

Proposition 37 Advisory IV

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

On November 6, 2012, a majority (53%) of California's citizens voted against Proposition 37, which would have required the labeling of certain genetically engineered foods and prohibited the use of words such as "natural" on the label of certain processed foods. The Proposition received support of voters in the state's coastal metropolitan areas but failed to gain the support of inland voters.

We had previously reported on the ballot initiative in [Advisory I](#), [Advisory II](#), and [Advisory III](#), and Proposition 37 prompted a lively legal and scientific debate throughout the country on the subject of food labeling in general and genetically engineered labeling in particular. For the present, however, there will be no mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods in California.

Further Information and Resources

The full text of Proposition 37 is available on the California Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vig-public-display/110612-general-election/prop-37/prop-37-text.pdf>. An Official Summary prepared by the Attorney General of California is available at <http://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2012/general/pdf/37-title-sum-analysis.pdf>.

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