

July 24, 2020

PROPOSITION 14 – California Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative

The **California Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative** is on the ballot in California as an initiated state statute on November 3, 2020.

A "yes" vote **supports issuing \$5.5 billion in general obligation bonds** for the state's stem cell research institute and making changes to the institute's governance structure and programs.

A "no" vote **opposes issuing \$5.5 billion general obligation bonds** for the state's stem cell research institute, which, in 2019, ran out of the original funds for new projects derived from Proposition 71 (2004).

Summary:

PROPOSITION 14, is the proposed second round of California state-supported stem cell research. The first round, Proposition 71 (2004), adopted as [Article XXXV of the California Constitution](#), established the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) for three purposes:

1. to "make grants and loans for stem cell research, for research facilities, and for other vital research opportunities to realize therapies, protocols, and/or medical procedures.
2. to "support all stages of the process of developing cures, from laboratory research through successful clinical trials."
3. to "establish the appropriate regulatory standards and oversight bodies for research and facilities development." <https://www.cirm.ca.gov/about-cirm/our-mission>

Out of the original \$3.3 billion, a total of over \$2.7 billion has gone to stem cell research to institutions in California, including universities, colleges and other institutes. <https://www.cirm.ca.gov/our-progress/funded-institutions>

Proposition 14 strengthens focus on "other vital research opportunities to realize therapies, puts more emphasis on human trials and clinics for treatments and cures and specifically includes Covid-19 research.

It also increases the number of members and employees, adds another working group, and provides support for undergraduate training and graduate work. It can be amended with a 70% approval by both the California Assembly and Senate plus the governor's signature.

Proposition's 14 costs to the state budget include \$7.8 billion to pay off the \$5.5 billion bond principal plus the \$2.3 billion interest. The annual predicted debt payment is estimated to be about \$310 million, with most of the costs coming from California's General Fund.

Support:

1. According to the group Research!America, <https://www.researchamerica.org>, "fetal tissue research has had a profoundly positive impact on human health. Research using cell lines derived from fetal tissue led to the discovery and development of life-saving vaccines for rubella, polio, Hepatitis A and varicella. These cells lines have also contributed to therapies for arthritis, cystic fibrosis and hemophilia .Fetal tissue is currently being utilized to help find cures for diseases like Huntington's disease, spinal cord injuries, schizophrenia, HIV/AIDS, retinal diseases, cardiovascular disease and cancer." For descriptions of stem cells click here: <https://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy-action/issues-researchamerica-advocates/stem-cell-research/stem-cell-research-faqs>
2. There appears to be broad American support for continuing stem cell research. <https://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy-action/issues-researchamerica-advocates/stem-cell-research>
3. Supporters includes many from medical fields. <https://caforcures.com/coalition/#>

Opposition:

1. As of 2018, California was the lead state recipient of funding for medical research and development in receiving over \$124 billion combined from federal government, industry, university and other sources. <https://www.researchamerica.org/polls-and-publications/fact-sheets#state> Why should California

taxpayers continue to fund stem cell research and regenerative medicine, including Covid-19 projects, through its own state institute?

2. Given California's tendency to walk the budgetary plank, looming potential economic problems caused by an overly severe state Covid-19 shutdown, the huge problem associated with the ongoing failure to address state pension reform and the need to continue to promote the use of charter schools while addressing the failures of much of the state educational system, taxpayer resources should be allocated to areas of greater need.
