



VOTER GUIDE 2020



WHY A VOTER GUIDE

As if 2020 hasn't drained us enough of our sacred energies, we have elections coming up in less than a month. Knowing that our government is not meant to serve our communities and understanding politics is a larger game of power grabbing and profit, it is that much more important for us to make informed choices at the ballot this November. In the interest of preserving your energies, we have put together this voter guide as a resource to help you navigate ballot measures in various states. We have selected ten ballot measures we believe will have an impact on our communities' well-being. In evoking "community" we refer to an expansive and values aligned peoples who wish to live in a world free of oppression.

We understand the difficulties in reading a ballot measure - in decoding inaccessible and exclusive language - to understanding what the impacts will be and what the story behind it is. Where possible, we will illuminate parts of that story and provide guidance on where we feel voting a particular way may lead to the liberation of us all - in the small ways we can control and contribute to that shared liberation.

This system was not made for us, but we can leverage it in ways to protect our communities from further and ongoing harms. We also honor those who fought to expand the right the vote. We acknowledge that the voting process can be traumatizing, especially when bombarded with messaging that ties your worth to a checkbox for individuals and systems that actively harm us. This guide in no way wishes to contribute to that harm and we hope we can hold these complexities with you.

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VOTING PLAN

Step 1

Before you vote, check your registration status and register to vote.

Step 2

Look up your sample ballot and go through each individual section. Follow our checklist on the next page for guidance on breaking down ballot measures!

Step 3

Think about your voting plan. Are you going to the polls in person? Are you dropping off your ballot? Are you voting by mail? Prepare accordingly.

Things to consider: Poll workers are low in numbers across the nation. Can you support by signing up to be a poll worker? If you are planning to vote in person think about the amount of time you will need to be in line. Bring appropriate clothing, shoes, food, electronics and chargers and arrange for caretaking support as needed.

Helpful links:

Check your registration status: <https://www.usa.gov/confirm-voter-registration>

Look up your sample ballot:

https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup

Sign up to be a poll worker: <https://www.powerthepolls.org/>

BREAKING DOWN A BALLOT MEASURE

Step 1

Read the

- title of the ballot measure
- the summary of what the measure will do
- what a yes vote means vs. a no vote
- who sponsored the ballot measure
- where the money is coming from either for or against the ballot measure

Step 2

Think about the values that are important to you and how the ballot measure fits into those values. Not every ballot measure will be perfect but based on the information provided vote according to which is most aligned.

The values that guided HEART's recommendations are:

- Anti-Capitalism
- Social Justice
- Intersectionality
- Decarceration
- Islamic Liberation Theology

*****see a breakdown of what questions to ask to determine if the ballot measure lives up to these values below!**

VALUES THAT INFORM OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Anti-Capitalism

We want our communities to be resourced. We want them to be able to build power in ways that supports their well-being and for corporations and the government to stop profiting off of our labor and bodies. Capitalism has enabled the income inequality in this country to grow - and even more so during this pandemic. The questions we asked are:

- Will anyone be profiting or making money based on the implementation of this measure?
- Who does this measure give power to? If it is not the individual who will be impacted - why is that?
- Are there special interest groups who are funding or pushing this measure forward and why?

Social Justice

We want to our communities to be free from injustice. We oppose any form of state violence, especially that which is rooted in white supremacy. This includes the prison industrial complex, War on Terror, surveillance, and control of any kind - interpersonal, communal or structural. We are not free until we are all free.

- Does this measure support the liberation of all?
- Does the measure oppress or harm any marginalized communities?
- Does this measure give the state more power or give power back to people?

VALUES THAT INFORM OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Intersectionality

We know the impacts of state violence are disproportionately felt and experienced by those marginalized in our communities. When and where possible, we consider the demographics of the state where the measure is being implemented and who will be most impacted.

- How does race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ability, age, marital status, immigration status, religion and education come into play?
- Does this measure impacts people of color, Black communities in particular, negatively, how? Why?
- Who ultimately benefits from this?

Decarceration

We want our communities to be free from criminalization, free from the state's control, and free to heal. They cannot do this in jails and prisons. Many of the laws that lead to increased jail populations involve sentencing that discriminates based on race, class, and gender.

- Does this measure put more people in jails? Does this measure support alternatives to policing?
- Does this measure give more money or power to the police?
- Does this measure enable the police state to further surveil, criminalize or incarcerate our communities?

VALUES THAT INFORM OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Islamic Liberation Theology

As a Muslim led organization, Islamic Liberation Theology also guides our recommendations for the ballot measures. Islam has always been a religion of the oppressed, and as Muslims, we believe, we have a duty to uphold justice.

- Does this measure promote justice?
- Does it further marginalize and oppress?
- And if the latter, what can we, as Muslims, do to fight oppression wherever we see it?
- How can our civic engagement also be a way to practice our faith in a way that leads to liberation for all?
- How does our deen, our way of life, impact how we vote?



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE



Reproductive Justice is defined as the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities. RJ is about access, not choice.

SISTERSONG

Family planning, access to contraception, and pregnancy loss and termination are lived daily realities of too many Muslims. Stigma associated with reproductive and sexual health within Muslim communities perpetuates a silence around these issues and isolates those navigating common reproductive health experiences. In an era that Muslims are hypervisible due to increased anti-Muslim rhetoric, their reproductive health experiences are virtually invisible.

Too many Muslims navigate their reproductive health needs alone, in silence, and without access to culturally-responsive information and services. This silence is unjust and contributes to the gender inequities, power imbalance, and violence in Muslim communities. At the root of this silence are decades of systemic oppression: patriarchy, racism, classism, capitalism, and Islamophobia, which have enabled power-based violence - including sexual violence - to continue. The following ballot measure recommendations promote access to information and services that Muslims in our communities need to take care of their reproductive health and their families.

COLORADO 22 WEEK ABORTION BAN

COLORADO PROPOSITION 115

SHORT SUMMARY



Currently, Colorado does not restrict abortion after a certain point in the pregnancy. Six other states (Alaska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and Vermont) and Washington, DC also do not restrict the date at which an abortion can happen.

A “**yes**” vote would prohibit abortions after the fetus reaches 22 weeks.

A “**no**” vote would maintain current Colorado law which does not restrict abortions.

OUR POSITION: OPPOSE



HEART recommends individuals in Colorado OPPOSE this measure and vote NO.

It is widely known that the Islamic view on the permissibility of abortion varies depending on school of thought and circumstance. We trust impacted Muslims to consult the experts they need to to make the right decision for themselves. This measure will limit the access to such decision making. Abortions are part of reproductive healthcare services. Access to healthcare should never be limited by the state.

LOUISIANA NO RIGHT TO ABORTION IN CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

LOUISIANA AMENDMENT 1

SHORT SUMMARY



This constitutional amendment would add a sentence to the Louisiana Declaration of Rights. The statement reads, "To protect human life, nothing in this constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

A "yes" vote supports adding this statement to the constitution and does not support abortion as a state constitutional right.

A "no" vote rejects adding this statement to the constitution.

OUR POSITION: OPPOSE



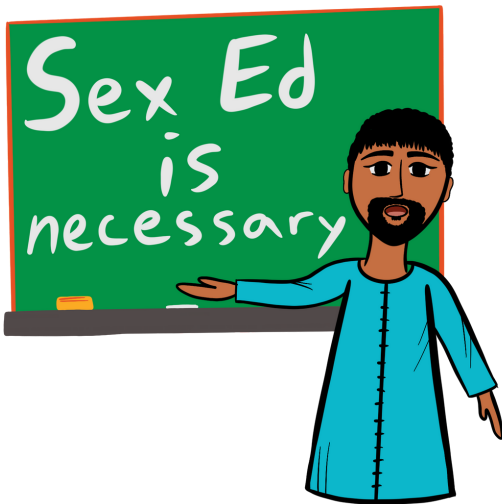
HEART recommends individuals in Louisiana OPPOSE this measure and vote NO.

This measure will negatively impact those seeking abortions and potentially limit access to reproductive healthcare. With the Supreme Court ruling of Roe vs. Wade in jeopardy now more than ever, supporting this measure will allow the state to further criminalize the bodies of those who can get pregnant.

WASHINGTON SEX EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MEASURE (2020)

WASHINGTON REFERENDUM 90

SHORT SUMMARY



This referendum allows Senate Bill 5394 (SB 5395) to go into effect. SB 5395, signed in March 2020, requires comprehensive sexual health education in public schools for all students and requires students to be excused if asked by parents.

A "yes" vote on this referendum, supports SB 5395 to go into effect requiring CSE.

A "no" vote rejects SB 5395 thereby not requiring CSE to students.

OUR POSITION: SUPPORT



HEART recommends individuals in Washington SUPPORT this measure and vote YES.

This referendum confirms the state's commitment to providing comprehensive sexual health education. It is important for students of all ages to have the language to understand their bodies and set and respect boundaries. We hope Muslim families will keep their children in class to benefit from the sex ed provided. With access to the curriculum, we also hope parents will continue the conversation in their own homes to create a safe space for their children to raise questions and seek support as needed.

WASHINGTON AUTHORIZE FUND INVESTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE AND LONG-TERM CARE ACCOUNTS AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8212

SHORT SUMMARY



This amendment allows funds from the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Account & Long-Term Care Services and Supports Trust Accounts to be invested. The FMLIA can help beneficiaries get up to 12 weeks of partial pay, and the LTCSSA supports those who cannot perform daily tasks.

Voting "**yes**" would allow these funds to be invested.

Voting "**no**" would deny the state from investing these funds.

OUR POSITION: **SUPPORT**



HEART recommends individuals in Washington **SUPPORT** this measure and vote YES.

While acknowledging investing these funds could feed the capitalist nature of the state, the need for growing funds to support family and medical leave is dire. Increasing the amount and access to such funds for low income community members and all those in care-taking roles, often played out in gendered ways within family structures, is important.



Gender Justice is defined as a movement to end patriarchy, transphobia, and homophobia and to create a world free from misogyny. Gender Justice is different from Gender Rights. Gender justice as a framework recognizes the role that state, legal, and economic systems can play in perpetuating gender-based violence and oppression.

THIRD WAVE FUND

Our Muslim communities are beautiful. We are diverse in how we approach our faith, express our identities, and build community. We know that far too often, individuals are caught up in policing within and beyond community structures. At HEART we are committed to dismantling the systems that police and oppress anyone for how they choose to live, identify, or express those identities. This especially includes dismantling the ways the state regulates the types of individuals, families and communities that are recognized, supported and granted access to services. The impacts of discriminatory homophobic, transphobia and patriarchal laws compounded with Islamophobia result in multiple forms of violence for LGBTQ+ Muslims. To move towards ending such violence, we recommend supporting the following measures.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 16, REPEAL PROPOSITION 209 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AMENDMENT (2020)

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 16

SHORT SUMMARY



This measure repeals Proposition 209 that banned affirmative action. Proposition 209 stated that the government and public institutions 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.

A “**yes**” vote supports the repeal, thereby allowing government decision-making policies to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to address diversity.

A “**no**” vote keeps Prop 209 in place and continues the ban on affirmative action.

OUR POSITION: **SUPPORT**



HEART recommends individuals in California **SUPPORT** this measure and vote YES.

A pathway to liberation for all must factor the centuries of systemic oppression and inequities based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin. This measure makes sure these identities matter. In alignment with intersectionality as our value, we strongly support this measure.

NEVADA QUESTION, MARRIAGE REGARDLESS OF GENDER AMENDMENT

NEVADA QUESTION 2

SHORT SUMMARY



This measure would repeal Question 2 (2002) so that the Nevada Constitution defines marriage as between couples regardless of gender. This measure also allows religious organizations and clergymen to refuse to officiate a marriage.

A “**yes**” vote supports the Nevada Constitution recognizing marriage between couples regardless of gender.

A “**no**” vote keeps the current language which defines marriage between a male person and female person.

OUR POSITION: **SUPPORT**



HEART recommends individuals in Nevada **SUPPORT** this measure and vote YES.

From healthcare and legal matters to tax benefits, the recognition of marriage impacts couples' ability to access services and systems that could support their wellness and livelihood. For a state to deny such recognition is discriminatory. Although we support religious freedom, we do hope to see more Muslim clergy officiate the marriages of Queer and gender non-conforming Muslim couples.

UTAH GENDER-NEUTRAL CONSTITUTIONAL LANGUAGE AMENDMENT

UTAH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT A

SHORT SUMMARY



Currently, Utah Constitutional language is gender-specific. This amendment would replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language.

A "yes" vote would change language in the state-constitution to be gender-neutral.

A "no" vote opposes amending the language in the Utah Constitution.

OUR POSITION: SUPPORT



HEART recommends individuals in Utah SUPPORT this measure and vote YES.

Removing gender specific language allows for individuals in the state of all genders to be recognized and seen. HEART supports the recognition of Muslims of all genders in Utah. Whereas sections in the current Constitution speak directly to "men" - this amendment will remove the inherent sexism that was built into the language of Constitution.



PRISON ABOLITION



Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) abolition is a political vision with the goal of eliminating imprisonment, policing, and surveillance and creating lasting alternatives to punishment and imprisonment. An abolitionist vision means that we must build models today that can represent how we want to live in the future. Abolition is both a practical organizing tool and a long-term goal.

CRITICAL RESISTANCE

To envision a world without violence for our communities, we must think boldly and broadly about how we take care of each other and reduce harm at multiple levels of our society. This includes the structural level where harm is enacted by the state. We are abolitionist and believe our communities will only be safe, liberated, and able to thrive when we abolish the police state that has harmed our communities through the prison industrial complex and terror industrial complex. As Muslims directly impacted by the state's racism and Islamophobia, the following are recommendations to align ourselves with an abolitionist vision that puts trust and tangible resources back in communities and dismantles the power of the state.

KENTUCKY MARSY'S LAW CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS AMENDMENT

KENTUCKY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

SHORT SUMMARY



The measure would amend the Kentucky Constitution to add Marsy's Law and codify different victim's rights. The language of Marsy's Law leaves room for interpretation from the courts as to who is a "victim" and does not provide guidance on implementation.

A "yes" vote supports moving forward with the amendment to add Marsy's Law.

A "no" vote rejects the amendment at add ML.

OUR POSITION: OPPOSE



HEART recommends individuals in Kentucky to OPPOSE this measure and vote NO.

While we wish for victims and survivors of power and gender based violence to be offered support, this amendment will not significantly change the rights they already have or increase access for victims to gain financial, legal or emotional support. With the vague language in the amendment, "victim" could also be identified as corporations or law enforcement itself depending on the crime - burdening communities targeted by the criminal justice system in additional ways.

LINKS TO LEARN MORE [The Marshall Project](#), [ACLU-KY](#), [ACLU-FL](#)

MICHIGAN SEARCH WARRANT FOR ELECTRONIC DATA AMENDMENT

MICHIGAN PROPOSAL 2

SHORT SUMMARY



The ballot measure would add language to the Michigan State Constitution that requires a search warrant to access electronic data or electronic communications. The ballot measure would also state that electronic data and electronic communications are secure from unreasonable searches and seizures.

A "yes" vote supports this amendment to require a search warrant.

A "no" vote rejects the amendments thereby allowing searches of electronic data and communications without a warrant.

OUR POSITION: SUPPORT



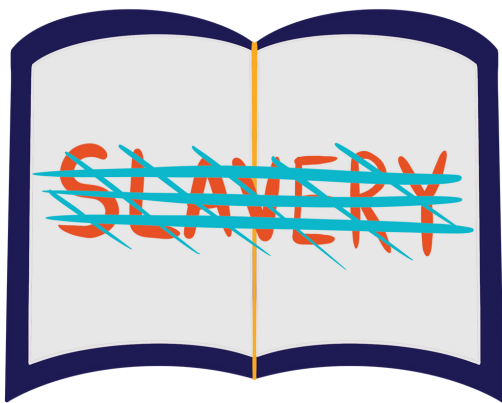
HEART recommends individuals in Michigan SUPPORT this measure and vote YES.

Setting in place measures to limit the surveillance apparatus of the state and protect our communities from unfair profiling is strongly supported. We know under the banner of "national security" this may still be bypassed but any measures to increase protections from state surveillance is welcomed.

NEBRASKA REMOVE SLAVERY AS PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME FROM CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

NEBRASKA AMENDMENT 1

SHORT SUMMARY



A ballot measure that amends the Nebraska Constitution to eliminate slavery or involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime.

A "yes" vote supports removing language from the Nebraska Constitution that allows the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as criminal punishments.

A "no" vote keeps the current language in the Constitution and allows slavery and involuntary servitude to be used as a punishment for a crime.

OUR POSITION: SUPPORT



HEART recommends individuals in Nebraska to SUPPORT this measure and vote YES.

In line with the abolitionist values we hold, this amendment will support the pathway towards the vision of liberation for all and remove the value of slavery being acceptable even in the criminal justice system.

OREGON DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT INITIATIVE

OREGON MEASURE 110

SHORT SUMMARY



The measure would reclassify personal/non-commercial drug possession offenses from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E violation resulting in a \$100 fine or a completed health assessment. This measure would establish a drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded in part by the state's marijuana tax revenue and state prison savings.

A "yes" vote supports the reclassification and recovery program.

A "no" vote maintains the current maximum penalty of a misdemeanor with one year in prison and a \$6,250 fine.

OUR POSITION: SUPPORT



HEART recommends individuals in Oregon SUPPORT this measure and vote YES.

Supporting this measure will result in lower prison populations and support for recovery. The health assessment and fine we still feel is a misplaced burden on those accused but this is a step towards the abolitionist vision of prisons being obsolete.

VOTER GUIDE SUMMARY



COLORADO PROPOSITION 115 ❌

LOUISIANA AMENDMENT 1 ❌

WASHINGTON REFERENDUM 90 ✅

WASHINGTON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8212 ✅

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE


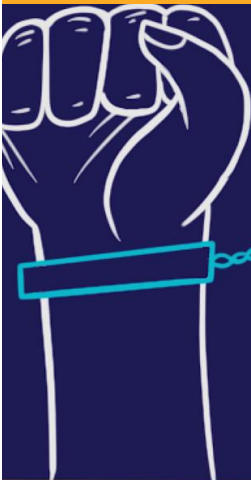


CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 16 ✅

NEVADA QUESTION 2 ✅

UTAH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT A ✅

GENDER JUSTICE



KENTUCKY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1 ❌

MICHIGAN PROPOSAL 2 ✅

NEBRASKA AMENDMENT 1 ✅

OREGON MEASURE 110 ✅

PRISON ABOLITION