Argument in Favor of Proposition 15

We are all better off when everyone pays their fair share. But California is giving away billions of dollars in property tax breaks to wealthy corporations. These billions could be used instead to deal with increasing inequality, persistent poverty, unemployment, unaffordable housing, homelessness and underfunded schools.

While the wealthiest corporations avoid paying their fair share, our schools have the most crowded classrooms in the nation and our local communities are struggling to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

Prop 15 is a fair and balanced reform which:

- closes property tax loopholes benefiting wealthy corporations
- cuts small business taxes
- reclaims billions of dollars to invest in our schools and local communities.

Prop 15 will:

*Close corporate loopholes:* Wealthy corporations avoid reassessment by employing highly paid tax lawyers and accountants to exploit loopholes in the law. Prop 15 closes these loopholes by requiring nonresidential commercial properties to be assessed based on their actual fair market value.

  - The top 10% of California’s most valuable nonresidential commercial properties account for 92% of Prop 15’s new revenues.

*Does not impact homeowners and renters:* Prop 15 exempts all residential properties, maintaining FULL PROP 13 PROTECTIONS for homeowners and renters.

*Cut taxes for small businesses:* Prop 15 protects small businesses and cuts their taxes by:

  - Exempting businesses operated out of a home and businesses owning $3,000,000 or less of nonresidential commercial property
• Cutting business personal property taxes on equipment, computers and fixtures.

*Restore balance to the property tax:* Since Prop 13 passed, the residential share of property taxes has skyrocketed from 55% to 72% and the nonresidential commercial share has fallen. Meanwhile we’re paying more in fees, fines and other taxes. Prop 15 rebalances the scales.

*Increase funding for schools and community colleges:* Every school district and community college will receive additional funding over and above existing funding guarantees. Prop 15 funds go directly to education and state politicians can’t take it away.

*Invest in essential workers and local services:* Prop 15 gives local communities desperately needed resources so essential services and frontline workers can respond to current challenges and prepare for future crises, whether from a wildfire, pandemic, or earthquake.

*Support economic and racial equity:* Prop 15 makes sure schools with the greatest needs get the most help and gives local communities critically needed resources to deal with the unequal impacts of COVID-19, unemployment, and housing costs on communities of color.

*Prioritize full transparency and accountability* by requiring schools and local governments to publicly disclose all new revenues they receive and how they are spent.

*Protect agricultural land:* Prop 15 makes no change to existing laws affecting the taxation or preservation of agricultural land.

We can’t afford business as usual. Prop 15 rebalances the scales by closing loopholes and supporting our schools, local communities and small businesses.

Prop 15 takes a big step forward toward a better future for all Californians. It was placed on the ballot by the signatures of over 1,700,000 voters who want wealthy corporations to pay their fair share.

Please add your voice to theirs: Vote Yes on Prop 15.
Tony Thurmond, California Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jacqueline Martinez, CEO, Latino Community Foundation
Sasha Cuttler, Public Health Nurse, San Francisco Department of Public Health