



WE VOTE OUR VALUES

ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
San Diego and
Imperial Counties



SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

BYOB (Bring Your Own **BALLOT**)
VIRTUAL HOUSE PARTY
TOOLKIT

...with **NO ON 36** Talking Points!

Paid for by the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties. Paid for by BAPAC SD Chapter.

Thank you for your interest in hosting a BYOB (Bring Your Own Ballot) Virtual House Party!

With this toolkit, hosting a virtual house party can be a stress-free way for you to do your own advocacy and outreach to family and friends – and maybe inspire them to do the same! It will enable you to (1) educate folks about what's on the ballot; (2) discuss key state propositions and local measures so folks can vote their values; (3) complete your ballots together; and (4) make a plan to vote – be it by mail, official drop box or in person.

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FAQs

- **What are some DOs and DON'Ts to keep in mind when hosting a partisan event?**

The [IRS](#) and [California Fair Political Practices Commission](#) (FPPC) provide guidelines.* Here are the basics:

- **DO** host as a private individual on your personal time and NOT as a leader of a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization;
 - **DO** host (virtually) from your home and NOT on the grounds of a nonpartisan organization;
 - **DO** use your personal email and/or personal phone number to invite guests and to promote your party; and
 - **DON'T** spend more than \$500.
- **What makes this virtual house party a “partisan event”?**

The BYOB Virtual House Party is a partisan event because hosts will offer their guests recommendations on how to vote on certain ballot measures – and sharing information to persuade them.

This BYOB Virtual House Party Toolkit focuses on certain state propositions and local ballot measures important to advancing social justice in San Diego County and Imperial County. Per FPPC guidelines, this toolkit’s content neither endorses nor opposes candidates for elected office.

** Neither the ACLU-SDIC nor BAPAC SD Chapter are providing legal or tax advice with this BYOB Virtual House Party Toolkit.*

FAQs (cont.)

- **I can't picture a virtual house party — what does that even look like?**

Imagine enjoying happy hour with friends, but instead of gathering at a restaurant, you're getting together virtually. And both you and your guests can participate from the comfort of your own homes — no need to clean up or dress up (unless you want to), nothing to buy and no travel required!

- **Who should I invite, and what should they “bring”?**

Please invite friends and family who are registered to vote in California. Be sure your invitation is clear: this is a **Bring Your Own Ballot** party, and the purpose is for folks to complete their ballots together.

- **What kind of equipment do I need?**

All you need is an internet connection, a computer or smartphone, and access to a platform (like Zoom) for video conferencing.

- **How much will it cost?**

There is little to no cost involved. If you make purchases for your event, please spend no more than \$500 per FPPC guidelines.

FAQs (cont.)

- **What are some benefits of hosting a virtual house party over an in-person one?**

It's Easy and Quick!

Planning and hosting your BYOB Virtual House Party can take as little as a day. This toolkit will help!

It's Accessible and Inclusive!

People with mobility issues, transportation challenges or scheduling conflicts can more easily attend. Plus, more people can participate without the physical space limitations of an in-person event.

It's Convenient for both Hosts and Guests!

With no need to cook or clean (before or after), there's far less time commitment for the host. Guests can attend from the comfort of their homes, making it easier for people with busy schedules, caregiving responsibilities or those who may not be able to attend in person for health or other reasons.

It's Cost-Effective!

There's little to no cost to the host for food, beverage and venue prep. Guests also don't have to spend money on transportation and parking, which may encourage greater participation.

Step-By-Step Instructions

Step 1: Choose a Platform

There are lots of apps and programs out there for connecting digitally. Pick one that you're comfortable with — and make sure your guests can join, regardless of what devices they use.

Below are four platforms you may want to consider. Please DON'T use an account subscription belonging to a 501(c)(3) organization, your business/organization or your employer.

- [Zoom](#): A free tool that can accommodate up to 100 people. The host can create “breakout rooms” for smaller group interactions.
 - **For free accounts, there is a 40-minute limit on group calls.**
- [Skype](#): A free tool that can host 100 people and doesn't have a 1-hour time limit.
- [Facebook video chat](#): A free tool that can host up to 50 people. Best for people already using the platform.
- [Google Meet](#): A free tool that can host up to 100 people for 60 minutes.
 - **Host will need a (free) Google account to create the meeting.**
 - Here is the link to create a call:
<https://meet.google.com/landing?hs=197&authuser=0>

Step 2: Create a Guest List

Your target audience is friends and family who are registered California voters.

In general, the larger your group, the harder individual interactions become. A large group is great if you have a robust program. An intimate party of 5 - 15 people will allow for more social interaction, and for some, a more positive experience.

Step-By-Step Instructions (cont.)

Step 3: Choose a Theme

BYOB (Bring Your Own Ballot): Encourage your guests to “bring” their ballot (or sample ballot) and to fill them out together.

Here are some ideas:

- **Come As You Are Party:** Invite guests to come as they are, with no preparations or additional steps.
- **Dinner Party:** Invite guests to order takeout from a favorite local restaurant or cook a favorite meal. Showcase favorite cuisines and recipes during the icebreaker.
- **Cocktail Party:** Invite guests to enjoy their favorite alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage during the program. Showcase favorite drinks and recipes during the icebreaker.
- **Pajama Party:** Invite guests to a late night or Sunday brunch pajama party. The beauty of having a virtual event is you don't have to get ready to go anywhere!
- **Watch Party:** Invite guests to bring their own popcorn, watch a movie together virtually (see our recommendations in [Materials](#)) and enjoy! Maybe take an intermission about 1/3 into the movie to go over half of the ballot, then again right before the final big scene to complete your ballot review.
 - Be mindful that screen sharing a movie may violate copyright laws and streaming platform policies. Please ensure to have proper authorization before doing so. You'll also want to ensure your hosting platform will allow your party to run the length of the movie time and program time combined.

Step-By-Step Instructions (cont.)

Step 4: Choose a Date/Time and Create Your Invitations

- Choose a date (ideally between Oct 11 – 26, but up to Election Day) and time (plan for at least 1 hour) to host your BYOB Virtual House Party.
- Create your own invitation or use our sample messaging ([Materials](#)) to compose an email or text to get the word out to your guest list.

Step 5: Invite People!

- Email or text your invitations with as much lead time as possible. Personalized messages are more likely to get a YES reply.
- Send a quick reminder a few days before and again on the day before your party. Take the opportunity to get your prospective guests motivated to attend with shareable graphics about voting. (Check out [Materials](#) or create (or find) your own!)

Step 6: Party with a Purpose...virtually!

- Customize your agenda. (See [Customizable Agenda](#).)
- Review the program guide. (See slides 10 -14. Use our sample script and talking points or improvise).
- Choose an optional topic (slides 15 - 18)...or not.
- Follow your customized program agenda.
- Take a screen shot of your group (with everyone's permission) to share on your social media channels. #WeVoteOurValues
- Before ending your party, make sure every guest has a plan to vote.

Step 7: Vote!

(Customizable) **Agenda**

- Introductions 10 minutes
 - Icebreaker
 - Why Vote? 10 minutes
 - Important Dates and Resources 5 minutes
 - Optional Topics (Pick one or none for a tighter program.)
 1. The History of Suppression of the Black Vote
 2. We Must Defeat Prop 36
 3. Achieving Lithium Equity in Imperial County
 4. Advancing Social Change in San Diego County
 5. _____?
 - Review of State Ballot Measures 30 minutes
 - Conclusion 5 minutes
-
- 60 minutes

PROGRAM with sample SCRIPT

Segment 1: **Introductions** (10 minutes)

Host:

Welcome, everyone, to this **BYOB** (Bring Your Own Ballot) **Virtual House Party!**

I'm your host, [Name]. Thank you for joining us!

This is a party with a purpose: to inform, inspire and move people (especially people of color) to vote for our shared values this election season!

Over the next hour, we'll go over important dates and resources for the upcoming election. We'll talk about certain ballot measures that advance or impede social justice. We'll fill out our ballots together and make plans to vote by mail, official drop box or in person.

Does everyone have their ballots?

Let's get going with introductions and this icebreaker question:

_____?

See [themes in the previous section](#) for some fun icebreaker topics. You can also keep it casual and just have everyone introduce themselves or respond to an icebreaker question while playing music in the background.

Here's a list of [icebreaker questions](#) if you need ideas.

Check out our social justice playlist in the [Materials](#) section!

PROGRAM with sample SCRIPT (cont.)

Segment 2: **Why Vote?** (10 minutes)

Host:

In California, where major public policy decisions are often made through statewide propositions, it's the popular vote that shapes policies affecting education, health care, climate change and access to justice.

Historically, when our communities don't vote, we end up with elected leaders, laws and policies that don't reflect our values.

But, when we vote and vote our values, meaningful change occurs.

A record-breaking 22 million Californians registered to vote in the 2020 election and nearly 18 million Californians voted!

This election, let's set a new record!

Please share with why you think voting is important.

(Option 1)

- A few guests share personal stories or experiences related to voting.
(Do any of your guests have a unique story?)
 - First-time voter
 - Long-time voter
 - Votes as a family
 - Voting rights advocate

(Option 2)

- All guests are asked to share no more than three words about why voting is important to them personally or as a community, or what inspires them to vote.

PROGRAM with sample SCRIPT (cont.)

Segment 3: **Important Voting Dates and Resources** (5 minutes)

Host:

- Let's review some important dates and resources for this election.
- Most (if not all of you) received a ballot in the mail. If you didn't, please check your voter status to make sure you're registered to vote.
 - I'll drop a link in the Chat: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>
- If you're not registered to vote in this election, **October 21** is the last day to do so. If you miss the deadline, you can still conditionally register and vote provisionally at any polling place.
- Early voting has started! You can take your ballot to any official ballot drop-off location. I'll drop the link in the Chat.
 - San Diego County: <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/elections/ballot-drop-box-locations.html/>
 - Imperial County: <https://elections.imperialcounty.org/voting-options/#mail>
- **November 5** is Election Day, the last day to vote! All vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar's office are open from 7am to 8pm.
 - You must be in line at a voting location before 8pm to cast your ballot.
 - Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day.
 - Ballots that are hand-delivered to a drop-off location must be delivered no later than the close of polls at 8pm on Election Day.

PROGRAM with sample SCRIPT (cont.)

Segment 4: **Review of State Ballot Measures** (30 minutes)

Host:

Let's dive into California's ballot measures. We'll discuss propositions and initiatives that align with our values.

I'm going to screen-share our local ACLU's ballot guide.

<Screen share ballot guide.>

- Web version: [Click here](#) or use this URL: bit.ly/SDIC_ballot
- Print Version: [Click here](#) or use this URL: https://www.aclu-sdic.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/2024_09_24_ballot_guide_web.pdf
- Present overview of key ballot measures
- Deep dive into Prop 36 utilizing the [Prop 36 talking points](#)
- Provide resources <drop links in chat>
 - ACLU Voter Guide: <https://www.aclu-sdic.org/en/2024-california-ballot-guide>
 - BallotReady: <https://www.ballotready.org/>
 - Vote.org: <https://www.vote.org/>

PROGRAM (with sample SCRIPT)

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Host:

- Thank you for participating in our BYOB Virtual House Party! I/we appreciate your time and willingness to share this space together to discuss the importance of voting and voting our values in the upcoming election.
- Now, to ensure everyone has a plan to vote, let's each share how we'll cast our ballots on or before Election Day, November 5th.
 - I'll go first. First thing tomorrow, I will _____. Who's next?

(Option 1)

Each guest shares their plan then calls on the next person until everyone has responded.

(Option 2)

Each guest is invited to drop their response in the Chat.

- Thanks again, everyone. Remember, your vote matters. If the region and state is to reflect our shared values, the time is now to flex our political muscle - together.

• **Next steps:**

- Complete your ballot (if you haven't already done so)
- **Mail in your ballot by or drop it off at an official location.**
- Let me know if want to host your own BYOB Virtual House Party. I'll provide you with the link to access the toolkit I used today!

<drop link in Chat>

<https://www.aclu-sdic.org/en/we-vote-our-values-house-party-toolkit>

OPTIONAL TOPICS with sample SCRIPT

Topic 1: **Understanding the History of Black Voter Suppression in the United States** (10 minutes)

Host:

Value :

We the People means everyone.

Problem:

- Throughout U.S. history, African Americans have faced unjust, undemocratic and systemic denial of their voting rights.
- Despite the 15th Amendment granting Black men the right to vote; even after passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibiting racial discrimination in voting, efforts to dilute the power of the Black vote continue today, posing very real barriers to Black Americans' full participation in our democracy.

Solution:

- It's essential we vote and Vote Our Values this Election Day in solidarity with the fight for voting rights for Black Americans.
- And we must push for passage the "John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act" to cement the legacy of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and to safeguard this right for all Americans.

Action:

- Let's watch a short 8.5-minute video about the history of Black voter suppression in the United States.

<Screen Share this video>

[The History Of Black Voter Suppression — And The Fight For The Right To Vote | NBC News \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

OPTIONAL TOPICS with sample SCRIPT (cont.)

Topic 2: **We Must Defeat Prop 36** (10 minutes)

Host:

Value:

- Our communities need quality prevention and treatment programs, not more people in prison.

Problem:

- Prop 36 will return California to an era of costly mass incarceration and dangerously overcrowded prisons.
- Prop 36 will make us less safe by diverting millions of dollars in services for crime victims, schools, effective drug and mental health treatment, and job training programs to prisons and jails.
- It will impose harsh criminal penalties, including possible prison time, for low-level, simple drug-related and petty theft offenses.

Solution:

- It's essential we vote...and Vote Our Values this Election Day to defend a vision of community safety that prioritizes prevention over punishment.

Action:

- Vote NO on Prop 36.

Resources:

- I'll drop a link in the Chat for you to review for yourself:

<https://www.stopprisonscam.org/>

OPTIONAL TOPICS with sample SCRIPT (cont.)

Topic 3: **Achieving Lithium Equity in Imperial County** (10 minutes)

Host:

Value:

- We envision an Imperial Valley with an abundance of economic opportunities for historically marginalized and often excluded communities.
- We must advance our state's (and nation's) critical clean energy goals while doing no harm to the environment or vulnerable communities.

Problem:

- The Imperial Valley has significant lithium/rare minerals resources that are in high demand for clean energy uses.
 - Projections are that expanded lithium extraction over next 10-15 years will bring in \$1billion annually, with the most impacted communities receiving little to no benefits.

Solution:

- Together with local groups and organizers, we must ensure equity in our region is at the top of mind in this growing industry. We must work to ensure historically marginalized communities reap the benefits of this natural resource by putting their needs first.

Action:

- Let's follow the lead of the Lithium Valley Community Coalition and other local stakeholders. Their shared goal is to ensure that marginalized communities are represented in an equitable manner and have a seat at the decision-making table.

Resources:

- I'm dropping a link to the Lithium Valley Community Coalition website in the Chat: <https://www.lithiumvalleycommunitycoalition.org/>
 - If you scroll to the bottom of the page you will find links to the coalition's Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter accounts.

OPTIONAL TOPICS with sample SCRIPT (cont.)

Topic 4: **Advancing Social Change in San Diego County** (10 minutes)

Host:

Value:

- The San Diego County Board of Supervisors are elected officials who are responsible for equal representation of ALL county residents.

Problem:

- The 5-member Board has an \$8 Billion budget and a long history of making decisions that negatively affect marginalized populations and impede positive social change. These decisions range from underinvesting in county programs and services that benefit Black and brown communities, to overinvesting in programs and services that disproportionately impact communities of color.
- If you live in districts 1, 2 or 3, there is a Supervisor's contest on your ballot.
 - D1: Nora Vargas (incumbent) v. Alejandro Galicia
 - D2: Joel Anderson (incumbent) v. Gina Jacobs
 - D3: Terra Lawson-Remer (incumbent) v. Kevin Falconer

Solution:

- It's essential that we Vote Our Values this Election Day to ensure that San Diego County has a board of supervisors who truly understand and act on our priorities, individually and collectively, to continue to advance social change in the region.

Action:

- Do your research on the candidates. Whose record of decision-making is more aligned with your values?

Resource:

- Ballotpedia has a nonpartisan breakdown where you can learn more about the individual candidates. I'll drop the link in the chat.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Municipal_elections_in_San_Diego_County,_California_\(2024\)#Board_of_supervisors](https://ballotpedia.org/Municipal_elections_in_San_Diego_County,_California_(2024)#Board_of_supervisors)

MATERIALS

Sample Invitation Messaging

(1) Let's Make Voting a Family Tradition

Dear _____,

You know that voting is important to achieving real change in our communities. I'm reaching out to everyone over 18 in our family in California to make sure you're (1) registered to vote, (2) intend to vote, and (3) informed to Vote Your Values all the way down the ballot!

_____ and I are hosting a virtual Sunday Supper at 3pm this weekend. It's a Zoom call (link below). Please make yourself a plate and join us! And don't forget your ballot! Let's make voting a family tradition.

(2) Can We Fill Out Our Ballots Together?

Democracy is on the ballot, my friend. Have you voted yet? Please join me, _____, _____ and 15 other friends next Tuesday at 7pm to go over our ballots and fill them out together! It's a one-hour Zoom call (link below). Please join us! And don't forget your ballot!

(3) Let's Catch a Movie! Bring Your Ballot and Your Popcorn

Hi _____,

I'm hosting a BYOB (Bring Your Own Ballot) Virtual House Party this Friday at 7pm and you're invited! We're watching the award-winning movie *Selma*, with a few breaks to discuss voting and to fill out our ballots together! Please join us on Zoom (link below). Bring your own ballot and some popcorn too!

(4) Where Are You Watching The Game On Sunday? (in-person)

Hey there!

I'm hosting a get together this Sunday afternoon and you're invited! We'll catch the _____ game, with a few breaks to talk about voting and fill out our ballots together! It's a BYOB (Bring Your Own Ballot) party, so come by and get your vote on.

Kick-off is _____. Here's my address: _____

MATERIALS (cont.)

ACLUF-SDIC Voting Information and Resources

- San Diego County: <https://www.aclu-sdic.org/en/san-diego-county-voting-information-resources-2024-general-election>
- Imperial County: <https://www.aclu-sdic.org/en/imperial-county-voting-information-resources-2024-general-election>

All State Ballot Measures

- [California 2024 ballot propositions - Ballotpedia](#)

ACLU-SDIC Voter Guide

- Web version: [Click here](#) or use this URL: bit.ly/SDIC_ballot
- Print Version: [Click here](#) or use this URL: https://www.aclu-sdic.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/2024_09_24_ballot_guide_web.pdf

BAPAC San Diego Chapter Voter Guide (coming soon)

Talking Points

- [Link to Prop 6 Talking Points](#)
- [Link to Prop 36 Talking Points](#)

MATERIALS (cont.)

Sharable Graphics



Recommended Text:

Election Day is on November 5!

Voting is a right and a vital part of our democracy, but voter suppression tactics still threaten underrepresented communities. Your voice matters! Don't let anyone silence it! Vote your values, up and down the ballot.



Recommended Text:

Register to vote for the Nov. 5 election by Oct. 21!

You can register to vote: Online. At the DMV, your local post office, public libraries, public assistance offices or your county Registrar of Voters Office

<https://registertovote.ca.gov>. Register to vote today!



Recommended Text:

Today is the LAST DAY to register to vote in the November election! Here are the ways you can register: Online. At the DMV. Your local post office. The public library. Public assistance offices. Or your county elections office.

<https://registertovote.ca.gov>.



Recommended Text:

Today is Election Day – an opportunity to exercise your right to vote, one of your most basic and cherished rights as an American. If you plan to vote in person, make sure you are in line at your polling place before 8pm!

MATERIALS (cont.)

Sharable Graphics



Recommended Text:

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Voting is a right and a vital part of our democracy, but voter suppression tactics still threaten underrepresented communities. Your voice matters! Don't let anyone silence it! Vote your values, up and down the ballot.



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MATERIALS (cont.)

Know Your Voting Rights Information

- [ACLU Know Your Rights: Voting Rights](#) (English)
- [ACLU Know Your Rights: Derecho al voto](#) (Spanish)
- [California Voter Bill of Rights](#)
- [Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 2024 Voting Rights Toolkit](#)
- [LetMeVoteCA.org](#) (voting rights information for people impacted by the criminal legal system)

Some Music Ideas

[Higher Ground](#) – Stevie Wonder

[Higher Ground](#) – Playing for Change

[A Change is Gonna Come](#) – Sam Cooke

[A Change is Gonna Come](#) – Jennifer Hudson

[Get Up, Stand Up](#) – Bob Marley & The Wailers

[What's Going On](#) – Marvin Gaye

[Talkin Bout a Revolution](#) - Tracy Chapman

[Imagine](#) – John Lennon

[Fight the Power](#) – The Isley Brothers

[Glory](#) – John Legend

[Ella's Song](#) - Resistance Revival Chorus

[Ella's Song](#) – Sweet Honey in the Rock

[Wake Up Everybody](#) – John Legend, Common

[I'll Take You There](#) – The Staple Singers

[Stand Up](#) – Cynthia Erivo

[Can We Fix Our Nation's Broken Heart?](#)
– Stevie Wonder

[Waiting on the World to Change](#)
– John Mayer

[Give the People What They Want](#) – O'Jays

MATERIALS (cont.)

Movie ideas

Be mindful that screen sharing a movie may violate copyright laws and streaming platform policies. Please ensure to have proper authorization before doing so. You'll also want to ensure your hosting platform will allow your party to run the length of the movie time and program time combined.

- ***Selma***, PG-13, 2014
Drama/Historical drama · 2h 8m
- ***John Lewis: Good Trouble***, PG 2020
Documentary · 1h 36m
- ***Willie Velasquez Your Vote is Your Voice***, Not Rated 2016
Documentary · 1 hr
- ***All In: The Fight for Democracy***, PG-13 2020
Documentary · 1h 42m
- ***Soundtrack for a Revolution***, Not Rated 2009
Documentary/Musical · 1h 22m
- ***Freedom Riders***, Not Rated 2010
Documentary/History · 2 hours
- ***13th***, Not Rated 2016
Crime/History · 1h 40m
- ***On the Basis of Sex***, PG-13 2018
Drama/Historical drama · 2h
- ***Rustin***, PG-13 2023
Documentary/Drama · 1h 47m