



Activist Training Series

August 7, 2020

Presented by

Brittany Stonesifer, ACLU of CA

Jesse Koklas, Initiate Justice

Shay Franco-Clausen, Yes on 17

Dora Rose, LWV of CA

Daisy Chavez, Initiate Justice

Lisa Schottenfield, SURJ

What to expect from this training

- Community building
- Intro to the Yes on Prop 17 campaign
- Topline messages
 - **Featured topic:** Felony disenfranchisement as racist voter suppression
- Ways to support the campaign
 - **Featured action:** Know your rights for voting this November!
- Resources
- Q&A + next steps

Building Community

Community Agreements

- Person-centered language
- Make space/take space (aka, step up/step back)
- One mic
- Mindful listening
- Assume best intentions

Breakout Pods

- **Questions:**
 - Name, org, pronouns, city
 - What brought you to this training today?
 - What does parole disenfranchisement mean to you?
- **5 minutes**

Getting to know Prop 17...



Intro to Yes on Prop 17: What is it?

- On the November 3rd California statewide ballot
- Restores voting rights to Californians immediately upon release from prison
- Amends state constitution to eliminate disenfranchisement for people on parole
- Formerly known as “ACA 6”
- Prop 17 *does not*:
 - Affect voting rights of people in prison or affect any criminal sentencing laws
 - Affect states other than California

Intro to Yes on Prop 17: Who is behind it?

FREE =
THE VOTE

is now...

YES =
ON 17

FREE THE VOTE

Intro to Yes on Prop 17: Who is behind it?

- Criminal justice reform organizations
- Voting rights organizations
- Civic engagement organizations
- California legislators and Secretary of State



How to talk about Prop 17...

Yes on Prop 17: Topline Messages

Prop 17 will:

- Allow 50,000 Californians who are returning home from prison reintegrate into society after they've finished their prison term by restoring their right their vote
- Help combat voter suppression among Black and Brown communities, who are over-policed and subject to systemic inequalities within our criminal legal system
- Make our communities safer as voting and civic engagement reduce the likelihood that people will be rearrested
- Give Californians on parole - who are working, raising families, and paying taxes - a say in the policies and representatives who affect their lives
- Make democracy fairer, more inclusive, and in line with other progressive states

Colton Hall – Site of California's Original Constitution

Forty-eight men of diverse education and cultural backgrounds from throughout California converged upon Monterey in September in 1849 to frame a constitutional government for California. Working together as *Californians*, they created this important cornerstone of government. The deliberations, conducted in English and Spanish, took place in Colton Hall. On October 13, 1849, the delegates signed and submitted a state constitution to the people of California. It was ratified by popular vote on November 13, 1849.

The 1849 Constitution was notable in that it featured articles on suffrage, women's property rights, prohibition of slavery, establishment of the state's eastern boundary, and specified that all laws and ordinances would be published in English and Spanish. On September 9, 1850, the Congress of the United States of America approved the constitution, making California the 31st state.

California State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
March 7, 2010

California Constitution 1849

Article III Right of Suffrage

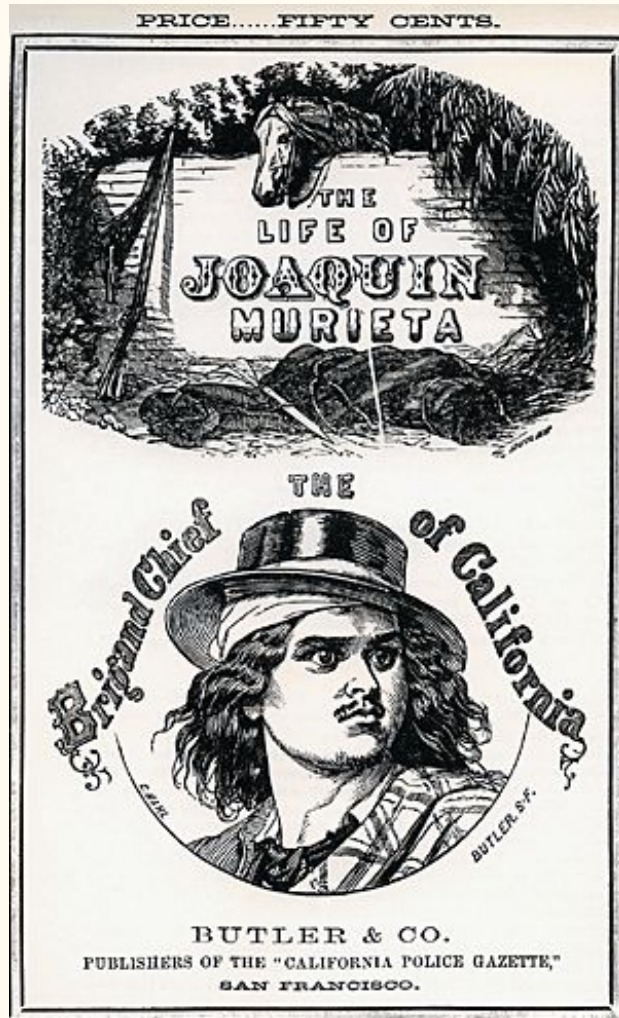
**Every white male
citizen of the United
States, and every
white male of Mexico,
who shall have
elected to become a
citizen...shall be
entitled to vote at all
elections.**

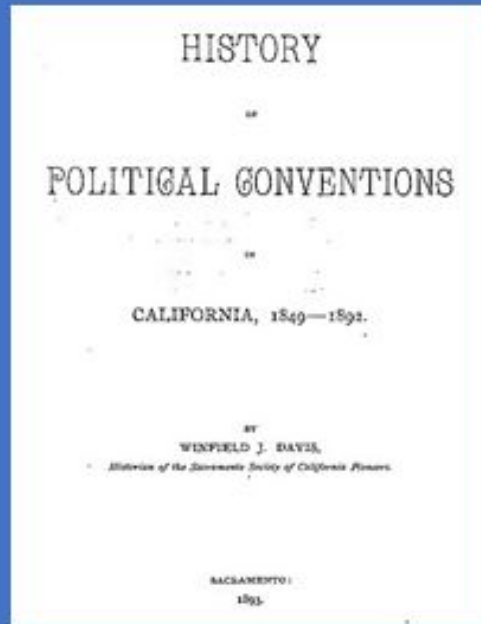


California Once Tried to Ban Black People



The Enslaved Native Americans Who Made The Gold Rush Possible





Democratic State Committee Resolutions 1867

[W]e believe it impracticable to maintain republican institutions based upon the suffrages of negroes, Chinese, and Indians, and that the doctrines avowed by the radical leaders of indiscriminate suffrage, regardless of race, color, or qualification, if carried into practice, would end in the degradation of the white race and the speedy destruction of the government

Ways to support Prop 17...



Ways to support Prop 17

- Check your voter registration status today!
- Get your agency or community group to endorse Yes on Prop 17
- Talk to 5 friends about Prop 17 and ask them follow @YesOnProp17 on social media
- Join our email list
- Donate to the Yes on 17 campaign
- Ask another activist to join you at our next training - Fri, 8/21, 1pm

Voting this November: Eligibility

- In order to vote you must be: **eligible** *and* **registered**
- To be eligible to vote in CA, you must be:
 - A US citizen and resident of CA (no min. time)
 - At least 18 years old on Election Day
 - **Not currently sentenced state or federal prison or on parole***
 - *Not* currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- *Otherwise eligible adults may still vote if sentenced to jail or probation, serving a misdemeanor sentence, awaiting trial, discharged from parole, or on any form of community supervision other than parole
 - [LetMeVoteCA.org](https://www.LetMeVoteCA.org)

Voting this November: Registration

- When to register:
 - Regular registration “deadline”: **Oct. 19, 2020** (15 days before Election Day)
 - Same-day registration: From Oct. 20 through Election Day
- How to register:
 - Up to Oct. 19: Online, paper form, or by phone
 - Oct. 20-Election Day: Usually in-person
- Check your registration status TODAY:
 - RegisterToVote.ca.gov

Voting this November: Casting your ballot

- This November, all California voters* will automatically be sent a **vote-by-mail ballot**
 - *Only applies to active, registered voters
 - Make sure your address is up-to-date!
 - Return through USPS, ballot drop boxes, or any voting location
- Also option to vote **in-person**
 - Check your local election office's website or sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-info for locations and hours
 - Services: early voting, same-day registration, language and disability assistance
 - On Election Day: 7am to 8pm; right to vote if in line at 8pm
- Election protection hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE or 866ourvote.org

Yes on Prop 17: Resources

- Website: YesOn17.vote
 - Social media:
 - FB/IG: @YesOnProp17
 - TW: @FreeTheVoteCA
 - Email sign up
 - Fact sheet
 - Endorsements
- Next activist training: [Fri. 8/21, 1pm](#)
- Contact us: info@yeson17.vote; media@yeson17.vote

Questions?

Please put your questions in the chat box!



Turning training into action!

- Breakout Pods:
 - What's one thing you learned today?
 - How will you implement what you learned here?
 - 5 min
 - After: share your commitment to action in chat box

Thank you!

- Check out our website: **YesOn17.vote**
 - Donate!
- Join us for our next training on **Fri, 8/21, at 1pm**