



PROPOSITION-16



WHAT IS PROP. 16?

California Proposition 16, formerly ACA-5, is a constitutional amendment that repeals the Proposition 209 Affirmative Action amendment. Proposition 209, which passed in 1996, states “the state cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting”. Essentially, Proposition 209 banned race and sex-based affirmative action in California.

PROS

- Can the playing field in public employment and government contracting where a group is underrepresented
- Allows for race to be considered and therefore systemic racism various groups have faced



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Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-79) introduced ACA-5, legislation that would become Proposition 16 after the California State Senate passed it on June 10th, 2020. Asm. Weber stated “the ongoing pandemic, as well as recent tragedies of police violence, is forcing Californians to acknowledge the deep-seated inequality and far-reaching institutional failures that show that your race and gender still matter.”

Supporters, like the San Francisco Chronicle Editorial Board claim that "But Proposition 209 was not about advancing civil rights. It was about prohibiting the consideration of race and gender... It was just about shutting the door on efforts to overcome those institutional barriers to the full participation of women and minorities." Opponents, such as the Wall Street Journal Editorial Board instead argue “judging individuals by the color of their skin is antithetical to equal justice under the law. Let’s hope Californians hold on to this American principle of equality that goes back to the Declaration of Independence, the 14th Amendment, and the civil-rights movement."

Proposition 16 will head to the ballots on November 3rd, 2020. If it passes, the ban on race and sex-based affirmative action in California will be removed and federal law would determine the acceptable parameters of affirmative action. The Supreme Court ruled that racial quotas and racial point systems in college admissions are unconstitutional. However, individualized and holistic admissions that consider race, when used to serve a compelling interest such as diversity, is constitutional. Still, the Supreme Court ruled that race-based affirmative action for government contracting and higher education “must be reviewed under strict scrutiny.”



CONS

- Can lead to stereotyping of races and sweeping generalizations
- Can lead to the mismatch effect, ultimately hurting minorities



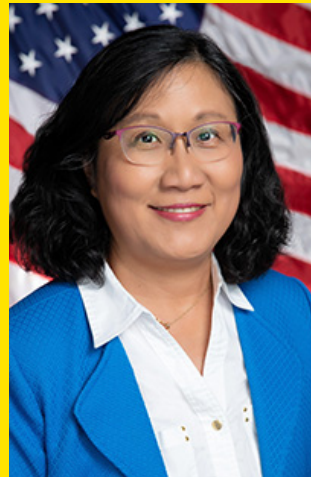
PANELISTS HIGHLIGHTES

Evan Low



We were fortunate enough to have Assemblymember Evan Low talk to us about the benefits of Proposition 16 and why we should support it. This short panelist talk helped interns start understanding what to highlight for the Affirmative side of the debate during initial research.

Dr. Chao



We were also lucky to have Councilmember Dr. Liang Chao come and speak with us about the set-backs Proposition 16 would bring. We are so thankful to her for giving our interns a basic understanding of what calamities proposition 16 might bring if enacted.

DISCUSSION WITH MENTORS

Disclaimer: **The following portion of the Newsletter has a bias towards supporting Affirmative Action and Proposition 16.** We shall state that these collective thoughts are based on our mentors' own personal opinions and personal knowledge, none of the answers are 100% fact based. This discussion was not hosted by APAPA as it was hosted by the individuals of the APAPA Seattle Chapter newsletter team for further content and to show expression from our mentors outside of the debate. **This article is used solely for content purposes as well as an insider to our mentor division within our Seattle Chapter; NOT for purposes of persuasion or indications of why APAPA has decided to support Affirmative Action and Proposition 16.** All answers are summarized answers of what the mentors were thinking

What are your thoughts on Affirmative Action?

The mentors here were very supportive of Affirmative Action as they see it as a way to remediate the injustices that policies have caused certain people. A way of giving discriminated people opportunities, within the educational field as well as the workforce, that may have been taken away or hidden away due to these discriminatory policies.

With ACA-5's proposal of allowing underrepresented people into the University of California, will there be any repercussions?

ACA-5's Affirmative Action could end up repressing underrepresented Asian groups due to the Model Minority Myth causing all Asian groups to be lumped under the same stature of success that is not actually true. As a result, these underrepresented groups are left out. In order to increase space for these groups to be represented, we would have to change the percentage of racial representation within colleges meaning omitting certain students of certain races, which is where Affirmative Action steps in. Affirmative Action would keep our ingrained institution racism in check and actually be a step forward to block out systemic racism from this country.

For more on Model Minority Myth: www.thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/the-model-minority-myth/



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Would the mismatch effect lower productivity toward racially disadvantaged students?

In the past, this was also a leading concern when the I-1000 bill was proposed in Washington State, and the answer was quite simple: Qualification comes first. In an instance of two students having the same/identical qualifications for enrolling in a certain college can the race be a potential determining factor with the admission. Holistic admission: more informed less biased and an accountability system.

Should we re-appropriate affirmative action in Washington State?

What Affirmative Action can provide is a field for everyone to fairly play in, with that in mind some groups would have to sacrifice privileged benefits for the greater good. With that in mind, the mentors thought that Affirmative Action should be re-appropriated within Washington State to help the state take a small step towards a harmonious racial-free world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our mentors gathered today to discuss the things Affirmative Action could achieve while also recognizing the various problems Affirmative Action could create. In this discussion, our mentors (excluding one who couldn't make it that evening), suggested ideas in support of Proposition 16 as well as Affirmative Action in general. Please keep in mind that these were the comments and ideas created by three individuals with their own outlooks, values, and personal

DEBATE TIME!



On August 15th, 2020 the APAPA Seattle Chapter hosted a successful online debate to help the public understand both sides of Proposition 16. Interns were able to showcase a month's worth of in-depth research on the Proposition and help audience members understand the benefits and set-backs it has.

A special thank you to Councilmember Liang Chao, Representative My-Linh Thai, Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, and Senator Hasegawa for being guest judges.

A big thank you to our mentors, Advisor Lynn, and our wonderful debate coaches, Lisa R. Weber and Allen Su, for setting up this wonderful debate as well as being moderators during the debate.

To watch our debate go to YouTube account (APAPA Seattle Chapter) for this 2 hour informative debate!



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ADVISOR THOUGHTS

Thank you to everyone who joined our debate event and help make the event possible, We couldn't have done it without our community coming to listen. Great job to all our interns for going beyond expectations in professionalism and presentation during the debate, Your independent research and public speaking ability really came out on that day!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

In a short span of 3 weeks our interns had to understand how to debate as well as the techniques that come with a debater.

Thankfully we had our two coaches Lisa R. Weber and Allen Su who were able to train our interns for the event, as well as help with constructing arguments for both teams. Without these two coaches our Proposition 16 event wouldn't have even been able to lift off from the ground. Thank you both for sacrificing your time and putting in a large amount of effort to ensure our debate would go smoothly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As people have always said good times will always end. We couldn't have been more proud of our interns' work they have shown these during these past three months. As a celebration for their completion of the internship we are hosting a graduation for our interns on August 29th, 2020. This event features a reflection of what we have done over these past few months. Participation for this event has not opened yet, stay tuned for more information on our social media platforms.



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