



**Legislative Update
November 9, 2020**

Proposition 18: Allowing 17 Year Olds to Vote

Proposition 18, which would have allowed 17-year-olds to vote in primary and special elections if they turn 18 before the next general election, was rejected by California voters. The proposed amendment to the state Constitution would have permitted California to join at least 18 other states that allow some 17-year-olds to cast ballots.

Supporters argued that the measure would have helped encourage young Californians to engage in the political process, and provide a real-world understanding of what they learned in high school civics classes.

Opponents argued that 17-year-olds should not be able to vote on complex tax and bond proposals that will not directly affect them, and they also questioned whether most high school students that age have enough maturity and life experience to take part in an election.

Smarter Balance Testing

The California State Board of Education on Thursday voted unanimously to adopt [a modified and shortened version](#) of the Smarter Balanced exams students in grades 3-8 and 11 are required to take in math and English language arts.

The changes would reduce the computer-adaptive questions by about half and only affects the 2020-21 school year. The California Science Test will not be affected by the proposal because it is already shorter than the math and English language arts exams, officials said.