

67 Plastic Bag Ban

Referendum

The way it is now: Many local communities have laws that prevent some stores from handing out single-use plastic bags. Some of these laws require stores to charge for paper and reusable bags, and allow the stores to keep the money made from selling the bags. In 2014, the Legislature passed a law that banned single-use plastic bags at certain stores across the whole state. The law also requires stores to charge customers 10 cents for other types of carry-out bags made from paper or thicker plastic, and allows stores to keep the money. Because Prop 67 qualified for the ballot, the law the state passed in 2014 has never gone into effect. Prop 67 is a “referendum” that asks voters to decide if the state’s ban on single-use plastic bags should go into effect or not.

What Prop 67 would do if it passes: Voting “yes” on Prop 67 would allow the 2014 state law to go into effect. Across California, single-use plastic bags would not be allowed at grocery stores, convenience stores, large pharmacies, and liquor stores. These stores would be required to charge for paper or thicker plastic carry-out bags and they would get to keep the money. Voting “no” on Prop 67 would prevent the law from going into effect across the state. *See red box below for an explanation of the differences between Prop 67 and Prop 65.*

Effect on the state budget: Costs would be relatively small. State costs for overseeing the law would be less than a million dollars. These costs would be paid for by fees placed on companies that make bags.

YES People for Prop 67 say:

- Single-use plastic bags are bad for the environment and harmful to wildlife. Prop 67 protects animals and saves the state millions of dollars in clean-up costs.
- Many communities have already banned single-use plastic bags. It’s time to extend the ban across the state.

NO People against Prop 67 say:

- Prop 67 would require stores to charge 10 cents for bags that can be reused, instead of offering them for free.
- Prop 67 would allow grocery stores to keep millions of dollars from selling these bags.

What Happens if Voters Approve Both Prop 65 and Prop 67?

Both Prop 65 and Prop 67 deal with plastic bags, but in different ways.

If only Prop 65 passes, stores across the state could continue handing out single-use plastic bags, if allowed by local law. If lawmakers decide to pass a bill banning single-use plastic bags in the whole state and allow stores to charge a fee on the sale of paper or thicker, reusable plastic bags, the money will go into an environmental fund.

If only Prop 67 passes, stores across the state will not be allowed to hand out single-use plastic bags. Stores would be required to charge 10 cents for paper or thicker, reusable plastic bags. Stores would get to keep the money made from selling these bags.

If both Prop 65 and Prop 67 pass, the statewide ban on single-use plastic bags will go into effect. The Prop that gets the most YES votes determines whether the 10 cent fee from selling bags goes to the new environmental fund (Prop. 65) or to the stores (Prop. 67).



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