

VOTER GUIDE '24

How does housing and homelessness show up on your ballot?

At PATH, we're dedicated to sharing information that helps you stay informed this election cycle. Learn how various elected officials and levels of government affect laws and policies around housing and homelessness...

FEDERAL

President

- Shapes how the federal government spends money on housing and homelessness.
- Appoints the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which administers federal housing laws.
- Can enact federal laws and regulations that prevent discrimination, fund affordable housing and make it easier to build housing.

Senator & Congressman

- Shape our federal budget, which can include funding for housing and infrastructure.
- Impact and pass HUD policies around housing and homelessness.
- Congress funds housing vouchers, which offer rental assistance to unhoused and low income individuals and families.

CALIFORNIA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

State Senators & State Assemblymembers

- Shape our state budget, which distributes funds for city and county housing and homelessness programs.
- Legislative committees shape statewide housing policies and funding.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Supervisors

- Oversee the administration of health and human services, including mental healthcare, substance use treatment programs, behavioral health, and benefits like food assistance.
- Fund homeless services, including prevention, outreach, shelters, and affordable housing.
- Oversee the County Sheriff, impacting how law enforcement interacts with people experiencing homelessness.

City Government (Mayor + City Councilmembers)

- Responsible for local zoning, controlling where and how much housing is built and where shelters can be located.
- Oversees public safety through the local Police Department, and they can pass anti-camping laws.
- Fund homeless services, including prevention, outreach, shelters, and affordable housing.

IMPORTANT! MEASURES/PROPOSITIONS



PATH Endorses California Proposition 5

A "Yes" vote will make it easier for local governments to fund affordable housing and infrastructure projects by lowering the threshold to pass local bond measures.

Los Angeles County Voters: Yes on Measure A/Bold New Way

Crafted by housing experts and community leaders, this measure will address the urgency of housing affordability, renter protections, and mental health in Los Angeles County. Measure A would replace the quarter-cent sales tax established through Measure H in 2017 with a permanent half-cent sales tax, raising an approximate \$1.2 billion dollars a year to fund affordable housing, mental healthcare, and prevention programs.

ANTI-CAMPING LAWS

"Anti-Camping Laws" allow governments to arrest, cite, and fine unhoused people for sitting or sleeping in public spaces, including parks. These laws often criminalize homelessness, even when there are not enough shelter beds or housing options available. Keep an eye out for where candidates at the state, county and city levels stand on Anti-Camping laws.



HOUSING FIRST

"Housing first" is a best practice that prioritizes providing housing to people experiencing homelessness. Look out for how candidates discuss an approach to ending homelessness. Do they support a Housing-First model?