want to leave home to do it, writing letters urging people to vote in battleground states is one way to help. There is an organization called votefwd.org that some of our members are connected with. You choose how many letters you can write (like 5/week or a total number). The organization sends you a form letter that you add to and you can mail them yourself before October 17. It costs you an envelope and a stamp.

Thank you, Stephanie Young

AAUW of California Proposition Recommendations

In November, voters will make decisions on 12 state ballot propositions. These cover a variety of issues. The Public Policy Committee reviewed the ballot measures to see which ones are **relevant to our Public Policy Priorities and to our mission**. There are seven that AAUW will support based on this review. We hope you will agree and vote to support these measures.

Propositions with SUPPORT positions have brief descriptions of what they do and who sponsored the measures, as well as key supporters (pro) and opponents (con). AAUW policies that apply are listed in parentheses.

Prop 14 Stem Cell Research

SUPPORT (access to quality health care)

Initiative bond measure

Asks voters to approve a bond for \$5.5 billion to support continued stem cell research, as past bond money is now used up. Stem cell research is used in developing cures for and treating diabetes, Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS, stroke

- *Sponsor:* Robert Klein a real estate investor and activist.
- Pro: American Assoc. for Cancer Research, American Diabetes Assoc./LA
- Con: Center for Genetics & Society

Prop 15 Property Taxes/Split Roll

SUPPORT (funding for education)

Initiative Constitutional amendment

Changes the property tax structure to assess large commercial properties worth more than \$3 million at current market value. It exempts from changes in property taxes residential properties, agricultural land, and business with a value of \$3 million or less. Money generated goes to public schools and services provided by local jurisdictions.

- *Sponsor:* Schools and Communities First Coalition
- Pro: ACLU, CTA, CFT
- Con: Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Assoc., AMVETS

Prop 16 Affirmative Action

SUPPORT (educational opportunity)

Legislative statute

Reinstates race, ethnicity and country of origin as considerations for school admittance and government employment. A previous proposition was passed by the voters banning the use of these factors by schools and government agencies. That ban would be negated by this measure.

- *Sponsor:* California State Legislature
- Pro: California State Student Assoc., CTA, CFT
- Con: American Freedom Alliance, American Civil Rights Institute

Prop 17 Voting for Parolees

SUPPORT (expansion of voting rights)

Legislative Constitutional amendment

Allows people on parole to vote once their prison sentence has been completed and they are re-entering the community under parole. Currently, those on probation can vote. Imprisoned felons cannot vote.

- *Sponsor:* California State Legislature
- Pro: ACLU, LWV California
- Con: Crime Victims United of Calif., Election Integrity Project

Prop 18 Voting at 17

SUPPORT (encouraging voting)

Legislative Constitutional amendment

Allows 17-year-olds to register and vote in a primary election and any ensuing special elections if they will be 18 by the general election, thereby experiencing a full election cycle.

- *Sponsor:* California State Legislature
- *Pro:* Alex Padilla (SOS), California Assoc. of Student Councils
- *Con:* Election Integrity Project of California, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assoc.

Prop 21 Rent Control

SUPPORT (*affordable housing*)

Initiative statute

Authorizes local governments to place rent control measures on housing that is more than 15 years old. Single family homes are exempt if no more than 2 properties are owned. Landlords are guaranteed fair financial returns.

- *Sponsor:* Aids Healthcare Foundation/Housing is a Human Right
- *Pro:* ACLU So Cal., Dolores Huerta Foundation
- *Con:* Congress of Calif. Seniors, Prometheus Real Estate Group, Inc.

Prop 25 Cash Bail: yes or no

SUPPORT (*social and economic justice*)

Initiative referendum equality/impact on minorities

Voters decide to keep or reject SB 10 which ends the use of cash bail in determining whether a suspect is released or kept in jail while awaiting trial, and instead uses risk assessment as a way for judges to decide about releasing jailed suspects awaiting trial.

YES vote – Keep SB 10 and the new risk assessment for jail release

NO vote – Continue cash bail system

- *Sponsor:* American Bail Coalition
- *Pro:* Calif. Democratic Party, SEIU
- *Con:* Howard Jarvis Tax Assoc., Calif. State Conference of the NAACP

Voter Center Locations

For the November 3, 2020 General Election

Amador County Supervisors Chambers

810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Hours starting October 31, 2020:

Saturday thru Monday - 10AM to 6PM

Election Day - 7AM to 8PM

Mace Meadows Golf Course

26570 Fairway Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666

Hours starting October 31, 2020:

Saturday thru Monday - 10AM to 6PM

Election Day - 7AM to 8PM

Ione Memorial Hall

207 S. Amador St.
Ione, CA 95640

Hours starting October 31, 2020:

Saturday thru Monday - 10AM to 6PM

Election Day - 7AM to 8PM

Ballot Drop-off Locations Available Starting October 5, 2020

Make an effort to drop off your ballot prior to Election Day. If store hours for our locations change, or the store needs to close early, that may affect your vote if you wait until the last minute. We have done everything we can to make it easy to return a ballot, but it is a voter's responsibility to ensure they return their ballot timely.

NOTE: HOURS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ELECTION

Amador County Admin Building

810 Court Street (Rear Parking Lot)
Jackson, CA 95642

Hours starting October 5, 2020:

Outside and Accessible 24 hours daily

CLOSES AT 8:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY

Pine Grove Market

19394 State Hwy 88 (Inside Store)
Pine Grove, CA 95665

Hours starting October 5, 2020:

Accessible 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily

CLOSES AT 8:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY

Young's Payless Market IGA

26560 State Hwy 88 (Inside store)
Pioneer, CA 95666

Hours starting October 5, 2020:

Accessible 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

CLOSES AT 7:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY

Pokerville Market

18170 State Hwy 49 (Inside store)
Plymouth, CA 95669

Hours starting October 5, 2020:

Accessible 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily

CLOSES AT 7:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY

Ione Plaza Market

313 Preston Ave (Inside Store)
Ione, CA 95640

Hours starting October 5, 2020:

Accessible 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

CLOSES AT 6:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY

Volcano Country Store

16146 Main St. (Inside store)
Volcano, CA 95689

Hours starting October 5, 2020:

Accessible 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

CLOSES AT 6:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY

Steps to Make Sure Your Mail-in Ballot is Counted

If you're not yet [registered to vote](#), the deadline to register online or through the mail is Oct. 19. If you miss that date, you can still register in-person at a polling place through Election Day. If you're unsure about your registration status, you can check on it by visiting the [California Secretary of State's website](#).

Each registered voter in California will receive all the materials they need for voting by

mail. There's no need to request an absentee ballot, and there's no need to pay for postage. Despite some national bickering about the use of mail ballots, California officials say voting by mail is safe and the state is well-prepared to handle the volume.

MAKE SURE YOUR SIGNATURE IS CORRECT

After filling out the ballot neatly and clearly, **voters must seal and sign the return envelope**. Elections officials use the envelope signature to verify the ballot, and make sure it matches the signature on your voter registration card. If the signatures don't match, elections officials will contact the voter in an attempt to resolve the difference.

While it is possible for the elections office to fix your signature if you mess up, you don't want to risk it. **It's best to sign your full name as it appears on your registration card and avoid any hurried scribbles**. In the March primaries, California officials tossed out 15,000 ballots because of a non-matching signature.

RETURN IT IN A TIMELY MANNER

Once you've properly signed your ballot, you can mail it back to your county election office. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3 in order to be counted. There's no postage required, so all you have to do is fill it out and pop it in the mailbox. Elections officials are anticipating an unprecedented number of mail ballots, and are asking voters to return them as soon as they can to avoid a bottleneck on Nov. 3.

You can also drop your ballot at a secure ballot drop box, take it to a voting location, or have a trusted person return your ballot for you. You can return your ballot at any time, but no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.

TRACK IT ONLINE

All California voters will be able to track when their ballot is mailed, received and counted through the Secretary of State's office. Sign up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov, with the option to receive email and text updates about your ballot.

DON'T CAST A SECOND BALLOT IN PERSON

If you're worried about a mail ballot getting lost or discarded, it's best to fill your ballot out carefully and use the state's ballot tracking tool.

REFER TO YOUR COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE IF YOU NEED MORE HELP

Extra Help Is Needed

Support democracy, your community and make a little extra money by helping out at our Elections Office or a Vote Center for up to two weeks before each Statewide election. Our next major election is the **November 3rd Presidential General** which is fast approaching.

Submit an election officer application to get started!

Contact our office at **(209) 223-6465** or email at elections@amadorgov.org for more information.

Do You or Someone You Know Need Help Getting Your ballot to the County?

Greta McElroy-White, a member of our branch, would be happy to pick up anyone's ballot and take it to the Election Office's drop box. Call Greta at 209-417-4177 or email at email.gretamcw@coastside.net for either pick up or questions.



AAUW Amador (CA) Branch | PO Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

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