



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Faith Groups Celebrate Passage of Propositions on Justice Reform and Funds for Schools and Health

PICO California issues the following statement in response to the victories on Propositions 55, 56, and 57

PICO California celebrates historic statewide victories. This year, we engaged over 190,000 new and infrequent voters in with our newly launched our “Together We Vote | One People, One Fight” campaign. These efforts to improve California have been led by our clergy and community leaders across the state. Despite the disappointing results of the tumultuous presidential election, we will continue fighting hard for the true and full liberation of all people.

“While many of our families awake this morning in uncertainty and fear, we should take heart that the people of California chose a path of unity and love and justice,” states PICO California Director, Corey Timpson. “Our constituents have overwhelmingly voted to affirm that everyone’s humanity should be valued and protected. Remember that California is America. Only sooner. We are the future. While we are weary today, the stakes are too high for all those we love to turn away from what we have been called to do. We will continue to have faith in the goodwill, passion, and commitment of the people of California and of our Nation. Now more than ever, we must work strategically to demonstrate what people power can accomplish,” said Corey Timpson, Executive Director of PICO California.

With the passage of **Proposition 55**, Californians have proclaimed loud and clear- our schools and public services are worth the investment. With the continuation of a tax on the wealthiest in our state, we have ensured that millions of children will have the opportunity to get a strong educational foundation for future success.

We are also thrilled that **Proposition 56** has passed. By passing this tax on cigarettes and other tobacco related products including e-cigarettes, California will generate millions of sorely needed funds to promote health in our state.

And we celebrate the passage **of Proposition 57**, which brings common sense reforms to our justice system. With this win, our family members and neighbors will have better opportunities to turn their lives around no matter the mistakes they make. Judges, rather than prosecutors should have the power to decide whether a child as young as 14 should be charged as an adult. With Prop 57, this is now the future of the California justice system.

“Propositions 55, 56, and 57 have captured a new vision for California,” states Pastor Trena Turner from Victory in Praise with PICO California affiliate Faith in the Valley. “People from all over the state resoundingly affirmed PICO California’s belief that we must invest in our common future and build public systems that work for everyone, invest in schools and people not prisons, dismantle incarceration and push for restoration, and pave the way for Health4All – especially for those most vulnerable in our state.”

Our teams gathered nearly 50,000 signatures to ensure proposition 56 and 57 were on the ballot. We registered nearly 19,000 voters. Our dedicated volunteers donated 3,092 shifts as a part of our canvassing and phone banking efforts. PICO California is proud of our efforts to help pass propositions 55, 56, and 57.



PICO California also banded together with our close allies to create the Million Voters Project which is now the largest voter engagement field program in California and we have collectively led one of the largest voter engagement efforts in the history of California. Alongside our MVP partners, we contacted nearly 650,000 Californians, identifying over 80% as yes voters on propositions 55, 56, and 57.

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PICO California is the state's largest community organizing network. We organize in 73 cities, 15 school districts, and in more than one-half of the state's Senate and Assembly districts. PICO California was established in 1994, bringing together local federations from throughout California to affect meaningful budget and policy change at the state level. Over the past 20 years, our organizing and policy advocacy has resulted in increased investments in education and healthcare, and in programs and services that are critical for working families. Together, we represent 480 congregations and 450,000 families of diverse economic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds committed to advancing racial and economic justice in California through organizing, advocacy, and voter engagement. Visit www.PICOCalifornia.org to learn more.

PICO California and its federations are non-partisan and do not endorse or support candidates for office.

Million Voters Project is a collaboration of California's strongest community-based networks: Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), California Calls, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Mobilize the Immigrant Vote (MIV), and PICO California.