

Hannah Miller

COM 333

Final Project

## CALIFORNIA VOTERS REJECT PROPOSITION 16

Californians voted against Proposition 16 on Nov.3, which would have allowed universities and public colleges to include color, race, sex, and ethnicity into the part of the decision-making process to get accepted.

If the California proposition passed, it would have repealed Proposition 209 that prohibits preferential treatment for ethnicity, race and gender. Proposition 209 was approved in 1996.

Statistics showed that 56% of Californians voted no on Proposition 16 and had only 44% approval, according to ABC 7 News.

Since California was a democratic state in the 2020 election year, the vote against affirmative action was a shock to residents in a diverse and liberal state.

Therefore, the rejection of Proposition 16 means that California's public universities will continue to use the admission process that has been in place for years. The admission process is based on test scores, GPA, enrollment quotas, and other predetermined criteria.

"I do see both sides to the argument, but was surprised to see the outcome of this proposition and the percentage of voters who voted against," said Trina Hartman, Director of Counseling at Rosary Academy and UCSD board admission council.

A voter in favor of the proposition considers that the proposition would help women and people of color, and give everyone a fair chance. Affirmative action would help create more diversity in the California Universities.

Many Black and Latino schools in Los Angeles do not have Advanced Placement courses and many qualified students are under-represented, according to Darnell Hunt, dean of social sciences in the University of California Los Angeles.

A voter in favor of the proposition said that many qualified people of color are at a disadvantage based on the area of living and schooling. This would provide them a fair chance of a college acceptance, the voter said.

Jasmine Sparks, a third-year transfer student at University of Southern California explains her experience applying to college as a person of color. Sparks had a 4.0 gpa and met all the requirements, yet was worried if she would get in due to the low percentage of black representation at USC. Sparks voted in favor of Proposition 16.

“I knew I had worked my hardest and felt confident in myself, but was not confident in the school system. I believe people of color are very underrepresented in many universities and I think in this day in age that is a problem,” Sparks said.

The percentages of Black/African-American students at USC is 5.5%, according to University of Southern California website.

On the other hand, voting against Proposition 16, meant that the state would disregard race and ethnicity when applying for college.

Voters against Proposition 16 argue affirmative action is misled by discriminating one group to fix another form of discrimination. These voters believe that considering race into the equation for admissions would lead to students who are not qualified getting accepted over someone that meets all the requirements. It is argued that this proposition would be emphasizing the stereotype that women and minorities need special treatment in order to succeed.

College graduate, Nick Medellin, explains his experience with applying to law school. Medellin voted against Proposition 16.

“Almost every application for the UC schools I applied for ask my sexual preference in which I put that I am gay. Although I am part Hispanic and a gay man, I believe with affirmative action in place it takes away how much work you’ve done and it is not fair for students like me applying just so they can fit their quotas,” Medellin said.

It is possible that the Supreme Court could hear a case on overturning a ban on affirmative action on a national level.

Hartman commented on how the pass of Proposition 16 could affect applicants and the admissions traditional standards.

“If Proposition 16 passed it would have dramatically changed the way college admission would be and not only merit based, but take into considerations these new trends. It would have also been interesting to see how students’ preferences on universities may have shifted since this proposition is only for the state of California,” according to Hartman.

###

Contact Information:

Trina Hartmen:

Email: [thartmen@rosaryacademy.org](mailto:thartmen@rosaryacademy.org)

Number: 714-879-6302

Nick Medellin:

Email: [mmedellin@yahoo.com](mailto:mmedellin@yahoo.com)

Number: 714-328-9329

Jasmine Sparks:

Email: [jspark27@gmail.com](mailto:jspark27@gmail.com)

Number: (562) 326-6873