

Toolkit for Action



November 8, 2016
California General Election



www.californiaalliance.org

Dear CARA Affiliate, Member, and Fellow Activist,

The 2016 election season is upon us. We don't have to be the first to tell you that the rights of seniors are under attack in 2016. What happens in November will have a lasting impact on seniors and people with disabilities, and the soon to be retirees. Our quality of life, our rights and our ability to support ourselves are at stake. The future of our children and grandchildren is at stake.

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) with our nearly 1 million members is working hard to educate California seniors and others about the issues that are facing us in the coming election: issues from protecting Social Security and Medicare to protecting our rights here in California.

To help you do your work, CARA has put together an election toolkit to help your organization educate, organize and empower your members. Please find enclosed, the CARA 2016 election toolkit:

- Why the senior vote is important
- Slate card on CARA's positions on state initiatives
- Fact sheets on the 4 initiatives CARA is focusing on
- CARA Senior to Senior Phone bank information
- Sample rap for phone-banking
- Central Labor Council list – help them with their GOTV efforts
- CATs CARA Action Team Statewide Schedule – Join us!!
- Sample Candidate questions – local, state and federal
- Scorecards for you to rate candidates
- CARA Take Action Card

If you are interested in working with CARA on this upcoming election or plug into our election work, please contact Jodi Reid in northern California and Vishnu in Southern California to help mobilize and engage your senior organization.

We look forward to working with you and winning this election for all seniors and retirees in 2016.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nan Brasmer".

Nan Brasmer, President
California Alliance for Retired Americans

Why the Senior Vote Matters

Elections are decided by the people who show up at the polls. With the growing number of people over 60 in California, seniors have tremendous political clout this election year. Yet there are seniors who repeatedly vote against their own interests, due to lack of information, being more isolated and often getting their information from television, radio and misleading mailers funded by big corporations and rich individuals.

61% of citizens age 65 and older voted in the November 2012 election, the best turnout of any age group. More than half (54%) of those ages 55 to 64 also cast a ballot. People under age 45 are much less likely to vote. Just 37 % of 25- to 44-year-olds made it to the polls in November 2012. And not even a quarter (21%) of the youngest citizens—ages 18 to 24—entered a voting booth in 2012. Here's a look at some of the reasons senior citizens are more likely to vote than younger people.

Protect Social Security and Medicare. Senior citizens have a vested interest in protecting the valuable benefits they receive from the federal government. For many, these benefits are the only way they are able to live with some measure of independence and dignity.

Less mobility. The voter registration process is another reason older people vote in greater numbers than younger people. Every time a person moves to a new address, they must re-register to vote. Young people who forget or don't get around to re-registering at their new address may be kept from voting. Older voters tend to be more stable.

More time. Working-age voters must often squeeze in a visit to their voting location early in the morning on their way to work or late in the evening. Retirees don't face the same time crunch. Also, more and more seniors vote by absentee ballot – so getting to the polls becomes a non-issue.

Social norms. Senior citizens are more likely to be longtime residents of their communities, and may be influenced by friends and neighbors of the same age who are also voting. With older folks, there is a norm to vote. They think of themselves as voters, and they care about being a voter. In terms of the actual number of older people who cast ballots, California tops the list with 2.4 million people age 65 and older who voted in 2012. As the aging population continues to be the fastest growing part of California's population, this number is expected to grow. Seniors will have a tremendous impact on the outcome of the November 2016 election at the local, state, and national level, and that will continue to be the case for years to come.

If we want to be sure that Californians vote for candidates and for policies that will support a more just and equitable quality of life for seniors, people with disabilities, and working families, we will need to engage and educate seniors as a top priority. That is what CARA's Seniors Vote Program is all about.



★ ★ ★ ★ **The Senior Vote Matters in 2016!** ★ ★ ★ ★

Elections are decided by the people who show up at the polls.

With the growing number of seniors over 60 in California, you have tremendous political clout this election year. Yet there are seniors who repeatedly vote against their own interests, due to lack of information, being more isolated and often getting their information from television, radio and misleading mailers funded by big corporations and rich individuals.

That is why the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), California's largest, grassroots senior advocacy organization, created the **Senior Vote 2016 Project**. CARA represents almost 1 million seniors through our 260 affiliated organizations. We have studied all of the California Ballot measures, and have made recommendations on these initiatives to serve the interest of older people and our families. If you would like additional information, go to the CARA website at www.californiaalliance.org.

Please be sure to VOTE in this important election – on both the ballot measures and for the candidates for local, state, and national office that you believe will best represent your interests and the interests of seniors.

Thank You!

<p>YES ON PROP 51</p>	<p>YES ON PROP 55</p>	<p>YES ON PROP 59</p>	<p>YES ON PROP 61</p>
<p>Give All California Students a Chance for Success</p> <p>PROP 51 IS A STATE SCHOOL BOND to address the backlog of school construction projects needed for all levels of education—kindergarten to community college. We are urging you to VOTE YES on PROP 51 – for the benefit of your children, grandchildren and future generations because schools with upgraded technology, labs, and libraries give all of our students the opportunity to receive a quality education that prepares them to compete in our global economy.</p>	<p>Help California Children, Seniors, and Families Thrive</p> <p>PROP 55 WOULD CONTINUE THE SUCCESS OF PROP 30 that requires the wealthiest of Californians making \$250,000 or more per year to pay their fair share of taxes. These taxes from the wealthy help to protect essential senior services like health services, home care, meal programs, and adult day health care as well as improving our public education system. Prop 55 also reduces our sales tax by 1/4 cent.</p>	<p>Get Corporations out of Politics!</p> <p>PROP 59 CALLS UPON CALIFORNIA'S CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS to support a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the Supreme Court in <i>Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission</i> which allows corporations and billionaires to influence and control the outcome of elections in our country.</p>	<p>Reduce the Price of Prescription Drugs in California</p> <p>PROP 61, THE CALIFORNIA DRUG RELIEF PRICE ACT, would require the State of California to pay NO MORE for prescription drugs than the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs. California provides the prescription drugs for 7 million Californians, many of them being seniors. Medicare and insurance companies should also be able to negotiate for lower drug prices from giant pharmaceutical companies thereby saving California taxpayers billions of dollars by lowering drug prices. Prop 61 is the first step.</p>

★ ★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER 2016 GENERAL ELECTION ★ ★ ★ ★

CARA Recommendations on California Ballot Initiatives

YES PROP 51	Funding for K-12 School and Community College	YES PROP 59	Campaign Finance – Voter Instruction/ Overturn Citizens United
YES PROP 52	State Fees on Hospitals, Federal Medi-CAL Matching funds	No Recommendation PROP 60	Condoms for adult performers
NO PROP 53	Revenue Bonds require statewide voter approval	YES PROP 61	RX drug purchases by State at Veteran's Administration prices
NO PROP 54	Prohibit legislation unless in print published 72 hours in advance	YES PROP 62	Death penalty repeal
YES PROP 55	Tax Extension to fund Education and Health Care (Prop 30)	YES PROP 63	Guns/Ammo sales – prohibits large capacity magazines
YES PROP 56	Tobacco tax to fund Health Care, prevention, law enforcement	YES PROP 64	Legalization of marijuana and hemp. Establishes tax structure
YES PROP 57	Criminal Sentences, Juvenile proceedings and sentencing	NO PROP 65	Charges for Carry out bags
YES PROP 58	Repeal 227 (California Education for a Global Economy)	NO PROP 66	Procedures for death penalty cases – Pro death penalty
		YES PROP 67	Ratify the ban on single-use plastic bags.



California Alliance for Retired Americans

**TAKE THIS
TO THE POLLS!**



CARA
Northern California:
 600 Grand Ave, #410
 Oakland, CA 94610
 Phone: 415-550-0828 or 510-663-4086
 Toll free: 877-223-6107
 Fax: 510-663-4099
Southern California:
 Phone: 714-488-5488
 Paid for by the California Alliance for Retired Americans

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CARA Recommendations on California Ballot Initiatives November 2016 General Election

YES ON Prop 51- Funding for K-12 School and Community College

YES ON Prop 52- State Fees on Hospitals, Federal Medi-CAL Matching funds

NO ON Prop 53 – Revenue Bonds require statewide voter approval

NO ON Prop 54- Prohibit legislation unless in print / published 72 hours in advance

YES ON Prop 55 – Tax Extension to fund Education and Health Care (Prop 30)

YES ON Prop 56 – Tobacco tax to fund Health Care, prevention, law enforcement

YES ON Prop 57 – Criminal Sentences, Juvenile proceedings and sentencing

YES ON Prop 58 - Repeal 227 (California Education for a Global Economy)

YES ON Prop 59 – Campaign Finance – Voter Instruction/ Overturn Citizens United

No Recommendation on Prop 60 - Condoms for adult performers

YES ON Prop 61 - RX drug purchases by State at Veteran's Administration prices

YES ON Prop 62 - Death penalty repeal

YES ON Prop 63- Guns/Ammo sales – prohibits large capacity magazines

YES ON Prop 64 - Legalization of marijuana and hemp. Establishes tax structure.

NO ON Prop 65 – Charges for Carry out bags.

NO ON Prop 66 – Procedures for death penalty cases – Pro death penalty.

YES ON Prop 67 - Ratify the ban on single-use plastic bags.

VOTE YES ON PROP 51

Give All California Students a Chance for Success

Prop 51 is a state school bond to address the multi-billion dollar backlog of school construction projects (from kindergarten- community college). Often, seniors vote against school bonds since they no longer have school age children. We are urging you to VOTE YES on PROP 51 – not only for your grandchildren and future generations, but because safe, healthy school environments allow us to upgrade technology, labs, libraries, etc, so that all students have access to a quality education in a safe and healthy environment to better prepare and compete in our global economy. And for every billion dollars invested in new school construction and modernization, 13,000 good paying jobs will be created. We all win when California has the best schools possible.

Invest in School Facilities:

- Prop 51 will help to modernize and repair schools to 21st century standards.
- Upgrades will be made for classroom technology, science labs, libraries and infrastructure.
- California needs a safe, quality school environment to provide the best learning opportunities so that we can compete in a global economy.

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Local Control:

- Local school districts are doing their part – it's time for the state to fulfill its' funding responsibility.
- Most of the projects that will be funded by Prop 51 have already been approved by local school boards, but will need to meet state program eligibility criteria. School districts will use local funds to match the state dollars.
- All school projects will be subject to significant accountability, including citizen board oversight and annual audits.

Expand Economic Opportunities for All:

- California needs a well-educated and skilled workforce who can attract well-paying jobs.
- For every billion dollars invested in new school construction and renovation and modernization, 13,000 jobs will be created.

Providing Career Training for Youth and a Commitment to our Veterans:

- Prop 51 will enable local high schools and community colleges to upgrade vocational and educational program facilities so students and veterans can learn the skills they need to get a career in a competitive global economy.
- Prop 51 will help community colleges ensure veterans can get the help they need for a college degree or a stable well-paying job.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson says the state-local funding program enable by state bonds has been "very, very successful," calling the partnership with public funds "sensible, logical and good for students."

For information go to www.californiaforqualityschools.com

VOTE YES ON PROP 55

Help California Children, Seniors, and Families Thrive

Prop 55 would continue the successful efforts of Prop 30 that asked the wealthiest Californians (those making \$250,000/year or more) to pay their fair share of taxes. These funds will raise nearly \$8 billion dollars annually, and help to protect vital services like public education, health services, and funding for essential senior services like home care, meals programs, case management services, adult day health care, and more. Prop 55 does not raise taxes on anyone. The wealthiest in our state will just continue to pay the same amount they are now paying to protect schools and vital service from deep cuts. Prop 55 also eliminates the ¼ cent sales tax that was part of Prop 30. Prop 55 will extend the other provisions of Prop 30 for another 12 years. If we don't pass Prop 55, than the provisions of Prop 30 will end this year, and these vital programs and services will suffer.

Prop 55 Protects our Students and Public Schools from Massive Budget Cuts, Educator Lay-Offs, Larger Classes, and Tuition Hikes:

- California public schools were cut to the bone during the recession, forcing huge lay-offs, and the elimination of many programs that make our kids well-rounded. We are just starting to come back from these cuts, and we need Prop 55 to or our schools could lose \$4 billion a year.
- California is facing a severe teacher shortage. Funding from Prop 55 will help give school districts money they need to hire quality teachers and school employees.
- Prop 55 will help keep tuition rates stable and make more classes available to California's 2.1 million community college students.

Prop 55 Will Improve Access to Health Care Programs and other Essential programs for seniors, people with disabilities and working families:

California chronically underfunds health care and other social service programs.

- Prop 55 helps to provide money to increase access to care and services- especially to low income children, seniors and working families.
- Services like adult day health, in home support services, meals programs, and other publicly funded programs for seniors and people with disabilities are the first to get cut in budget negotiations.
- Prop 55 provides helps to ensure that these programs continue and grow.

Prop 55 Does Not Raise Taxes on Anyone. The Wealthiest Will Temporarily Continue Paying the Same Amount They are Now Paying to Protect schools and Vital Services.

Prop 55 only affects the wealthiest Californians who can most afford it, ensuring that they continue to pay their fair share of taxes. This is not a tax increase.

Budget forecasts show that unless we maintain these taxes on the wealthy, schools could lose nearly \$4 billion a year and other essential services will lose more than \$4 billion in the first year alone.

More about Prop 55:

- Prop 55 puts new revenue in a specific fund to make sure the money goes to the right places. The Legislature can't touch it.
- The measure does not raise taxes on anyone.
- Working, middle class families and small businesses and seniors will benefit as the ¼ cent sales tax increase that was part of Prop 30 will expire at the end of this year.

For more information contact; www.protectingcalifornia.com



VOTE YES ON PROP 59 ***Overturn Citizens United!***

Proposition 59 calls upon California's Congressional delegation to support a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission. A YES vote on Prop 59 will reduce the influence of billionaires on our elections and correct the misguided Supreme Court rulings that have granted constitutional rights to corporations. The dominance of big money from a wealthy few is getting worse because of this Supreme Court decision that gives corporations the same rights as individuals, thus giving SuperPACs unlimited amounts of money to spend. Consequently, insurance, oil, pharmaceutical and other giant companies have grown to dominate California's elections. The Supreme Court made a mistake, and it is time to correct it. Let's add California's voice to several other states and tell Congress and the Supreme Court to overturn Citizens United and stop the unlimited spending of wealthy individuals and corporations in politics.

Our Elections are Up For Sale:

In 9 out of 10 Congressional elections, the candidate who spends the most money wins. The dominance of big money from a wealthy few is getting worse because of the Supreme Court decision that gives corporations the same rights as individuals. Billionaires can give SuperPACs unlimited amounts of money as a protected form of "free speech". Giant corporations have grown to dominate our elections – for both candidates and ballot initiatives.

A Constitutional Amendment Can Get Big Money out of Politics:

We can correct the errors of this Supreme Court by passing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution clarifying that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and authorizing limits on campaign contributions and spending that promote a level playing field – one that ensures that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to speak. Seven of our 27 amendments to the Constitution have corrected previous overreaches by the Supreme Court and now is the time to do it again.

Only People are People:

Corporations do not breathe. They don't give birth, go to war, or pledge allegiance to our flag. CEOs should not use the privileges granted to corporations to spend their shareholders' and customers' money on political agendas they may not agree with.

California Has a Chance to Speak Up:

Other states have already approved similar measures (Montana, Colorado) as have voters in several California cities (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Richmond) and Washington is considering a similar measure in November. Let's add California's voice to elevate this debate to a national level.

For information contact: www.YESonCA59.com

VOTE YES ON PROP 61

The California Drug Price Relief Act

Prop 61, the California Drug Relief Price Act, will require the State of California to pay NO MORE for prescription drugs than is paid for the same medication by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. California could also negotiate for prices below those paid by the department. This would apply to the almost 7 million Californians who receive their drugs directly from the state, saving California taxpayers billions of dollars. Senior and health care organizations have been advocating for years to allow Medicare and insurance companies the ability to negotiate for lower drug prices. The U.S. pays almost 2/3 more than any other industrialized nation for the same prescription drugs, raising health care costs and making many important drugs inaccessible to those that need them, because the costs are too high. In 2014, the cost of Rx drugs rose 11% and there is no end in sight. It is time that we require the pharmaceutical companies to negotiate for reasonable prices, and Prop 61 starts that process in California.

Prescription Drug Costs are one of the Largest Drivers of Rising Health Care Costs:

- Nationally, prescription drug spending rose by more than 550% between 1990 and 2011.
- U.S. Drug prices rose 11% in 2014 alone.
- Spending on specialty medications, such as those for cancer, hepatitis C, and drugs to treat HIV/AIDS are rising even faster – in 2014 they rose by 25%.
- Advertising and marketing costs – not research and development – are driving these increases.

Taxpayers will Save Billions of Dollars

- The U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs uses its buying power to purchase prescription drugs at roughly 40% of the prices drug companies charge states and individuals.
- Using similar savings for the State of California, Prop 61 would save taxpayers an estimated \$5.7 billion over 10 years.
- Prop 1 will authorize the state and state agencies to enter into agreements with manufacturers of any prescription drugs purchased by the state – as long as the net cost is the same or less than the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Who Will Benefit?

- Ultimately, millions of Californians – taxpayers would see the state saving billions of dollars, freeing up funds to redirect to other critical healthcare needs.
- Other taxpayers will save directly: 5 million non-HMO participants in Medi-Cal, and are members of CalPERS; thousands in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and others receiving drugs directly from the State.
- Opponents say that the cost reductions for state beneficiaries will be passed on to other consumers, union trust funds, and health plans. There is no evidence this is true – it is a threat to get folks to oppose price negotiation on drugs.
- Prop 61 could be the first step to ultimately force the drug companies to moderate price increases across the board, based on public Pressure and the lowered price of state purchased drugs.
- The U.S. pays the highest prices for drugs of all the industrialized countries and is prohibited from negotiating for lower drug prices. This must stop. Seniors are the largest consumers of prescription drugs and many are forced to go without food and other necessities in order to pay for their drugs – or go without.

For information contact: www.YESon61.com



Help Seniors Win in November 2016

Join CARA's Senior Phone Bank Program



CARA plans to educate and mobilize thousands of California senior voters this November (and October for those people who vote by mail). We will be distributing thousands of slate cards on the state ballot measures as well as making phone calls to senior voters urging them to vote on these important measures.

We need YOU to make these **Senior to Senior** phone calls. There are 2 ways to help:

Phone From Your Home

All you need to be part of this **Phone from Home** phone bank is a computer (with an email address) and a phone. This phone bank will focus on calling seniors about the state ballot measures that CARA is endorsing.

You can register to call once or weekly - it's up to you. Once you sign up to call, we will provide a quick training via tele-conference and you will be ready to go. Calls will automatically be sent to your phone on your scheduled day(s) and time(s) – and you will talk to another senior using CARA's phone bank talking points. You will be at your computer during these calls and will also see the name of the person you are calling on your computer screen and enter their response as you talk to them on your phone. When you are done with your calls for the day, you enter send, and the responses on your computer will be sent to our central phone bank coordinator. It's just that easy. Once you sign up, someone from CARA will get back to you with further instructions. Call CARA at either 510-663-4086 or 714-488-5488.

Phone at Your Local Labor Council Office

Many people like to call as part of an organized phone bank – with other people. It is fun and it feels great being part of something bigger. So, CARA is coordinating with our local labor councils to recruit volunteers to help staff their daily phone banks. You will need to pick a time and location that works best for you (someone from CARA will contact you with this information once you sign up), and then let the Labor Council know when you will be there so they can be ready to get you set up. These phone banks will be calling on State Ballot Measures as well as local candidates endorsed by the Labor Council. You will be calling union retirees and will be calling as a Labor Council volunteer (since CARA does not endorse candidates). A phone bank script will be provided. If you are interested in signing up for these phone banks, call CARA at either 510-663-4086 (Northern CA) or 714-488-5488 (Southern CA).

Thank you for joining CARA's Senior to Senior Phone Bank Program



CARA Calling Script for YES on Props 51, 55, 59, and 61

Hello, May I speak to _____?

My name is _____ and I am a volunteer with the California Alliance for Retired Americans. We represent 1 million seniors in California.

I'm calling you today to inform you about important ballot propositions affecting seniors and ask for your support. There are four measures that we are focusing on: Yes on Props 51, 55, 59 and 60. Can I tell you a little about each one?

1) Prop 51 - a state school bond that will help with the billions of dollars of backlog on school construction projects for Kindergarten through Community College that will benefit your children and grandchildren. Can we count on you to support education by voting Yes on Prop 51?

___Yes ___No ___Undecided

2) Prop 55 would ask the wealthiest Californians (those who make \$250,000/year or more) to continue to pay their fair share of taxes, to protect vital services like education, health services and senior services. Prop 55 raises \$8 billion dollars annually and will benefit the most vulnerable populations in California. Can we count on your support for Prop 55?

___Yes ___No ___Undecided

3) Prop 59 would send a strong message to Congress to overturn Citizen's United. A yes vote on Prop 50 will reduce the role of billionaire and millionaires in our elections. It would stop giving corporations an unfair advantage in our election system. Are you willing to send Congress a message that it's time to overturn Citizens United? ___Yes ___No ___Undecided

4) Prop 61, known as the California Drug Relief Price Act, will require the State of California to pay NO MORE for prescription drugs than is paid for the same medication by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. California also could negotiate for prices below those paid by the V.A. This ballot initiative would benefit 7 million Californians and save California billions of dollars. Will you vote to support lower drug prices?

___Yes ___No ___Undecided

Thank you for your time today. Don't forget to YES on Props 50, 51, 55 and 61.

**Central Labor Councils and CARA Delegates
(updated August 8, 2016)**

Labor Council	Contact Person	CARA Delegate
Alameda	Josie Camacho 510-632-4242	Dee Rosario/ 510-835-3922/ deerobyn@sbcglobal.net
Butte and Glenn	Mike Gentry 530-873-3680	Fran Smith/530-661-2676/Frances.Smith@yahoo.com
5 Counties	Loel Yerion 530-241-0319	Sharane Stevenson/ 530-356-0423/ sharane8@gmail.com
Fresno	Randy Ghan 559-275-1151	Mattie Thomas: 559-307-8644/ mattiethomas@sbcglobal.net Gene Roza: 559-905-3521 / C21generoza@aol.com
Contra Costa	Margaret Hanlon- Gradie 925-228-0161 ext102	Michael Nye: 415-342-5145/ jaymichaelnye@gmail.com
Humboldt/Del Norte	John Frahm 707-758-8548	
Kern/Inyo	Rob England (661) 324-6451	Bernice Bonillas: 661-599-3241/ bbonillas@bak.rr.com
Merced-Mariposa	Josie Ochoa 559-285-1181	Chuck Walker: 209-367-1853/ cwalkers@pacbell.net Addie Brinkley: 209- 545-8680/ Addiecb@sbcglobal.net
LA County Fed	Rusty Hicks 213-381-5611	Pat Stanyo: 562: 313-4541/ toomsuba5@outlook.com
Monterey	Cesar Lara 831-422-4626	Bob Coble: 831-899-3048/ bobcoble@pacbell.net
Marysville	Mark Mulliner 530-673-8690	Nancy Tilcock: 916-632-1725/ nancytilcock@att.net
Napa and Solano	Jon Riley 707-246-9727	Ramon Castellblanch: 415-405-2151/ ramonc@sfsu.edu
North Bay	Jack Buckhorn (707) 545-6970	Ken Rawles: 707-546-3427/ redmtnman@yahoo.com
Sacramento	Fabrizio Sasso 916-927-9772	Dennis Hubbard/ 916-386-8377 / dennis@Hubbard-Pataki.org CT Weber/ 916-320-9186 / ctwebervoters@att.net
North Valley	Tim Robertson 209-948-5526	Chuck Walker: 209-367-1853/ cwalkers@pacbell.net
Orange County	Julio Perez 714-385-1534	Ronnie Kinney: 714-685-0234/ vrkinney@att.net
San Francisco	Tim Paulson 415-440-4809	Hene Kelly: 415-533-5244/ henekelly@aol.com
San Bernardino and Riverside	Laurie Stalnaker 909-825-7871	Susan Adams: 951-928-2463/ sbailadams@aol.com
San Diego & Imperial Valley	Dale Kelly Bankhead 619-228-8101	Gayle Chenoweth: 619-450-2524/ gayle670@hotmail.com
South Bay	Ben Field 408-606-2060	Bill Wallace: 408-265-0795/ takineasyst@sbcglobal.net
San Joaquin	Nichole Rice 209-227-8974	Chuck Walker: 209-367-1853/ cwalkers@pacbell.net
San Mateo	Julie Lind Rupp 650-572-8848	Rich Benson: 650-654-9252/ richbenson@att.net
Stanislaus & Tuolumne	Astrid Zuniga 209-523-8079	Addie Brinkley: 209-545-8680/ Addiecb@sbcglobal.net
Tri Counties	Jeremy Goldberg 805-987-0101	

Join a **CAT** (CARA Action Team) in Your Area

CATs are CARA's network for members and friends to stay connected, informed, and involved on critical issues. Here is a list of the **CATs** that have been organized to date. If you would like to set up a **CAT** in your area, please call: **877-223-6107 (toll free)**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ALAMEDA COUNTY: 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 10:00 am, South Berkeley Senior Center, Ellis @ Ashby, Berkeley/ Julia Cato @ 510-549-0534 or Dee Rosario @ 510-835-3922.

CENTRAL VALLEY: 4th Monday of each month @ 10am; at the Manteca Library, 320 Center St, Manteca. Call Bob Roza @ 209-848-8040 or Jo Carson @ 209-227-5188.

CONTRA COSTA/ SOLANO COUNTIES: 2nd Monday of each month, 10am, Richmond Auditorium Hawaiian Room (enter at 2533 Nevin Ave. Richmond). Call Eli Williams 510-232-4690.

FRESNO AREA: 4th Tuesday of the month @10:00am at the Machinists Hall located at 544 W. Olive St. in Fresno. Call Gene Roza @ 559-905-3521.

NORTH BAY (Marin/Sonoma): Meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 1pm at Northgate Mall, Community room (enter elevator next to food court), 5800 Northgate Mall, San Rafael. Call Kris Organ @ 415-342-7135 or Ruth Carter @415-492-8160.

PLACER CTY: Meets 2nd Wed. of every other month, 12 noon-2 pm. Stanford Club House, 3220 Santa Fe Way, Rocklin. Diana Madoshi @ 916-435-9760 or William Reed @ 916-396-6601. Potluck.

REDDING/5 COUNTIES: Meets quarterly on the 3rd Friday of the month from 11am-1pm (light lunch provided) at the IBEW 340, 900 Locust St., Redding. Call Ron Stone @ 530-243-4881 or Wayne Bruinsma @ 530-355-3664.

SACRAMENTO AREA: 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am, 1127 11th St, Room 425, Sacramento (CLF office). Call Hene Kelly @ 415-533-5244.

SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Thursday of the month @1 pm, ILWU, 1188 Franklin St. 4th floor, SF. Call Michael Lyon@ 415-215-7575 or David Grant 415-563-6349.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY: 4th Thursday of the month @ 12:30pm, South Bay Labor Center, 2102 Almaden Rd – Room 110, San Jose. Call Carol Garvey @ 408-472-6218 or Greg Miller @ 408-254-3311. Light lunch is served.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ANTELOPE VALLEY CAT: For meeting dates call Kiem Tan at 661- 947-9781.

BAKERSFIELD: Fourth Monday of every month from 1:30-3:30 pm @ Independent Living Center of Kern County, 5251 Office Park Dr., Bakersfield, 93309. Call Bernice Bonillas at 661-599-3241.

LOS ANGELES: 4th Tuesday of every month at 1:30 pm at the Pilipino Workers' Center, 153 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, 90026. Donna Meredith at 310-508-4608(cell).

SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY: 3rd Monday of every month at Coco's Restaurant, 11510 East South Street, Cerritos 91740, Lunch available for purchase at 12:30, meeting starts at 1 pm. Call Myron Wollin at 562-596-5239.

ORANGE COUNTY: 3rd Wednesday of the month @10am; Teamster Loc. #952, 140 S. Marks Way, Orange. Call Karen Connor 626-915-4044.

SAN DIEGO: 3rd Tuesday of the month @11 am-1 pm, Sheetmetal Workers Local, 4594 Mission Gorge Place, San Diego, 92120. Call Gayle Chenoweth, 559-360-5955.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY: Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month 10am-12 pm at Denny's Restaurant, 546 West Baseline Rd. Glendora 91740. Call Lorenzo Rios at 626-825-1422.

**California Alliance for Retired Americans
2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

City and County Races

1. Do you support a transit first policy that emphasizes public transit over private vehicles? How will you ensure that seniors and people with disabilities have access to affordable transit services throughout the city/county?
2. Our city and state is facing a housing crisis. In our cities and counties, we see many more homeless people – seniors, families, VETs, etc. The housing being built is for the very wealthy, and longtime residents are being forced out of their homes, apartments, mobile homes, etc.
 - a. Will you support efforts to increase local funding to build truly affordable housing (rental and homeownership) for the low income and senior residents of our county?
 - b. What do you believe the city/county needs to do about homelessness?
3. Do you support the establishment of a Drug Take Back program in the county that provides a safe place for consumers to dispose of unused and expired medications that requires pharmacies to offer the appropriate disposal bins and for the drug makers to pay for the pick-up, transport and environmentally safe disposal of these drugs?

California State Races

1. Do you support moving state resources from long term care that is primarily provided in nursing homes to more community based services, such as increased funding for home care, home delivered meal programs, increased para-transit services, etc.? What would you do to facilitate this change in funding policy at the state level?
2. Many of California's transit dollars go to road work and car oriented programs. Many of our state's older and disabled residents can no longer drive and depend on public and para-transit services to get around?
 - a. Do you support increasing the budget for transportation services for seniors and disabled?
 - b. Do you support the state adopting a pedestrian friendly, VISION ZERO policy that seeks to get to ZERO pedestrian deaths by 2020?
 - c. What would you do to move these transportation policies forward?
3. Even with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Californians are without access to quality health care, with choice of providers. Seniors and others are forced into insurance and managed care plans that have huge premiums, deductibles and co-pays, and limit access to providers. Do you support California passing legislation that would finish the job of the ACA and implement a Medicare for All system with a standard benefit package, centralized billing and collections with standardized reimbursement rates for all providers, access to a provider that is available to all CA residents, administered by a publicly accountable entity?
4. Our state is facing a housing crisis. In our cities and counties, we see many more homeless people – seniors, families, VETs, etc. The housing being built is for the very wealthy and longtime residents are being forced out of their homes, apartments, mobile homes, etc.
 - a. What will you do to increase the protection of renters so that they can stay in their homes without fear of increasing rents or eviction?
 - b. What will you do to help older homeowners pay for essential repairs and to make their houses more accessible as they age?
 - c. Will you support efforts to increase state funding to build truly affordable housing (rental and homeownership) for the low income residents of our state?
5. Even though the state has seen a growing budget surplus over the last several years due to an improved economy and new, fair taxes for the wealthy, very little of the surplus has gone to programs that serve seniors and people with disabilities – the fastest growing part of our state's population.
 - a. Will you support increased funding for senior services such as In Home Supportive Services, case management services, food programs, Alzheimer's centers, adult day health programs, etc.?
 - b. Will you support increasing the base grant for SSI/SSP and reinstating the COLA for SSI recipients?

6. Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking”, is the process of injecting harsh chemicals, water, sand and other materials into the ground to break up the earth to ease oil and natural gas extraction. In other states, the method has been linked to groundwater and surface water contamination, earthquakes, air pollution and worker health problems. In California, “fracking” has been essentially unregulated and its effects are unknown. Would you support a moratorium on “fracking” in California until its effects are investigated and there is certainty that it will not harm the environment and public health?
7. Public pensions have been accused of being “budget busters” by many local and state governments and elected officials. Do you support efforts to protect public and private pensions, as well as offering opportunities for workers who do not have pensions to participate in a voluntary state-sponsored program?

US. Senate and Congressional Races

1. How would you protect Social Security for today’s seniors and strengthen it for future generations?
 - a. Do you support legislation that would increase the grant levels for Social Security and update the formula for determining annual COLAs?
 - b. Do you support legislation that would eliminate the cap on taxable income to strengthen Social Security for future generations?
2. How would you put Medicare on stronger financial footing and protect today’s seniors and future beneficiaries from rising health care costs?
 - a. Do you support efforts to expand Medicare to everyone, from cradle to grave?
 - b. Do you support legislation that would allow Medicare to negotiate for lower and fairer drug prices?
 - c. Do you support efforts to expand Medicare coverage to include long term care (both home and community based care as well as institutional care), dentistry, podiatry, vision, etc?
3. Many cities in our country are facing a housing crisis. In our cities and counties, we see many more homeless people – seniors, families, VETs, etc. The housing being built is for the very wealthy and longtime residents are being forced out of their homes, apartments, mobile homes, etc.
 - a. What will you do to increase the protection of renters so that they can stay in their homes without fear of increasing rents or eviction?
 - b. What will you do to help older homeowners pay for essential repairs and to make their house more accessible as they age?
 - c. Will you support efforts to increase federal funding to build truly affordable housing (rental and homeownership) for the low income residents of our country, such as HUD and Section 8 programs?
4. Do you support the passage of Trade Agreements such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and why?
5. With people over the age of 60 being the fastest growing part of our population, do you support the expansion of federal programs such as those funded by the Older Americans Act, and would you support the continued reauthorization of the OAA?

State Candidates/ Assembly or Senate

NAME OF CANDIDATE/ DISTRICT	Do you support moving state resources from nursing homes to more community based long term supports and services?	Will you support state legislation and/ or an initiative to finish the job of the Affordable Care Act to provide guaranteed, affordable, quality health care to everyone through an Improved Medicare for All/Single Payer system	Will you support efforts to increase the base grant for SSI/SSP recipients and re-establish the COLA?	Will you support efforts to increase funding to build truly affordable housing for low-income seniors and people with disabilities?

Federal Candidates/ U.S. Congress or U.S. Senate

NAME OF CANDIDATE/ DISTRICT	Do you support legislation to Expand Social Security and eliminate the cap on taxable income to strengthen it for future generations?	Will you support national legislation to finish the job of the Affordable Care Act to provide guaranteed, affordable, quality health care to everyone through an Improved Medicare for All/Single Payer system?	Will you support efforts to expand Medicare to cover long term care (including home care) and coverage for vision, dental, podiatry, etc? Will you support efforts to reduce Medicare costs by allowing negotiation on drug prices?	Will you support efforts to increase funding to build truly affordable housing for low-income seniors and people with disabilities?

Take Action Card

(Please turn this in at the end of the Town Hall Meeting or mail to CARA at 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610. For information contact CARA at 510-663-4086 (North) or 714-488-5488 (South)

Please check all that apply

- I will help distribute CARA slate cards at organizations in my area (please fill out the list below).
- I will talk to my neighbors and friends about issues impacting seniors.
- I will participate in the **Phone from Home Senior to Senior** calls. Make phone calls to senior voters on issues of importance to seniors during CARA's weekly phone banks (these are done remotely. You can make calls from your home if you have a computer and a phone.
- I will join the **In-Person phone banks** at my local Central Labor Council. You will be calling retired labor union members at these phone banks. CARA will connect you with your local CLC phone bank coordinator to schedule.
- I will attend candidate forums and ask candidates questions about their positions on senior issues using CARA Questionnaire and materials.

Your Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____
Address: _____
City/Zipcode: _____

I will distribute Slate Cards to the Organizations listed below.
(fill in as much information as you know)

Name of Organization: _____
Contact Person for Organization: _____
Location of organization (City): _____
of slate cards you expect to bring: _____

Name of Organization: _____
Contact Person for Organization: _____
Location of organization (City): _____
of slate cards you expect to bring: _____

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Contact Person for Organization: _____
Location of organization (City): _____
of slate cards you expect to bring: _____