

Plain Language Ballots

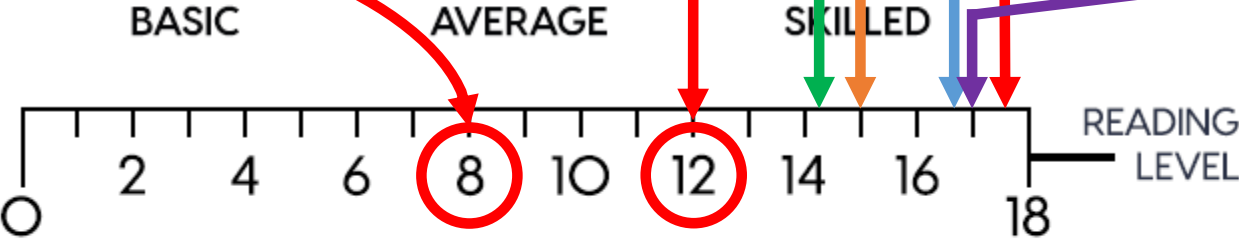


Utah's Propositions & Amendments

High School Graduate

2012	17.4
2014	15.0
2016	14.2
2018	16.7
2020	17.0

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level



LEARNING TO READ BOOKS	THE GRUFFALO	HARRY POTTER	JURASSIC PARK	A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME	AN ACADEMIC PAPER
NEW TO READING					

Aim for grade 8 to ensure your content can be read by 80% of Americans.



Utah
235 words

PROPOSITION NUMBER 2

Shall a law be enacted to:

- establish a state-controlled process that allows persons with certain illnesses to acquire and use medical cannabis and, in certain limited circumstances, to grow up to six cannabis plants for personal medical use;
- authorize the establishment of facilities that grow, process, test, or sell medical cannabis and require those facilities to be licensed by the state; and
- establish state controls on those licensed facilities, including:
 - electronic systems that track cannabis inventory and purchases; and
 - requirements and limitations on the packaging and advertising of cannabis and on the types of products allowed?

Initial Fiscal Impact Estimate:

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget estimates the law proposed by this initiative would result in total fiscal expenses of \$2,900,000 (\$1,800,000 ongoing and \$1,100,000 one-time).

Fee collections would cover about \$1,400,000 of ongoing costs. General state revenues would be required for remaining ongoing costs (\$400,000) and all one-time costs (\$1,100,000).

Under the proposed sales tax exemption, the state and local governments may initially forego \$1,600,000 in sales tax revenue. Foregone revenue could increase over time if consumption and taxable sales increase in the later years following implementation.

Consumer and firm behavior different than assumed would alter these estimates.

In addition, the cost of posting information regarding the initiative in Utah's statewide newspapers and for printing the additional pages in the voter information packet is estimated at \$30,000 in one-time funds.

FOR AGAINST

Oregon
73 words

State Legislative Measures
Referred to the People by the
Legislative Assembly

**94 Amends Constitution:
Eliminates mandatory
retirement age for state
judges**

Result of "Yes" Vote: "Yes" amends constitution, state judges not required to retire from judicial office after turning 75 years old. Statutes cannot establish mandatory retirement age.

Result of "No" Vote: "No" vote retains constitutional provisions requiring state judges to retire from judicial office after turning 75 years old, authorizing statutes establishing lesser mandatory retirement age.

Yes

No

BITE – on the ballot

STATE MEASURES

<p>2 AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE. Amends Mental Health Services Act to fund No Place Like Home Program, which finances housing for individuals with mental illness.</p> <p>Ratifies existing law establishing the No Place Like Home Program. Fiscal Impact: Allows the state to use up to \$140 million per year of county mental health funds to repay up to \$2 billion in bonds. These bonds would fund housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.</p>	<p>158 YES <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>159 NO <input type="radio"/></p>

SNACK – on the insert

PROP 2 **AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

SUMMARY *Put on the Ballot by the Legislature*

Amends Mental Health Services Act to fund No Place Like Home Program, which finances housing for individuals with mental illness. Ratifies existing law establishing the No Place Like Home Program. Fiscal Impact: Allows the state to use up to \$140 million per year of county mental health funds to repay up to \$2 billion in bonds. These bonds would fund housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: The state could use existing county mental health funds to pay for housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: The state's ability to use existing county mental health funds to pay for housing for those with mental illness who are homeless would depend on future court decisions.

MEAL – online

2 **AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The text of this measure can be found on the Secretary of State's website at <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov>.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S ESTIMATE OF NET STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT:

- Allows the state to use up to \$140 million per year of county mental health funds to repay up to \$2 billion in bonds. These bonds would fund housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

BACKGROUND

Counties Provide Mental Health Services. Counties are primarily responsible for providing mental health care for persons who lack private coverage. Counties provide psychiatric treatment, counseling, hospitalization, and other mental health services. Some counties also arrange other types of help for those with mental illness—such as housing, substance abuse treatment, and employment services.

Mental Health Services Act. In 2004, California voters passed Proposition 53

also known as the Mental Health Services Act. The act provides funding for various county mental health services by increasing the income tax paid by those with income above \$1 million. This income tax increase raises \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion per year.

No Place Like Home Program. In 2016, the Legislature created the No Place Like Home Program to build and rehabilitate housing for those with mental illness who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. The state plans to pay for this program by borrowing up to \$2 billion.

FINAL VOTES CAST BY THE LEGISLATURE ON AB 1827 (PROPOSITION 2) (CHAPTER 41, STATUTES OF 2018)

Senate:	Ayes 35	Noes 0
Assembly:	Ayes 72	Noes 1

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

2 **AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

*** ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 2 ***

PRO YES on Prop. 2: Supportive housing and treatment for homeless people living with serious mental illness. Prop. 2 won't raise taxes. It will help people off the streets and into comprehensive mental health services and addiction treatment. Homeless advocates, social workers, doctors and emergency responders agree: Yes on Prop. 2.

CON Taking up to \$5.6 BILLION away from the severely mentally ill to fund bonds to build them just housing without requiring treatment will force many more into homelessness. It is unnecessary, because last year the Legislature authorized county use of MHSAs funds for housing without the need to borrow money.

*** REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 2 ***

Family members, in partnership with faith communities, are struggling to live the tragedies described by the proponents. We support exploring well thought out housing options to end homelessness but oppose Proposition 2 because it takes billions away from our loved ones and rewards developers, bond-holders, and bureaucrats. As of 2017, a portion of Proposition 53 money, as determined by each county with community input, MUST fund supportive housing for those suffering severe mental illnesses. We oppose cruel and senseless skimming up to \$5.6 Billion of sorely needed treatment funds for bonds (\$140 million yearly, for forty years) and giving \$100 Million to state and federal bureaucrats who don't understand the challenges of those living with severe mental illness. The federal government treats treatment funding cutbacks. Therefore, we cannot afford to sacrifice any MHSAs funds to solve a problem better addressed at the county level. Reducing MHSAs funds needed for treatment

of a costly mistake and contribute to: Neglect and missing treatment resources, Causing more individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to lose housing and result in even more of them being arrested and living on the streets. Through stakeholder engagement, counties already know what to do best acquire housing for access to critical services. Prop. 2 cuts off local input and predetermines the balance between treatment and housing needs. Treatment is essential to homelessness. Vote "No" on Proposition 2 to avoid a costly and inhumane mistake!

CHARLES MADSON, President California Contra Costa
GIGI R. CROWDER, L.E., Executive Director NAMI Contra Costa
DOUGLAS W. DUNN, Chair Legislative Committee, NAMI Contra Costa

2 **AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The state would borrow this money by selling bonds, which would be repaid with interest over about 30 years using revenues from the Mental Health Services Act. This means less funding would be available for other county mental health services. No more than \$140 million of Mental Health Services Act funds could be used for No Place Like Home in any year. The bond payments would be around \$120 million in a typical year.

Court Approval Needed for No Place Like Home. Before these bonds can be sold, the state must ask the courts to approve the state's plan to pay for No Place Like Home. The courts must decide two main issues:

- Whether using Mental Health Services Act dollars to pay for No Place Like Home goes along with what the voters wanted when they approved the Mental Health Services Act.
- Whether voters need to approve the No Place Like Home bonds. (The State Constitution requires voters to approve certain kinds of state borrowing.)

This court decision is pending.

PROPOSAL

The measure allows the state to carry out No Place Like Home. In particular, the measure:

- Approves the Use of Mental Health Services Act Funds for No Place Like Home. The measure says that Mental Health Services Act funds can be used for No Place Like Home. No more than \$140 million of Mental Health Services

Act funds could be used for No Place Like Home in any year.

- Authorizes \$2 Billion in Borrowing. The measure allows the state to sell up to \$2 billion in bonds to pay for No Place Like Home. The bonds would be repaid over many years with Mental Health Services Act funds.

With this measure, the state would no longer need court approval on the issues discussed above to carry out No Place Like Home.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Fiscal Effect Depends on the Court Decision. The fiscal effect of the measure depends on whether or not the courts would have approved the state's plan to pay for No Place Like Home. If the courts would have approved the state's plan, the measure would have little effect. This is because the state would have gone forward with No Place Like Home in any case. If the courts would have rejected the state's plan, the state would not have been able to move forward with No Place Like Home. This measure would allow the state to do so.

Visit <http://www.sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-resources/measure-contributions/2018-ballot-measure-contribution-totals> for a list of committees primarily formed to support or oppose this measure. Visit <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/transparency/fppc-contributors/Nov-18-gen.html> to access the committee's top 10 contributors.

If you desire a copy of the full text of the state measure, please call the Secretary of State at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or you can email vgf@redback@sos.ca.gov and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

2 **AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

*** ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 2 ***

Please vote "No" on the "No Place Like Home Act," which should have been called the "Bureaucrat and Developer Enrichment Act," because that is who we feel will most benefit at the expense of those suffering with the most severe mental illnesses.

NAMI Contra Costa members are mostly family members with "skin in the game," so therefore are strong advocates for people living with serious and persistent mental illnesses who oppose this bill. Particularly given looming federal cutbacks, NPLH is counterproductive because it spends billions in treatment funds that Voter Proposition 53 dedicated to the severely mentally ill fourteen years ago. If passed, we strongly feel NPLH will cause more homelessness by forcing more mentally ill people into severe symptoms that could increase the numbers living on the streets.

Proposition 2 is:

- Costly—up to \$5.6 Billion (\$140 million x 40, for 40-year bonds) to raise \$2 billion for housing projects. It won't all go to housing, because housing bureaucrats have already guaranteed to take over \$140 million yearly as "administrative expenses," whether or not they need that amount to pay off the bonds. Developer subsidies (low interest deferred loans that developers will use to build and purchase \$2 Billion in valuable California housing, plus up to 50% operating subsidies) effectively cost the public even more.
- Unnecessary, because the Legislature authorized counties to pay for housing for their severely mentally ill.

Prop. 63 counties in 2017, in AB 727, Counties which can accumulate Mental Health Services Act capital funds for up to ten years, can now do "pay as you go" both to build housing and to pay rent subsidies for these clients. Counties do not need to pay out billions in interest on bonds, unnecessary state debt, and other means, as well as what housing is already available. Only they can determine whether their MHSAs funds are best used to pay for treatment or to build housing in their localities.

- Does nothing to address systemic legal barriers, like limited state protection against restrictive local zoning, that make it very difficult to build supportive housing for groups like the severely mentally ill. Neighborhoods often fight hard to keep them out. It is senseless to pay to pay for housing that is in excess to borrow money that may sit unused because of local opposition to supportive housing projects with severely mentally ill tenants.

The voters defeated Proposition 63 money to treatment, which prevents homelessness, in 2004. That is where it should go.

CHARLES MADSON, President California Contra Costa
GIGI R. CROWDER, L.E., Executive Director NAMI Contra Costa
DOUGLAS W. DUNN, Chair Legislative Committee, NAMI Contra Costa

*** REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 2 ***

Mental illness tragically affects many families. When left untreated, it can also seriously challenge California communities, in the form of chronic homelessness. Homelessness aggravates mental illness, making treatment even more difficult for those with the greatest needs.

- People living on our streets, in doorways, and parks need help NOW. That's why Prop. 2 is so important.
- YES on Prop. 2 will help solve homelessness—and save money.

Prop. 2 creates safe, secure housing, connected to mental health and addiction treatment.

Prop. 2 strengthens partnerships between doctors, law enforcement, and homeless service providers who face the challenge of providing effective care to people suffering from mental illness, especially those with severe mental illness.

Prop. 2 brings NO COST TO TAXPAYERS. Instead, it cuts through red tape so communities can use existing funds to address the urgent problem of homelessness NOW.

Studies show Prop. 2 will help chronically homeless individuals living with a serious mental illness stay off the streets.

A 2018 RAND study found the Prop. 2 approach is beginning to succeed in Los Angeles County, after only one year.

- 3,500 homeless people off the streets
- 96% of study participants stayed in program at least one year
- Taxpayers saved more than \$6.5 million in one year alone
- People living on our streets, in doorways, and parks need help NOW. That's why Prop. 2 is so important.

Learn more: Visit CAYesonProp2.org.

Vote YES on Prop. 2: provide safe, secure supportive housing and services for the chronically homeless—proven to reduce mental illness and mental illness stay off the streets.

DR. AIMEE MOULIN, President California Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians
BRIAN K. RICE, President California Professional Firefighters
JANILE WONG, MSW, Executive Director National Association of Social Workers—National Chapter

ARGUMENTS

PRO YES on Prop. 2: Supportive housing and treatment for homeless people living with serious mental illness. Prop. 2 won't raise taxes. It will help people off the streets and into comprehensive mental health services and addiction treatment. Homeless advocates, social workers, doctors and emergency responders agree: Yes on Prop. 2.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR David Koenig (916) 974-9411 info@CAyesonprop2.org CAyesonprop2.org

AGAINST Gigi R. Crowder NAMI Contra Costa 550 Patterson Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA (510) 990-2670 gigi@namicontracosta.org www.namicontracosta.org

Plain Language Ballots

