

YES on 4

Prevent wildfires.
Provide safe drinking water.
Protect California.



FAQs



Why should I vote for Prop 4?

California is facing devastating wildfires, vulnerable drinking water supplies, extreme summer heat, and other major threats from a changing climate.

Vote YES on 4 to prevent wildfires, provide clean safe drinking water, and protect California's unique natural lands, beaches, coasts, and water sources. YES on 4 helps California shift from disaster response to disaster prevention – investing in proactive measures to save California money, keep costs down for families, and protect our communities.

Will voting YES on Prop 4 directly impact the lives of Californians?

Californians are feeling the impacts of a changing climate, with devastating wildfires, loss of natural areas, and vulnerable water supplies. All of us need clean air and water. YES on 4 will take important action now to protect these resources while the climate changes. Accompanying droughts, floods, rising sea levels, and extreme heat will cost families and taxpayers billions more in damages, threatening livelihoods and communities, while increasing the cost of insurance and utilities for Californians. Voting YES on 4 helps stop natural disasters before they start, keeping costs down for families and saving taxpayers' money in the future.

Is borrowing \$10 billion a good idea?

Absolutely; acting now will prevent even more costly future disasters. Acting now means preventing billions in future costs from a changing climate and more frequent natural disasters. A \$10,000 preventative burn outside Chico could have prevented the fourth largest fire in state history - the Park Fire - that has burned nearly 430,000 acres. That's more land than the City of Los Angeles or 5 Fresnos or 14 San Franciscos. YES on 4 is a shift from disaster response to prevention, making critical investments in infrastructure and proactive measures to save California money, keep costs down for families, and protect our communities.

The state bond debts are low, making Prop 4 a prudent choice for investments needed right now to save lives and protect communities by preventing natural disasters before they happen.

What does Prop 4 pay for?

Prop 4 provides crucial resources needed now to invest in proven solutions to help the state shift from natural disaster *response* to disaster *prevention*.

\$3.8B to ensure everyone has access to safe drinking water; invest in water recycling and conservation; and improve dam and levee safety.

\$1.5B to prevent wildfires through forest management, reduce their damage when they do occur, and improve disaster response.

\$1.2B to protect what makes California so special – its natural lands, parks, coastline and wildlife.

\$700M to create parks and outdoor access – enhancing green spaces by planting trees to provide shade, habitat, and public access, supporting park creation and restoration to combat urban heat and flooding, and improve kids' health and safety.

\$450M to develop and implement strategies to protect Californians from extreme heat.

\$300M to help small and medium farms conserve water and improve soil health



What does Prop 4 do to improve drinking water quality and supply?

We can't take our water supplies for granted, which is why Prop 4 focuses on it the most. A changing climate, more frequent droughts, crumbling infrastructure, and water pollution are putting our water supplies under pressure.

Our changing climate enables these conditions to spread. Prop. 4 provides \$3.8 billion to fund grants and loans to local water agencies to help them provide safe and reliable drinking water. It would fund projects to upgrade vital water infrastructure, fix crumbling dams and levees, increase local water recycling and stormwater capture, recharge aquifers, and provide water treatment to filter harmful contaminants.

What does Prop 4 do to prevent wildfires?

Prop 4 is a chance for California to shift from wildfire response to prevention. It dedicates \$1.5 billion for creating natural breaks and removing brush near communities, upgrading firefighting equipment, and deploying early detection and response systems. These investments will save California money, keep costs down for families, and protect our communities. We know this because the largest wildfire this year, the Park Fire outside Chico, has burned nearly 430,000 acres. That is more land than the City of Los Angeles or 5 Fresnos or 14 San Franciscos. Yet, its destruction could have been prevented by [a \\$10,000 preventative burn](#).

What does Prop 4 do to protect natural lands and water sources?



Safeguarding our natural areas is more urgent than ever, as we lose farmland and habitat for wildlife found nowhere else, and as beaches wash away. Prop 4 provides \$2.4 billion to protect our iconic forests, mountains and rivers while also preparing communities for rising sea levels. It also provides the state's first investment in sustainable agriculture to ensure our farms can continue to produce healthy, affordable food for our families by conserving water and improving soil health.

Does it make sense to invest in wildfire prevention and safe drinking water projects?

There is every reason to invest now, shift from disaster *response* to disaster *prevention*, and keep costs down for taxpayers and California families.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency [reports](#) that every \$1 spent to improve resiliency today saves \$6 on disaster relief tomorrow.
- Between 2017-2021, [wildfires](#) caused \$117.4 billion in damages each year including an average of \$5 billion in costs to the state.
- The state's record-breaking 2020 fire season burned more than 4 million acres, spewing almost [twice the carbon dioxide](#) as the total amount of greenhouse gas reductions made in California over two decades.
- Millions of Californians lack access to safe, clean water. Statewide, nearly 1,000 [water systems](#) are failing or at risk.

Why should Californians vote YES on another bond when they've passed recent bonds and haven't seen much in the way of results yet?

Bonds have built the foundation of our lives in ways that can so easily be overlooked. When we turn on our water taps, flip our electrical switches, drive on a highway, drop our kids off at school or visit a park we experience the benefit of bond financing. Prop 4 provides resources for the infrastructure our communities need to stand up to a changing climate. It provides funding for water systems so that all Californians can have safe drinking water, an escape from extreme heat when temperatures climb to deadly levels, and clean air to breathe by preventing wildfires before they happen, stopping them faster once they ignite, and transitioning to clean energy.

How do we know the money will be spent as promised?

Prop 4 includes strict transparency and accountability. Prop 4 requires details on all expenditures be made available to the public on the internet; additionally all spending from Prop 4 is subject to independent audits by the State Department of Finance.

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