



University of California Student Association  
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## **UC Student Association Response to Presidential Uncertainty & The Failure of Prop. 16**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — With the outcome of the Presidential Election unclear and the projected failure of California Proposition 16 as of November 4, 2020, UC Student Association President Aidan Arasasingham released the following statement:

“This morning, UC students woke up to uncertainty over the outcome of the Presidential election and increasing certainty over the outcome of California propositions. On behalf of more than 285,000 UC students, I am deeply disappointed to see the failure of Prop. 16.

Voters had a chance to end California’s failed experiment in race-blindness and usher in a new era of opportunity for students and workers in this state. Unfortunately, Californians did not live up to our ideals of equity and justice today.

The passage of Prop. 16 would have allowed California to join 41 other states in using affirmative action as a tool to fight discrimination and advance opportunity. The fight for affirmative action at UC has spanned generations, and we stand on the shoulders of the UC students who have remained on the front lines of this battle since the 1960s. Thousands of students poured their hearts into marching, rallying, and organizing in support of this top UC student priority — and the movement for equity, justice, and fairness that started before us will continue.

I want to thank all of our campus Vote Coalitions, our election partners throughout the state, and our tireless student volunteers for registering and turning out historic numbers of students in an election like no other. In just a few months, student leaders reinvented the playbook for student voter engagement, empowering new voters in new, innovative ways.

At the national level, officials continue to diligently count votes. In a state that has lowered barriers to voting by allowing same-day registration, provisional voting, and universal mail-in voting, counting votes and calling races will take time. Elsewhere in the country, UCSA coalition partners are working hard to safeguard ballot counting and ensure *all* student voices are heard.



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I also know that this election is weighing heavily on student health and hearts. You can visit [the following resources](#) for guidance on mental health resilience, safely protesting, and requesting academic accommodations.

This will be a difficult time for campus communities, but I have never doubted the ability of students to step up in times of challenge with courage, compassion, and conviction.”

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**About the UC Student Association:** The University of California Student Association is the official voice of 280,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from all ten UC campuses. It is our mission to advocate on behalf of current and future students for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system.