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**California Plastic Bag Ban Delayed**

The nation's first state-wide ban on plastic bags was pushed back a year after opponents gathered enough signatures to put it to a public vote.

In 2014 [California passed a law](http://money.cnn.com/2014/09/30/news/california-plastic-bag-ban/?iid=EL) that prohibits stores from handing out single-use plastic bags for free to consumers. The law was scheduled to go into effect in July. But the plastics industry and bag manufacturers waged war against the law. Then, last summer, the governor of California announced that opponents of the law had collected enough signatures to force a referendum in November 2016, so the ban is on hold until then.

Supporters of the ban say plastic bags are terrible for the environment because they end up in waterways and landfills where they don't break down for years. The ban is also supported by many local officials, who say it will reduce the amount of money cities and towns spend to clean up litter. Under the law, stores will be required to offer customers recycled paper bags or bags made of compostable material at a cost of at least 10 cents. Consumers on the government food-assistance program won't have to pay for bags.

California is the first state to ban plastic bags, although several cities already have passed similar laws. San Francisco was the first major U.S. city to ban plastic bags in 2007. Los Angeles announced a ban early in 2015, along with Seattle, Chicago, Portland, and Austin. In November 2016 California residents will decide whether to ban plastic bags everywhere in the state.

**Vocabulary**

Opponent/ prohibit/ announce/ on hold/waterways/compostable/

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/02/25/news/california-plastic-bag-ban-delay/>