

**From:** Padric Gleason Gonzales [mailto:padric.gleason@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 5:17 PM

**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment for agenda item #23 for 9/15 City Council Meeting re: state legislation

**-EXTERNAL-**

Each of these state ballot propositions promotes equity and bends the arc of the moral universe towards justice. Please approve this motion to support all of the ballot initiatives considered by the State Legislative Committee, then promote the Council's position through public media. Our City's residents deserve to know where their representatives stand so they can cast an informed vote.

Padric Gleason Gonzales

**From:** Elizabeth Mason [mailto:elizabethmason18@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:59 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comments\_Vote No on Prop 16

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear mayor and council members,

As the election season is coming up, I would like to draw your attention to Prop 16 which is about government preferences.

The California Constitution says: “The State SHALL NOT discriminate against, or grant PREFERENTIAL treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. Proposition 16 will strike out and eliminate this language from the California Constitution. No substitute is provided.

However, the summary being put forth to voters is this: "ALLOWS DIVERSITY AS A FACTOR IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND CONTRACTING DECISIONS. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT."

If diversity is the goal (according to the summary) why eliminate the Constitution that says you cannot benefit one race/gender over another? Why not propose a proposition that says it? If you specifically benefit one race/gender over another isn't THAT discrimination?

Some people say that this Proposition will hurt one or two races specifically because of their higher performances in College admissions, which I don't agree with. In the long run, it hurts everyone and it hurts our state because Prop 16 will eliminate equal opportunity and fair competition which made California one of the most prosperous and diversified states in the whole country.

Therefore, I urge the city council to take a position to oppose Prop 16. Prop 16 will legalize discrimination and waste tax money to fund the bureaucracy. Our city doesn't need it. California doesn't need it!

Please kindly share my comments at the meeting.

Thank you!

Liz

**From:** Norma Rodriguez [mailto:norma@caljustice.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 23 Support for Prop 15 and 16

**-EXTERNAL-**

My name is Norma Rodriguez, I am the Organizing Director for Californians for Justice here in Long Beach. We are an education nonprofit focused on racial justice and education equity. We work with highschool youth of color across the state and locally. This comment is in support of Item 23 we are writing to support the resolution in support of Propositions 15 and 16.

**Prop 15:**

The passage of Prop 15 will be the biggest win towards equity in the state in the past 40 years. Proposition 15 is a key opportunity to create a much-needed revenue stream for our schools and community programs. Securing this funding is an essential part of addressing the historic defunding and neglect for public schools and communities of color in our state.

When passed, Proposition 15 will bring in an estimated \$12 Billion annually. The Long Beach Community College District will get over \$9 million from Prop 15 and LBUSD will get over \$49,000,000.

These funds can help cushion against the budget cuts we know are coming as a result of the economic downturn created by COVID-19. Because we know that when funds run low, our schools and public programs like shelters, transportation, libraries and road maintenance are some of the first ones cut.

Prop 16: Would repeal proposition 209, which was a ban on affirmative action programs in public institutions that voters adopted in 1996. The ban was a huge blow to equity and diversity. Getting rid of prop 209 will allow but not require the states public universities and government agencies to consider race and gender when admitting students, recruiting faculty and hiring staff.

Join us in funding our schools and communities and voting to support Yes on Prop 15 and 16.

In solidarity,  
Norma Rodriguez

Norma Rodriguez  
Organizing Director  
She/Her/Hers  
[Californians for Justice](#) | 1205 Pine Ave Suite 101, Long Beach, CA  
(C) 619-957-3557 | Twitter: @normita83

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