

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

CALIFORNIA

BUZZ
THE
BALLOT



**ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS, INC.**
SACRAMENTO STATE

Let's talk about the Political Levels!

Federal Level

President of the United States (P.O.T.U.S.): While the office of the President may seem disconnected from us, the President of the United States is able to impact college students in a variety of ways. Mostly through the US Department of Education which follows the orders of the President but also through other more direct means:

- Impact federal financial aid funding and requirements.
- Affect funding to higher education institution in the form of federal grants and loans.
- Pass executive orders that relate to higher education or college students in general.

United States Congressional Representative: As elected members of congress, representatives are tasked with crafting legislation around a variety of issues, including higher education. Representatives are also tasked with crafting a federal budget which affects funding for higher education, grants, etc.:

- Representatives create and modify legislation that impacts higher education
- Can fund/defund/create important civil programs that provide essential services such as food stamps that many students rely on
- Approval of Presidential nominees into key positions, for example the Secretary of Education who oversees the Department of Education

State Level

California State Senate and Assembly: Members of the California State Legislature are also tasked with crafting legislation specific to California. There are 120 legislators in the California State Legislature (80 Assembly Members and 40 Senators), each representing an Assembly or Senate district in California. The elected representatives are also tasked with:

- Working with the Governor on the annual budget for the CSU, CCC, and UC systems
- Changing the amount of financial support that Cal Grant students receive (which requires legislation)
- Introducing and passing any legislation that affects higher education institutions in any other way (grants for campus programs, assessing the effectiveness of SAT or ACT's, etc.)

California Superior Court Judge: The Superior Court system in California is often referred to as "Trail Courts". This is because the majority of cases in California start and end at Superior Courts. This is why there is at least one Superior Court in each county in California. Judges elected to serve handle:

- All civil and criminal cases
 - Small claims cases and the subsequent appeals
 - Traffic infraction appeals and other misdemeanor appeals
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Local Level

Sacramento County Board of Education Member: Members of the Board of Education handle the decision making when it comes to the governing of public schools. The board is meant to represent the local community, and is tasked with a number of responsibilities, for example:

- Ensuring the accountability of the school district and its public schools
- Advocating for public schools and school districts
- Creating policies and procedures to better improve the educational experience for the children of their district

Sacramento County Board of Supervisor: The County Board of Supervisors is responsible for the day to day governing of the county. The board is able to make county ordinances (local laws or regulations) that can impact the entire county. The board also is tasked with:

- Providing essential services like zoning, street maintenance, sewage disposal, clean water and recreational facilities
- Adopting a county wide budget
- Providing municipal-type services to unincorporated areas of the county, for example fire and police services

Special Districts: Special Districts represent special zones that are centered on a single function, for example water supply or mass transit. These special zones exist outside the control of other government units such as counties or municipalities, allowing them a fair amount of independence in decision making:

City Councilmember and Mayor: The city of Sacramento is governed by a Mayor and City Council which consists of 8 members each representing a district of the city. The City Council serves Sacramento in a number of ways:

- Creates policies and laws that impact the entire city and all of its citizens
- Approves the city's annual budget, which in the fiscal year 2018/2019 reached over \$1 billion, this budget is used to fund the entire city of Sacramento and all of its departments and services. Represents the city and people of Sacramento on both the national and international level

Information on Ballot Measures and Propositions on the next page!

Let's talk about the Ballot Propositions and Measures!

Ballot Propositions

Ballot Propositions: Ballot Propositions are initiatives on the ballot that give voters an opportunity to vote on proposed changes to the state constitution and/or other laws within the state. Propositions can impact many different areas of our lives such as (but not limited to):

- The way individuals are treated within systems
- How bonds and funds are allocated
- Changes in rules and regulations

Ballot Measures

Ballot Measures: Ballot Measures are local elections, usually for a town, city, or country. They concern local policies, taxes, regulations, or the structure of the local government. These measures can have a ton of impact on your local communities for example:

- Changing property and sales tax, which in turn can change the cost of housing or other things you buy while at school.
- Changing the structure or job responsibilities of your local leaders like the city council, board of supervisors, mayor, or city manager.
- Authorize bonds or new taxes to fund programs like education, community services, construction, transportation and more.
- Create or modify a variety of regulations with goals of sustainability, housing development and more.

Thank you for being an active and informed voter, now get out there and vote!