

Comparative Minority Politics - Dr. Alejandro Gradilla - 29 April 2004

Race & Ethnicity and California ballot propositions

Where to read California ballot propositions

Good list of databases at “[California] Voting and Elections”:
<http://www.lib.uci.edu/libraries/collections/govinfo/calgov.html#voting>

Propositions – use “California Ballot Proposition Database” which “is a comprehensive, searchable source of information on California ballot propositions from 1911 to the present. The database contains the full text of the propositions, accompanying material contained in the ballot pamphlets, related legal and legislative history, and digital images of the ballot pamphlets.”

Take advantage of these links at/near the top of the screen:

- Full Text
- Text of Proposition
- Arguments

In most of the displays, the top of the record lists the type of proposition, the popular vote count, and whether it passed or failed.

The California Legislative Analyst’s Office (“California’s Nonpartisan Fiscal and Policy Advisor”) has a website (<http://www.lao.ca.gov/>) . Click on the link – near the top – “Ballot/Initiatives”

Which propositions were on the ballot? Which propositions passed?

Official results are on the California Secretary of State website (<http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm>) under “Official Election Returns.” This site also lists the returns for each proposition by county.

Newspapers also report election returns—start at “News & Newspapers” on the Libraries’ home page (<http://www.lib.uci.edu>). Before federal and state agencies reported election returns on websites, newspapers were the primary way in which this information was made widely available.

Finding information about propositions, bills, and laws—before and after legal challenges

LegalTrac – for articles from law reviews, law journals, law trade publications

- Get to LegalTrac either via a Title search in ANTPAC (<http://antpac.lib.uci.edu/>) or via the “Article Databases” link on the Libraries’ home page (<http://www.lib.uci.edu>).
- In search results, note that law review articles that are scholarly will be long (note pagination). Non-scholarly (but likely informative and timely) articles from legal trade publications will be only a few pages long, OR their length will be reported in column inches instead of page numbers.
- Some articles will be available in full-text when you click on the title. For those that are not, full-text may be available via the title of the journal in ANTPAC (choose Title/Journal Title search).

Many **law review articles** are available in full-text via LexisNexis Academic (under the Article Databases link on the Libraries’ home page – <http://www.lib.uci.edu>).

At the first screen, at the left, click on Legal Research, then choose Law Reviews, then on Guided Search.

- To search for law review articles on a specific proposition, (example:) search for “prop 54” or “proposition 54” AND California! [NB: the quotation marks keep terms together, and the exclamation mark is the wildcard for unlimited number of characters]. If there is no difference between the search results with and without California!, remove that term from the search strategy.
- From your Document List (see upper left tab when the brief citations of articles are displayed), click on the neighboring tab, Expand List, to see the occurrences of your search terms (e.g., “Prop 54”) in the full-text of the article

Newspaper searching

During the last 5 years, the UCI Libraries' collection of newspapers in online form has grown tremendously. For most national and local newspapers we have online, start at **News & Newspapers** on the Libraries home page: (<http://www.lib.uci.edu>)

Ethnic NewsWatch provides full-text from ethnic newspapers in the U.S. (on News & Newspapers, under U.S. newspapers)

LexisNexis Academic also provides full text (but without graphics—no bar graphs, pie charts, etc.)--of many national and international newspapers. Click on Guided News Search.

Finding the text of California bills and laws

Under California Government Information -- Legislation / laws / regulations / legislators – scroll down and link to “Tracing California Legislation”

California's state code (laws currently in force in subject order): use LexisNexis Academic; click on Legal Research (at left); scroll down and click on State Codes.

Official California Legislative Information – website of the Legislative Council of California:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Read the Frequently Asked Questions to read answers to these and other questions:

- How current is the California Law information on this web site?
- How can I find a current bill or bills from previous legislative sessions?
- How can I receive periodic information regarding legislative action?
- How can I view a California code section?

From this site you can learn how a bill becomes a law in the California legislature (click on Your Legislature)

Click on “Bill Information” to search for **Assembly and Senate bills back to the 1993-94 session** by bill number, author, or keyword(s)

To read the **full text of California laws** (also called statutes, acts), click on California Law.

Sometimes working with paper is easier.

- West's California Code is available in the Langson Library Reference collection at call no. KFC 30.5 W4. The Code groups all laws currently in force, regardless of when they became law.
- Statutes of California and Amendments to the Codes (California laws arranged in order of passage by the legislature) are in the Langson reference collection at KA 224.

Christina Woo (cjwoo@uci.edu)

My reference desk hours for the next couple of weeks:

- Fri., April 30, 11-12, 21-1 (RCS)
- Tues., May 4, 6-9pm
- Thur., May 6, 4-6pm
- Fri., May 7, 12-1pm
- Tues., May 11, 3-4 (RCS)

Reference desk hours at Langson Library:

Reference librarians are available to work with you on this research project and/or other library questions:

- Mondays – Thursdays 9am-9pm
- Fridays 9am-5pm
- Saturdays 1-5pm
- Sundays 1-7pm

