



CARA Alert – NOVEMBER 12, 2020

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ELECTION WRAP UP (for now)

By now, we are all probably feeling a sense of relief that the election is over – and that we have a new President and Vice-President elect. Although the transition continues to be shaky, the results are clear and we look forward to a new Administration that believes in science, in democracy, and in the importance of counting each and every vote.

But our election is not over. Many Congressional races are still close, and final results have not been announced. In California, we have several races that have not been declared – CD 21 (Cox vs Valadao), CD 25 (Smith vs Garcia) and CD 39 (Cisneros vs Kim). We will keep our eyes on the outcome of these elections. And there are two key U.S. Senate races in Georgia that will determine the balance of power in the U.S. Senate. A special election will be held in Georgia in January.

At the local and state level, there is mixed news. In many local races, progressive candidates and ballot measures won. But at the state level, many of the initiatives that CARA worked on were not successful. There are many reasons for this, primarily the amount of money the opposition spent to lie and confuse voters could not be overcome – even with the incredible work that CARA members and other volunteers did to call, write, text and inform voters. We must continue our efforts to address campaign finance reform and reduce the impact that wealthy individuals and corporations can play in our elections. It is also safe to say that with so much attention on the Presidential race (rightly so), voters paid less attention to some of the other candidate races and ballot measures. The good news is that we had the highest voter turnout in our state and country – even during a pandemic – a turnout that we want to maintain and build upon.

Although we could analyze each ballot measure and what could have been done differently, Prop. 15 was the measure CARA focused on the most– from collecting signatures to place it on the ballot, to holding educational forums, to our Senior to Senior phone banking. Below is the statement from the Yes on 15 campaign, which sums up our efforts on this measure, and many others.

Against all odds, Prop. 15 made history – taking on the toughest fight in California to address our most pressing challenges

The battle for Prop. 15 began long before the official committee was formed or the ballot number was assigned. Five years ago, a core group of racial and social justice organizations and labor unions convened to take on the impossible: closing corporate tax loopholes that cost our local communities and schools \$12 billion every year.

The historic coalition that these groups organized behind Prop. 15, and the share of the vote it received, is a reflection of the belief that our state's future depends on investments in the things all Californians rely on for success.

Against all odds, Prop. 15 made history. Despite being outspent by \$20 million, a pandemic and economic crisis, and taking on the third rail of California politics, Prop. 15 was supported by a wide swath of Californians – a level of support that many never imagined could be achieved.

Unfortunately, truth became a casualty in this campaign. Prop. 15's opponents recognized that defending tax loopholes for the wealthiest corporations and investors wasn't popular, and instead relied on a campaign of scare tactics and outright falsehoods focused on homeowners and small businesses.

The fight for Prop. 15 was many years in the making. It represented a big step forward for a more equitable and prosperous state, and it provides a framework and base of power for future work and reform to truly take on the biggest challenges of our times on behalf of all Californians.

“Nobody said it would be easy, but the Schools & Communities First coalition took on this fight for the right reasons – to address our state’s most pressing challenges and inequities by investing in Californians. Against all odds, Prop. 15 made history by taking on the status quo to ensure California becomes a more prosperous and equitable state for everyone,” said Alex Stack, Yes on 15 spokesperson. **“California’s challenges are not going anywhere, and this election result has shown that there is strong public demand for closing the corporate tax loopholes which cost our local communities billions every year.”**

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE CARA AND OUR GREAT COMMUNITY JOIN A HOLIDAY SING A LONG ON DECEMBER 11TH AT NOON

After this difficult year facing a pandemic, unemployment and recession, lack of national leadership and a difficult election season – we deserve to celebrate and look forward to a better 2021. CARA organized weekly sing-a-longs at the beginning of the pandemic which made us all smile and feel connected to one another. By popular demand, we have decided to end this year with a HOLIDAY SING A LONG, led again by Hali Hammer on **Friday, December 11th at noon**. Please Save the Date and join us to sing some non-denominational holiday songs. We will send the Zoom link and lyrics in upcoming alerts, but for now, mark Dec. 11th in your calendar. To make it even more festive, we are asking you to wear a hat to the sing a long (it can be a holiday hat, a crazy hat, or just your favorite hat). Share our sing-a-long with your family and friends.

SUPPORT CARA WHILE YOU SHOP

With the holidays and winter around the corner, there's a good chance more of us will be shopping online for gifts and essential items. And if you're an Amazon shopper, you can opt into a free program called AmazonSmile, which allows the retail giant to donate a percentage of your qualified purchases to go toward CARA's senior advocacy work. It's a win-win situation if you're already an Amazon shopper and member/supporter of CARA.

Friends, we are winding down from an extraordinary year. Your support has allowed senior voices to be bold during this historically tempestuous year that is 2020. Fundraising for the organization in this climate has been challenging, so we're asking more of our members to help keep CARA's advocacy work strong as we prepare to head into 2021. To opt-in to AmazonSmile and have Amazon donate .05% of qualifying purchases to CARA, **[click here](#)**.

Contact CARA:

MAIN OFFICE: 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086 / **TOLLFREE**
1-877-223-6107 / FAX: 510-663-4099/ www.californiaalliance.org

NORTH: 415-515-2156 / jreid.cara@gmail.com

CENTRAL VALLEY: 415-515-2156/ jreid.cara@gmail.com (Modesto – Fresno)

714-460-3542/ smeyer.cara@gmail.com for Bakersfield

SOUTH:

LA COUNTY: 917-424-3220/ jennichang.cara@gmail.com

ORANGE/SAN DIEGO/ INLAND EMPIRE: 714-460-3542/ smeyer.cara@gmail.com