



The Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association proudly announces its endorsement of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for President and Vice President of the United States of America. The Association also endorses a “Yes” vote for California Proposition 16. While the Association customarily remains politically neutral, we cannot remain silent in the face of an election of this magnitude.

As a threshold matter, we implore every person in our county to complete the 2020 census to ensure the representation and dignity of every soul among us. Only through civic participation can we secure our future.

The Trump administration poses an existential and imminent threat to freedom, justice, and the fundamental principles of our organization. Donald Trump and those he empowers have consistently assailed the courts and its officers, disregarded the checks and balances of our democracy, undermined norms and codified laws, and sought to pervert the judicial system for the benefit of the powerful few at the expense of communities that lack political or legal representation. We can neither risk nor tolerate four more years of this assault on our laws and system of government.

In contrast, Vice President Biden and Senator Harris, both respected attorneys, have a long, demonstrated history of supporting the rule of law both at home and abroad. Although neither of them has a perfect record on all issues our organization holds dear, we recognize their service to our country and applaud their platform that seeks to broaden equality and hold the powerful accountable.

We additionally urge a “Yes” vote on Prop 16. The passage of Prop. 16 would end Prop. 209, the suppression of Latino enrollment in colleges and universities, and the divestment in public contracting from communities of color. For example, immediately following Prop. 209’s enactment, the proportion of Latino freshmen at the prestigious UC Berkley dropped by half. Additionally, a 2015 study concluded that Prop. 209 caused women and communities of color to suffer the losses of one billion dollars annually in public contracting. These barriers to advancement in Latino education and business cannot continue and would be reversed by a Yes vote on Prop. 16.

Our mission statement demands that we promote the “visibility, impact and election or appointment of political candidates, judicial candidates and public officials who advance and promote the interests of the Hispanic/Latino community,” and “all other things necessary” for the advancement and welfare of our members. We cannot pursue or secure those goals without a Biden-Harris Administration and a Yes on Prop. 16.

Across the political spectrum, our members are united in rejecting the current Administration's abuses of power and its denigration of the Latino community and the judiciary. We are united in our opposition to systemic barriers to Latinos in education and business. We ask our friends to join us in voting for Vice President Biden, Senator Harris, and voting Yes on Prop. 16. Together, we will rid our state of systemic discrimination and our nation of the current administration's disdain for the justice system.

En Solidaridad,

Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association

Micael “Mica” Estremera, *President*

Jeremy Avila, *Vice-President*