

Section 1: Basic Voter Information



KEY TERMS

candidate a person competing in an election

Republican a person who is in one of the two major political parties in the USA. Republicans think the government should be smaller and less involved in people's lives.

primary election an election to choose the candidates in a later election

Democrat a person who is in one of the two major political parties in the USA. Democrats think the government should play a big role in solving problems and making life better for everyone.

party a big group of people who share similar ideas about how the government should work

propositions proposed plans or laws that citizens can vote on

bond an agreement to lend money to a government with the promise of gaining interest on the loan

constitutional amendments changes to the constitution

general election an election to choose leaders and government officials, usually held after a primary election

ballots forms that people use to vote in an election. A ballot lists all the choices you can vote for.

early voting voting in person at an official voting site before election day

Background

It's a presidential election year. And 2024 is already one of the most dramatic and memorable. On July 21, President Joe Biden dropped out of the race and said he would support Vice President Kamala Harris. She was born in California and lived here for most of her life. Harris is now the Democratic **candidate**. The **Republican** candidate is former President Donald Trump.

Until Biden stopped running, the focus was on California's U.S. Senate race. Dianne Feinstein had been one of the state's senators since 1993. She died last year. So the state needed a new senator. Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Laphonza Butler. She was the temporary replacement. However, she decided not to try to keep the job. She did not run in the **primary election**. This surprised many people in politics. In the primary, two people got the most votes: U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, a **Democrat**, and Republican Steve Garvey, a former baseball star. They became the candidates for the general election on November 5. Usually, more Californians vote for Democrats than for Republicans. This means people think Schiff will win.

Voters also made choices in other primary races. They picked candidates for 80 state assembly seats. They selected candidates for 20 state senate districts. In addition, they voted for each of 52 congressional districts. Now they will decide which candidates actually win office. California could be important in helping decide which **party** controls the U.S. House of Representatives. Will Republicans be in charge? Or will Democrats take over once again?

Voters also have ten **propositions** to consider. These include two **bond** issues and three **constitutional amendments**.

Voters have a lot of big decisions. Our 2024 California Voter Guide is here to help.

Here's some general information about voting in California's Nov. 5 **general election**.

Dates to Remember		
October 7	October 21 and October 22	November 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early voting sites open. • Deadline for ballots to start being mailed to every California voter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 21 is the last day to register to vote either online or by mail. • Same-day registration starts on Oct. 22. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Last day to vote by mail. Ballot must be sent by Nov. 5.

Finding Your District

Do you know which congressional district you live in? Do you know your state senator? You can find your districts and representatives using the Internet. All you need to do is type in your address!


GO TO



<https://cal.news/fyd>

Registering to Vote

Here is a list of requirements for voting in California:

You must:

- be a U.S. citizen and live in California;
- be 18 years old or older;
- not be currently serving a state or federal prison term for a felony; and
- not be found mentally incapable of voting by a court.

To register or update your registration online, go to <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.



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Making Your Vote Count

You want to be sure your vote counts now that you are a registered voter. You have two ways to vote. The first is by mail-in ballot. The second way is by going to an in-person polling place during **early voting** or on election day.

- **Vote-by-Mail Ballots** These are automatically sent to all registered voters. After you fill it in, sign and date where indicated. Then mail your ballot to the address shown on the return envelope. Or you can drop it off at a drop box. Another way is to take it to a polling place.
- **Early Voting or Election Day Voting** Most counties offer early voting. It starts 29 days before Election Day. It stops the day before Election Day. For first-time voters, you may need an ID. It should have a photo and include your name. Examples of IDs are your driver's license, an employee ID card, or a passport.

Fundraising

Who are the biggest individuals or groups to give funds for the 2024 election? Look at the table to see the top contributors.

Contributor	Amount
California Association of Realtors	\$39 million given to 67 campaigns
California Apartment Association Issues Committee	\$37 million given to 4 campaigns
AIDS Healthcare Foundation	\$26 million given to 2 campaigns
California Hospitals Committee on Issues, (CHCI) Sponsored by California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (CAHHS)	\$15 million given to 1 campaign
Global Medical Response, Inc. and Its Subsidiaries	\$13 million given to 1 campaign

This information comes from the Secretary of State, but we sometimes adjust the names for easier reading. Information was last updated on September 3, 2024. For full information on fundraising, visit <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/>.



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Section 2: Voter Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



KEY TERMS

drop box a safe, locked container where voters can deliver their ballots, to be picked up by election officials

Secretary of State a government official in a U.S. state. Their main job is to make sure elections run smoothly. This is a different job than the Secretary of State at the federal level.

register give your information to the government so they know who you are, where you live, and that you want to vote

Independent a person who does not belong to any political party

unhoused without housing, or a home

provisional ballot a ballot used when a voter's registration or ability to vote needs to be verified, or checked

Here are some questions people have about voting. The answers will help you with what you need to know to vote in the next election.

How do I vote?

Q: Who can vote?

A: To vote in California you have to register first. To register, you have to be:

- a citizen of the United States
- 18 years old or older by Election Day (November 5, 2024)

Q: Does everyone get a ballot in the mail?

A: Yes. A law was passed in 2021 that requires ballots to be mailed to voters.

These are called vote-by-mail ballots (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail>). Every voter who is registered receives one for each election.

Q: When will I receive my vote-by-mail ballot?

A: County election offices will begin mailing ballots by October 7.

Q: How do I return my vote-by-mail ballot?

A: You can return it in one of these three ways:

- Mail it to your county elections office.
- Drop it off at a ballot **drop box**, vote center, or polling location anywhere in the state.
- Ask someone you trust to do it for you. That person can't get paid for doing this, though.

Q: Can I vote in person? How do I find my polling place or vote center?

A: Yes, you can vote in person. But mailing your ballot as soon as possible is the fastest way to get your vote counted.

You can find out where to vote in the following ways:

- checking online at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>
- texting “VOTE” to GOVOTE (468-8683)
- calling the **Secretary of State’s** hotline at (800) 345-VOTE
- checking the back of your county Voter Information Guide
- contacting your county elections office

Some counties offer even more voting choices. For example, 29 counties allow people to visit the voting center of their choice to vote in person. And they have as many as 10 days to vote this way.

How do I register to vote?

Q: Am I registered to vote?

A: You can check the Secretary of State’s website (<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>).

Enter your name and date of birth. Also, enter one of the following:

- California driver license number
- identification card number
- last four digits of your Social Security number

Contact your county elections office or the Secretary of State if you don’t have any of these. You can reach the Secretary of State by email at elections@sos.ca.gov. You can also reach the Secretary of State by phone at (800) 345-8683.

Q: What if my name has changed since the last time I voted?

A: You have to **register** again.

Q: What if I didn’t let the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or U.S. Postal Service know that I moved?

A: You have to register again.

Q: What if I haven’t voted in several general elections?

A: You have to register again. Sometimes, registration is canceled if people do not vote in several elections.

Q: How do I register?

A: You can register at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

You need to enter your name and date of birth. Also, enter one of the following:

- California driver license number
- identification card number
- last four digits of your Social Security number

You may be able complete your registration online. You can do this if the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has your signature on file. If not, you need



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to print, sign, and mail your completed application to your county elections office. Or you can pick up a paper application at elections offices or any DMV office. Also, applications can be found at many public places. These include many post offices, public libraries, and government offices. You will be contacted if you need to provide more information. You will also be told when your application is approved.

Q: What happens if I miss the deadline to register?

A: The last day to register online for the general election is October 21. You must complete same-day voter registration if you are registering or re-registering less than 15 days before November 5. To do this go to <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg>. Also, you must request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.

Q: How do I change my political party if I'm already registered?

A: You need to re-register to vote (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>).

What if I need help with voting?

Q: What if I need voter information in a language other than English?

A: CalMatters' Voter Guide is available in Spanish: <https://calmatters.org/es/guia-para-votantes-de-california-2024/>. The Secretary of State's office has voter instructions in the following languages:

- Spanish (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/es-mx>)
- Hindi (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/hi-in>)
- Chinese (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/zh-cn>)
- Japanese (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/ja-jp>)
- Khmer (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/km-kh>)
- Korean (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/ko-kr>)
- Tagalog (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/tl-ph>)
- Thai (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/th-th>)
- Vietnamese (<https://registertovote.ca.gov/vi-vn>)

Your county elections office may offer additional languages.

Q: When will I receive my voter guide?

A: The statewide voter guide will be available online on September 6. It will be mailed to voters between September 26 and October 15. County election offices will mail their local guides during the same time. Voter guides will be available in audio and large print.

Q: What am I voting on?

A: You are voting on the following:

- President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. House member
- state senator (if you live in an odd-numbered district)
- state assembly member
- 10 ballot propositions, including 2 bond issues and 3 constitutional amendments



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Note that the U.S. Senate race appears twice on your ballot. One vote is for the term that ends in January 2025. The other is for the full term that ends in January 2031. Your ballot will also include local offices.

Q: Which parties are on the ballot?

A: Six parties qualified for the election: Democratic, Republican, American **Independent**, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom. Some candidates have no preferred party.

Q: Can I leave work to vote?

A: Yes. California is one of 31 states that requires time off for voting. There are some rules that have to do with this time off. You can find them at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/time-vote-notice>. Here are a few of these rules:

- Employers are only required to pay for up to two hours.
- Employers may require advance notice.
- The time off must be at the beginning or end of your shift.
- Employers are required to put up a notice about this. They must do it 10 days before a state election.

Q: How can I find out about my ballot after I vote?

A: Go online (<https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>). Then select “My Voter Status.” This will tell you if your vote was counted. It will show what the problem is if your vote was not counted.

What if I have special circumstances?

Q: I’m in the military. I live in another country or out of state at this time. How do I vote?

A: If you know where you’ll be, you can do the following:

- Re-register and request a special absentee ballot.
- Choose if you want your ballot mailed, faxed, or emailed.

Find a help sheet at <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/mov/tips-for-ca-mov.pdf>.

Q: What if I’m disabled or have a medical emergency?

A: You can still vote.

- Voting from home: Follow the tips on this website: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-ravbm.pdf>.
- Voting with a medical emergency: Follow the tips on this website: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-voters-medical-emergencies.pdf>.

Q: Will I get my ballot if my mail is being sent to another address?

A: No, that’s not allowed. Contact your country elections office if you will be out of state. Do the same if you have been displaced because of an emergency. This website is for displaced voters: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-displaced-voters.pdf>.

Q: Can I vote if I don’t have a permanent address?

A: Yes. Under California law, you can use your last address for these reasons:



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- You are **unhoused** (see <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-homelessness.pdf>).
- You are in between places to live.

You can also use a business address, if that's where you live.

Q: I want to fill out a voter registration card. What do I do if I don't have an exact street location?

A: You can provide the city, zip code, and closest cross-streets. This may be a public camp or park.

You must also provide a current mailing address. You can use a P.O. box. The U.S. Postal Service offers general delivery mail services to customers with no exact address and no identification. See this website: <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Is-there-mail-service-for-the-homeless>.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

Q: What should I do if I marked my ballot wrong? What if I messed it up some other way?

A: You can turn your old ballot in for a new one at an elections office. You can ask an election official at the polling place for a new ballot. Or you can vote using a **provisional ballot**.

There's no way to fix a ballot that you have mailed or turned in. Contact your county elections office for a new ballot.

Q: What if the signature on my ballot doesn't match the one on file?

A: County election officials check the signatures on the return envelope against signatures on your voter registration card. They do this to make sure no one tries to improperly cast your ballot. Your ballot still remains private. The ballot is separated from the envelope before it is counted.

Voters with missing signatures or ones that don't match are contacted. They have a chance to correct the problem before the election becomes certified. See <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/trusted-info-mismatched-signature.pdf>.

Q: What happens if I don't receive my ballot?

A: Contact your county elections office.

Q: What if I put my ballot in a drop box in the wrong county?

A: The county will give it to the correct elections office.

Q: I forgot to remove the stub from my ballot. Can I open the envelope and reseal it?

A: You can. But the Secretary of State's office says it is better to contact your local county election office (see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>). This office will be processing your ballot. So they can offer the best guidance. They can tell you whether to reopen it or just leave the stub attached.

Q: Do I have to vote in every race of the ballot?

A: No. Your ballot will still be counted if you skip some races. Many voters do this when they are not sure how to vote.



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Section 3: Propositions



KEY TERMS

ballot proposition a yes or no question about a new law or a new idea on how the government should spend money. If most people vote “yes,” the idea can become a new rule or law

amendment a change to a government rule or law that already exists

property values a measurement of what properties, such as houses, are worth or could sell for

Prop 2

What would it do?

It would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion to build schools and colleges.

This **ballot proposition** would provide money for schools in California to improve, fix, and construct school buildings. Kindergartens, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools would get \$8.5 billion. Community colleges would receive \$1.5 billion. The money would be distributed through matching grants. This means that the state would provide some of the money. The local school districts would pay the rest. The state would pay more of the costs for less wealthy districts, as well as schools with higher numbers of English language learners and children from foster homes.

Some of the money would be set aside for removing lead from water. Other funds would pay for creating transitional kindergarten classrooms. These classrooms prepare children to move from preschool to a regular kindergarten. Still other money would be for facilities, like classrooms or buildings, used for career and technical education programs.

Why is it on the ballot?

Thousands of California school buildings are in poor condition. For example, some buildings have leaky roofs, broken air conditioning, peeling paint, and other health and safety problems. The Public Policy Institute of California says that 38% of students attend schools that don’t meet the state’s safety standards. Research has shown that students who go to these schools attend class less often. These students may also face other problems, such as low self-confidence and achievement.

California is different from many other states. It does not have a permanent way of paying for school repairs. Instead, money comes from state and local bonds. The state’s last school facilities bond asked for \$15 billion in 2020. However, this proposition failed to pass. As a result, the state has almost no money to pay for school repairs.

Wealthier school districts can raise more money for repairs through local bonds than less wealthy districts. That’s because local **property values** are higher there. More



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money can be gained through local property taxes. Smaller and lower-income districts struggle to raise enough bond money to pay for school repairs. In fact, they often can't pass local bonds at all. As a result, they rely entirely on state bond money.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$1.4 million raised</p> <p>Supporters say this money is necessary to make basic safety improvements in schools. They also believe that it is needed to add modern science labs, performing arts spaces and kindergarten classrooms for younger children. School districts in lower-income areas have no other way to pay for those improvements.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond • Association of California School Administrators • California Builders Alliance • California Chamber of Commerce • California Federation of Teachers • California School Boards Association • Los Angeles Unified School District • Small School Districts Association 	<p>\$0 raised</p> <p>Opponents say the state should include school repairs in its regular budget. They think taxpayers already pay too much to the state. In addition, they argue that Prop. 2 would not directly help students.</p> <p>Several organizations have concerns about what they see as the unfair use of funds. They think that the state's way of providing matching funds should be adjusted. To them, lower-income districts should receive a higher share of the funds. The nonprofit law firm Public Advocates has threatened to sue if the measure passes.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Funders

A total of \$1.4 million has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$1.4 million</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes on Proposition 2 - Coalition for Adequate School Housing Issues Committee \$1 million • Association of California School Administrators Issues Political Action Committee \$100,000 • California Alliance for Jobs - Rebuild California Committee, \$100,000 • Murdoch, Walrath & Holmes \$10,000 • Prowest Constructors \$10,000 	<p>No reported contributions</p>

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Sep. 3, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-2-school-bond/>



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KEY TERMS

conservative a person who has traditional values or wants the government to protect traditional values

measure a law or suggested plan

Prop 3

What would it do?

It would provide more protections for the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Proposition 3 would update the language of the California constitution to make sure that same-sex couples continue to have the right to same-sex marriage. It would get rid of Proposition 8, which was passed by voters in 2008. That proposition defined marriage as between a man and a woman. In practice, Proposition 3 would not change who can marry.

Why is it on the ballot?

California is the state with the nation's largest Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) population. In 2004, Gavin Newsom (who was mayor of San Francisco at the time) began allowing same-sex couples to get marriage licenses, even though there was a federal ban on gay marriage. The California Supreme Court quickly stopped this. Californians voted in 2008 to ban same-sex marriage in the state.

The ban on same-sex marriage, while in the California constitution, is no longer valid. That's because the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 allowed same-sex marriage to continue in California. The Court also made same-sex marriage legal throughout the nation in an important decision in 2015. In 2020, Nevada became the first state to put the right to same-sex marriage in its constitution.

California state Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Evan Low are both Democrats in the Legislative LGBTQ Caucus. They introduced a constitutional amendment as a way to keep some other action from being taken after the U.S. Supreme Court stopped federal abortion protections in 2022. Justice Clarence Thomas, a **conservative**, said that the court should also reconsider whether same-sex marriage should be allowed. However, other conservatives on the Court did not agree with Justice Thomas.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$2.9 million raised</p> <p>Supporters argue the measure would simply remove old and outdated language from the California constitution. It would protect a right already recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court. The protection comes at the right time, because of “recent threats against basic rights.” This refers to the 2022 Supreme Court decision to overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and allow states to decide abortion laws.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality California • American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California • Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California • California Democratic Party • Gov. Gavin Newsom 	<p>\$0 raised</p> <p>Opponents say the measure goes too far. It would set aside marriage laws. They think it would also end protections against “child marriages, incest, and polygamy.” They argue that it’s best for children to be raised by both mothers and fathers. They say that the measure “threatens our shared values of healthy families, healthy children, and a healthy society.”</p> <p>The nonpartisan, or independent, Legislative Analyst’s Office studied the proposition and found that the proposal’s impact does not mention changes to state marriage laws.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Family Council • The American Council of Evangelicals

Funders

A total of \$2.93 million has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$2.93 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria \$2 million • California Federation of Teachers \$300,000 • ACLU of Northern California \$100,000 • California Works: Senator Toni Atkins Ballot Measure Committee \$100,000 • Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Caucus Leadership Fund \$100,000 	<p>No reported contributions</p>

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link:

<https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-3-same-sex-marriage/>



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KEY TERMS

audit a review of a person or group's finances, including how much money was spent and how it was spent

Prop 4

What would it do?

It would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion to solve problems related to climate change.

This proposition would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion for environmental and climate projects. About \$1.9 billion would be used to improve drinking water. The bond would help lower-income communities and those most likely to be harmed by climate change. The state has promised to do a yearly **audit**. Each year, it will check to make sure the money is being spent in the best possible way.

Repaying the debt could cost \$400 million a year over 40 years. So taxpayers could end up spending \$16 billion in all.

Why is it on the ballot?

Environmental groups and renewable energy supporters have been wanting California to spend more money on climate change and the environment in recent years. They were pleased when Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state legislature agreed on a \$54.3 billion plan called the “California Climate Commitment” in 2022. This happiness turned to disappointment, though. Budget problems led the state to reduce the amount to \$44.6 billion this year.

About \$3.8 billion of the money would be spent on water projects. Half of those funds would be used to improve water quality. The other half would help protect the state from floods and droughts and other activities, such as restoring rivers and lakes. The rest of the money would be used as follows:

- Wildfire and extreme heat projects, \$1.95 billion
- Natural lands, parks and wildlife projects, \$1.9 billion
- Coastal lands, bays and ocean protection, \$1.2 billion
- Clean energy projects, \$850 million
- Agricultural projects, \$300 million



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$569,000 raised</p> <p>Supporters are concerned about the threat the state faces from wildfires, water pollution, and extreme heat. They argue that more spending on these issues is “urgent.” Dozens of environmental groups support voting yes on the proposition.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Water Action • National Wildlife Federation • Cal Fire firefighters • California Labor Federation 	<p>\$0 raised</p> <p>Opponents argue that “bonds are the most expensive way for the government to pay for things.” They also worry that some of the money could go toward technologies that may not work well. They say that California should pay for such projects without taking on more debt.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association • Senate GOP leader Brian Jones • Assemblymember Jim Patterson

Funders

A total of \$494,000 has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$569,000 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Redwoods League \$250,000 • Sempervirens Fund \$100,000 • California Association of Local Conservation Corps \$50,000 • Save Mt. Diablo \$45,000 • California State Parks Foundation \$25,000 	<p>No reported contributions</p>

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link:

<https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-4-climate-bond/>



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KEY TERMS

infrastructure the system of public works of a country, state, or area, including roads, railways, and water facilities

majority the greater part of a number

Prop 5

What would it do?

It would make it easier to get funding for affordable housing and infrastructure projects.

It is hard for local governments in California to borrow money. Voters need to approve most city and county bonds. These bonds need at least two-thirds (about 67%) of the people voting to vote yes for the bond to pass.

Proposition 5 would amend, or change, the California constitution. It would lower the required share of voters needed to pass a bond from about 67% of the total number of votes to 55%. This change could help fund the following:

- building affordable housing
- programs that help people with down payments for homes
- many “public **infrastructure**” projects, including projects for water management, local hospitals and police stations, broadband networks, and parks

The new number of 55% would apply to bonds on the November ballot and other future bonds if it passes. That includes a proposed \$20 billion affordable housing bond in the San Francisco Bay area.

Why is it on the ballot?

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, a Democrat from Winters, has been trying to get this proposition on the ballot since 2017. Each time, it has failed to get on the ballot. This time she was successful.

The Legislature voted to put Prop. 5 on the ballot last fall. But then in the spring, lawmakers passed a second measure to make a few last-minute changes. An earlier version had applied to certain tax raises. However, the new version now only covers bonds. It also now includes a ban. This ban stops local governments from using the money to buy existing single-family homes to change them into affordable units. That change was required to keep the powerful California Association of Realtors from opposing, or trying to stop, the measure.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$0 raised</p> <p>Supporters say that allowing just one third of voters to reject the wishes of two thirds is not democratic or fair. The local government should be able to borrow money for affordable housing or other public infrastructure if most voters agree.</p> <p>Supporters also say this is a question of local control. Changing the required vote from two-thirds to 55% would allow local officials to fund important projects more easily. They would not have to depend as much on money from the state or federal government.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Democratic Party • California State Building and Construction Trades Council • AIDS Healthcare Foundation • California Housing Partnership • California YIMBY 	<p>\$28.8 million raised</p> <p>Opponents say that it's always easy to support taking on more debt if you aren't the one who has to pay it back. Property owners almost always have to pay higher taxes when a local government borrows money. The property owners might only be a minority of voters, so the choice to approve a bond should be made only when more people make the decision. This could stop a small majority from making irresponsible decisions.</p> <p>Critics also say this measure would take away protections that Proposition 13 put into the state constitution. They claim that lawmakers are trying to undo what California voters wanted.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Chamber of Commerce • Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association • National Federation of Independent Businesses • Catalyst For Local Control

Funders

A total of \$28.8 million has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>No reported contributions</p>	<p>\$28.8 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Association of Realtors \$19 million • National Association of Realtors \$5 million • California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization PAC \$3 million • California Business Roundtable Issues PAC \$1.37 million • California Business Properties Association Issues PAC \$120,000

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-5-vote-threshold/>



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Prop 6

What would it do?

It would limit forced labor in state prisons.

Proposition 6 would amend, or change, the California constitution to keep the state from punishing prisoners by forcing them to work. It would also prevent the state from disciplining those who refuse to work. Instead, state prisons could set up a volunteer work assignment program. This would take time off prisoners' sentences in the form of credits. It would let county or city ordinances set up a pay scale for prisoners in local jails.

The measure's potential costs remain unknown. This is something that is creating a conflict. If approved, the state would need to pay the minimum wage to prisoners with work assignments. This would depend on how courts interpret the law and future voluntary work programs.

Why is it on the ballot?

California was not a state that enslaved people. However, it does have a history of forced labor. Lawmakers created a task force, a team of experts working on a specific problem, for reparations, or repayment. The task force was told to address unfairness in the past that harmed Black residents. The task force suggested changing the state constitution to outlaw any form of enslavement as one of 14 key plans this session.

Lawmakers considered a similar plan in 2022. But fewer people supported it after the California Department of Finance estimated that it would cost about \$1.5 billion per year to pay minimum wage to prisoners. This year's amendment has the volunteer work program as a way to get around that issue.

The state's prison system employs nearly 40,000 of the state's 90,000 prisoners. These prisoners complete a variety of tasks such as construction, yard work, cooking, cleaning and firefighting. Most of them earn less than 74 cents an hour. Prisoners who work as firefighters can earn as much as \$10 a day. California's minimum wage is \$16 an hour. State law allows the corrections department to pay up to half of that rate.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$62,800 raised</p> <p>Supporters say that prisoners are often punished or harmed in some way for turning down assignments that can be dangerous or life threatening. It's cruel, they say, to have to work long hours on jobs that do not necessarily help them build future skills for little pay.</p> <p>They also mention the growing number of states that have adopted similar rules. These include Colorado, Alabama, Tennessee, and Vermont. However, California would have stronger language to prevent punishment toward prisoners.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACLU California Action • Anti-Recidivism Coalition • California Democratic Party • California Teachers Association • California Black Legislative Caucus 	<p>\$0 raised</p> <p>An official ballot argument against the measure has not been filed. But a few Republican lawmakers voted against it. They disagree with repayment efforts by the state at a time when the budget shortage is a top priority.</p> <p>Critics in other states have said that the current work system helps prisoners. It helps create order in prisons that want to retrain or help prisoners be ready to rejoin society. Some say that changing that system by allowing prisoners to turn down assignments could eventually make it more difficult to manage prisons.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None registered

Funders

A total of \$62,800 has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$62,800 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice \$25,000 • Legal Service for Prisoners with Children \$12,300 • ACLU of Northern California \$10,000 • ACLU California Action \$9,170 • Anti Recidivism Coalition \$6,390 	<p>No reported contributions</p>

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-6-involuntary-servitude/>



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KEY TERMS

inflation the rate that prices increase, or go up, over a period of time

deficit a lack of money that happens when a government spends more than it receives in taxes

Prop 32

What would it do?

It would raise the state's minimum wage to \$18 an hour.

Proposition 32 would raise the minimum wage to \$17 for the rest of 2024. The minimum wage would be \$18 an hour starting in January 2025. This is a raise from the current \$16. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees would need to start paying at least \$17 next year. In 2026, they would pay \$18. California will have the nation's highest state minimum wage if voters say "yes."

Starting in 2027, the wage would be adjusted based on **inflation**. The raise would apply throughout the state. But it would have a bigger effect in some areas than in others. Nearly 40 California cities have local minimum wages that are higher than the state's wage. Six cities already require at least \$18. Several are close to \$18.

Why is it on the ballot?

California became the first state to reach a \$15 minimum wage in 2022. Unions and restaurant workers had fought for this wage for a long time. But people active in movements for workers' rights say that the minimum wage should be higher. They say the cost of living in the state is so high that people cannot live on minimum wage jobs. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, this wage is too low. It found that even in the cheapest California county (Modoc), a single adult with no children would need to make at least \$20.32 an hour to afford what they need. Across the state, a single adult with no children would need \$27.32 an hour.

Joe Sanberg first wanted an \$18 minimum wage three years ago. He is a wealthy businessperson who began working against poverty. So he put \$10 million into getting signatures to get the proposition on the 2022 ballot. The measure included more gradual wage hikes starting in 2023. But the campaign missed a key deadline. This pushed the proposition to this year's ballot. That means a quicker raise to \$18 in January if voters approve the measure in November.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$9,800 raised</p> <p>Labor groups want the proposition to pass. But many say it's not as high a minimum wage as they'd like. Sanberg estimates it would give raises to 2 million workers statewide. These people haven't yet benefitted from raises in certain industries. They also don't live in cities that require a higher wage. Supporters also argue the money would help families afford basic needs. They say it would be spent at local businesses. They also say it would help reduce low-income Californians' use of taxpayer-provided benefits. Studies done by UC Berkeley have found that California's gradual increase to \$15 had "no significant" effect on job losses.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Labor Federation • Unite Here • One Fair Wage • Working Families Party California 	<p>\$10,000 raised</p> <p>Business groups are against the proposition. They argue that employers are already dealing with increased supply and labor costs from inflation. They say that for some companies, business hasn't come back fully since the COVID pandemic. They use the state government as an example. It is facing a budget deficit. So it delayed a \$25 health care worker minimum wage until this fall to see if it has the cash to pay for it. Those against the proposition say that private employers should get the same benefit. They also point to surveys requested by the small city of West Hollywood. In the surveys, 42% of businesses said they laid off staff or cut workers' hours. They made the cuts because of the city's \$19.08 minimum wage.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Chamber of Commerce • California Restaurant Association • California Grocers Association • National Federation of Independent Business

Funders

A total of \$19,800 has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$9,800 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph N. Sanberg \$9,800 	<p>\$10,000 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Business PAC, Spons. by CA Chamber of Commerce \$5k • California Restaurant Association Issues PAC \$5k

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-32-minimum-wage/>



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Prop 33

What would it do?

It would allow local governments to limit how much rent people pay.

Many cities, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, limit the amount a landlord can raise the rent each year. This is a practice known as rent control. But California has set limits on rent control for nearly 30 years, because of the Costa-Hawkins law. This law says that cities cannot use rent control on single-family homes or apartments built after 1995. Also, landlords are free to set their own rental rates when new renters move in.

This would change if Proposition 33 passes. Cities would be able to control rents on any type of housing, including single-family homes and new apartments. It would also apply to new renters.

Why is it on the ballot?

Nearly 30% of renters in California spend more than half the money they earn on rent. The Public Policy Institute of California found that this amount of renters is higher than in any other state except Florida and Louisiana.

People who support renters' rights have been fighting the Costa-Hawkins law for years. However, they have had no success. They tried to change the law with ballot measures in 2018 and 2020. Lawmakers also tried to pass new laws. All those efforts failed. Then Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law limiting yearly rent increases statewide to 5% plus inflation in 2019.

Supporters of Prop. 33 say that what he did does not go far enough. They hope that Prop. 33 will end the old rules on rent control. But many landlords' groups are against the idea, and they have a lot of funds. In fact, they have been willing to spend a great amount to get voters to believe that rent control is not the answer to the state's housing problems.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$26.2 million raised</p> <p>The main argument for Prop. 33 is that rents are too high. Teachers, police officers, and firefighters starting their careers are paying half of the money they earn to live in many California cities. Others with lower incomes are paying so much that soon they may be homeless.</p> <p>Supporters argue that rent control works well in many cities. It helps people keep living in their homes. And, they say, passing Prop. 33 will let local governments make decisions about rent control. They can form and pass laws that work for their residents.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS Healthcare Foundation • California Democratic Party • Veterans' Voices • California Nurses Association • CA Alliance for Retired Americans • Housing is a Human Right • Tenants Together • Consumer Watchdog • Housing NOW • ACCE • UNITE HERE Local 11 	<p>\$45.7 million</p> <p>Opponents say that strict rent control codes will make California's already severe housing problems even worse. They argue that the values of property will fall. They say people will be less likely to build new housing. This will cause prices of rental units to increase.</p> <p>Critics also say that the proposition does not actually include protections for renters. They say that California voters have voted against this idea twice already.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Small Business Association • California Senior Alliance • California Council of Carpenters • California YIMBY • California Chamber of Commerce • Senate President Pro Tem Emeritus Toni Atkins • Democratic Assemblymember Buffy Wicks • Marine Corps Veterans Association



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Funders

Supporters and opponents of the proposition have raised about \$71.9 million.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$26.2 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS Healthcare Foundation \$25.5 Million • Kevin De Leon for Lieutenant Governor 2026 \$600,000 • Unite Here Local 11 \$50,000 • Democratic Socialists of America, Inc. \$5,000 • Kevin De Leon Believing in a Better CA Ballot Measure Committee \$5,000 	<p>\$45.7 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Association of Realtors \$19 million • California Apartment Association Issues Committee \$13.5 million • National Association of Realtors \$5 million • Issues PAC of Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles \$710,000 • California Business Roundtable Issues PAC \$290,000

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Sep. 3, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-33-rent-control/>



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KEY TERMS

policy a set of ideas or a plan of action

Prop 34

What would it do?

It would require certain health care providers to use money from prescription drugs for patients.

Since 1992, federal law has given health care providers a discount on drugs if they care for low-income and at-risk people. The providers can then sell those drugs to customers. They can charge the same amount a customer would pay in a retail store. Providers can use the money they make to expand, or grow, their health care services.

Proposition 34 would require some California providers to spend at least 98% of that drug sale money on caring for patients. If providers do not do this, they could lose their state licenses. They could also have to pay taxes and lose contracts given by the government.

But the proposition doesn't affect all providers. It only applies to providers who spend at least \$100 million on costs other than direct care for patients. The providers must also own and operate apartment buildings. They need to have at least 500 severe health and safety violations in the last 10 years.

It is possible that this proposition only applies to one group: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. The proposition would also put into law a **policy** from Gov. Newsom's administration that requires all state agencies to negotiate, or bargain, for lower drug prices as a single unit.

Why is it on the ballot?

One reason is that a lot of political leaders and housing interest groups really don't like Michael Weinstein. Weinstein is the longtime president of the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation. This group runs HIV/AIDS clinics in 15 states. The group has also become important in state and local housing politics under his leadership. It has spent tens of millions of dollars on two unsuccessful statewide rent control measures. (Prop. 33 on this year's ballot is the third try). It has forcefully campaigned against laws requiring local governments to permit denser, or more crowded, housing. In 2017, the foundation supported partly suspending or stopping development in Los Angeles. It sued to stop construction on residential buildings with more than one story. Along the way, the foundation has gained a large number of rental properties in LA's Skid Row that have had issues with basic living standards and health complaints.

Weinstein has plenty of political enemies. However, a familiar one is paying for this initiative: The California Apartment Association. This is the state's main landlord lobby (or interest group) and is opposed to the idea of rent control.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$21.8 million raised</p> <p>Supporters say the issue is accountability, or being responsible. They say that when the federal government gives discounts to health care providers, the money should be used to help the neediest patients. This proposition would make things clearer and lessen abuse.</p> <p>Supporters have also said that Weinstein is a “safety net scammer.” Prop. 34 would keep Weinstein from taking the organization’s funds away from HIV and AIDS patients and using them for his own political projects.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Apartment Association • ALS Association • Assemblymember Evan Low 	<p>\$532,100 raised</p> <p>Opponents argue that this proposition is paid for by landlords who want to get even. They say that in a democracy, campaigns should make their case to the voters. They should not silence their opponents. They also say the proposition is illegal and cannot be put into practice. This is because both the U.S. and state constitutions ban laws that are meant to punish a single person or organization. The foundation used that argument in a lawsuit late last year. Though the state Supreme Court would not take the proposition off the ballot, the constitutional problems with the proposition have not been addressed or solved. If Prop. 34 passes, the case will probably go back to court.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AIDS Healthcare Foundation • Consumer Watchdog

Funders

A total of \$22.3 million has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$21.8 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Apartment Association Issues Committee \$21.5 million • California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization Political Action Committee \$250k • California Apartment Association \$38.6k 	<p>\$532,000 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS Healthcare Foundation \$422k • Renters and Homeowners for Rent Control Yes on 33, Sponsored by AIDS Healthcare Foundation \$110k

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-34-patient-spending/>



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Prop 35

What would it do?

It would require the state to take the money it gets from a tax on health care plans and spend it on Medi-Cal.

Medi-Cal is the public, state-funded insurance program for low-income Californians and people with disabilities. The money would go to primary and specialty care. Also, it would be used for emergency services, family planning, mental health and prescription drugs. Proposition 35 is expected to bring in about \$35 billion over the next four years.

Why is it on the ballot?

In the past 10 years, lawmakers made Medi-Cal include more people. It now includes all low-income residents, even if they are not citizens. Lawmakers also brought back benefits such as dental insurance, hearing aids, and doulas (people who aren't doctors but help support pregnant women during labor). Today, more than 14 million Californians (or about a third of the people in the state) use Medi-Cal. Payments to doctors and other Medi-Cal providers have increased, or gone up, only slowly, if at all. California's rate for these payments is in the bottom third nationally, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. As a result, many doctors and hospitals won't treat Medi-Cal patients.

A group of doctors, hospitals, and clinics got signatures to place this issue on the ballot. They want the tax money to go toward higher payments.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$22.1 million raised</p> <p>Supporters argue that California has used this tax, the Managed Care Organization Tax, for decades. The tax has helped fund general spending on Medi-Cal. Managed care health plans pay a tax to get a matching amount of money from the federal government. Health providers who care for Medi-Cal patients say that the tax money should be used for new investments in Medi-Cal. They do not think it should be used to support the state's general fund. Supporters also say that the measure gives lawmakers some flexibility that can help them balance the budget. The tax money could also be used for investing in additional Medi-Cal services.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Medical Association • Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California • California Hospital Association • California Dental Association • California Primary Care Association • California Democratic Party • California Republican Party 	<p>\$0 raised</p> <p>Gov. Newsom has said that he will oppose, or argue against, the proposition. This is even though there is no group officially opposing the proposition so far. He argues against limiting how the tax revenue is spent. He says that it will make it hard for future lawmakers to balance the state budget.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No official registered opposition group

Funders

A total of \$22.1 million has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$22.1 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Hospitals Committee on Issues, (CHCI) Sponsored by California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (CAHHS) \$5 Million • Global Medical Response, Inc. and Its Subsidiaries \$5 Million • California Medical Association \$3.13 Million • California Medical Association - Physician's Issues Committee \$2.15 Million • Air Methods Corporation \$1 Million 	<p>\$532,000 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reported contributions

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-35-health-care-tax/>



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Prop 36

What would it do?

It would increase penalties for theft and illegal drug activity.

Proposition 36 would change how some theft and drug crimes are treated in the California justice system. They would no longer be treated as misdemeanors. Instead, they would be felonies.

The measure would also create a new category of crime. Right now, there are three categories, including misdemeanors and felonies. The new category would be called “treatment-mandated felonies.” This category would be for people arrested for possessing illegal drugs.

People charged with treatment-mandated felonies could complete drug treatment instead of going to prison. They would have to complete the treatment. Otherwise, they would still need to serve up to three years in prison.

Why is it on the ballot?

Ten years ago, voters approved Proposition 47. This plan aimed to make California’s prisons less crowded. It would reduce crowding by changing some theft and drug crimes into misdemeanors. Since then, prosecutors, police and big box retailers have criticized the law. They say it has led to increases in property crimes and homelessness. Prop. 36 is their attempt to stop Prop. 47.

During the pandemic, the rate of shoplifting and commercial burglaries increased. This was especially true in Los Angeles, Alameda, San Mateo and Sacramento counties. The Public Policy Institute of California found that reported shoplifting of items worth up to \$950 grew 28% across the state. That’s the highest level since 2000.

Then the Public Policy Institute looked at shoplifting and commercial burglaries together. The institute’s researchers found that total reported thefts were 18% higher than in 2019.



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Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$6,200 raised</p> <p>Supporters see Prop. 36 as a way to fight homelessness. Homelessness has increased by more than 50% since Prop. 47 passed. Supporters say that drug dependence often causes homelessness. They believe that increasing the punishment for drug possession will help solve the problem. They claim it would force people into treatment and not onto the street.</p> <p>Supporters also say Prop. 36 is a good middle ground, or compromise. Over the years, California has taken very different stands on punishment for crimes. California's tough-on-crime years made prisons very crowded. The supporters believe Prop. 47 went too far in the opposite direction. Prop 36 supporters think that Prop. 47 made it possible for criminals to avoid responsibility for retail thefts and selling drugs like fentanyl.</p> <p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walmart, Target, Home Depot • California District Attorneys Association • California Correctional Peace Officers Association • California Republican Party 	<p>\$1.3 million raised</p> <p>Opponents say that harsher punishment (or the threat of punishment) does not prevent crime or help people avoid being homeless. They point out that studies on criminal justice or homelessness support this belief.</p> <p>Prop. 36 will spend hundreds of millions of dollars in court and prison costs, opponents say. They add that it will not greatly reduce crime or poverty. They also believe that schools, health care and other necessary services will suffer.</p> <p>Opponents argue Prop. 36 would cause a return to the War on Drugs. They believe that California voters rejected this idea when they voted for Prop. 47.</p> <p>Opponents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gov. Gavin Newsom, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Senate President pro Tem Mike McGuire • Alliance for Safety and Justice • ACLU of Northern California • California Democratic Party • The San Francisco Foundation

Funders

A total of \$494,000 has been invested in this ballot measure.

Yes Vote	No Vote
<p>\$6,240 raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Retailers Association \$6,200 	<p>\$1.25 million raised</p> <p>Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty Quillin \$500,000 • Stacy H. Schusterman \$350,000 • ACLU of Northern California \$200,000 • The San Francisco Foundation \$75,000 • Django Bonderman \$50,000

The data comes from the Secretary of State. The information was last updated on Aug. 27, 2024. This is a partial list of funders. You can find the full fundraising information at the following link: <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/propositions/prop-36-crime-penalties/>



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Section 4: U.S. Senate



KEY TERMS

progressive a person who wants the government to make changes to society

recession a time of economic downturn, or decline

incentives benefits or reasons for taking certain actions

Voters will choose a Californian to represent them in the U.S. Senate. It should be someone who can make careful decisions on presidential appointments. And, as a senator, the person must have the skills need to pass legislation, or laws.

There are two separate elections. One is to pick who will serve out the term ending in January 2025. The second is to decide who will be a U.S. senator for the next six years. The position pays \$174,000 a year.

What to Know

What Do U.S. Senators Do?

- They review legislation and plans for government actions.
- They choose issues to support and become known for.
- They vet, or look into, the president's choices for judges, cabinet members, and people to represent the U.S. in other countries.
- They understand that senators with longer service have more power than those new to the Senate.

Background

Voters will choose a senator for a two-month term in late 2024. They also will choose the person to serve the standard six-year term in the Senate. This term begins in January 2025.

Here's why there are two separate elections. U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein died in September 2023. Governor Gavin Newsom named Laphonza Butler to replace her. Newsom then called a special election to take place along with the regular election. It will be to fill what's left of Feinstein's term, which ends in January. Laphonza Butler isn't one of the candidates because she decided not to run.

The two candidates are Democratic U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff and Dodgers legend and Republican Steve Garvey. These candidates moved on from the March 5 primary to the November 5 general election and special election.

Candidates



Meet Adam Schiff

U.S. Representative
Democrat

Background

Schiff was born in Massachusetts in 1960. His family moved to Alamo, California. His father was a clothing salesman and a Democrat. His mother was a real estate agent and a Republican. He went to Stanford University for political science. Then he got a law degree from Harvard.

Schiff practiced law for a short time after graduating college. He was a clerk for a judge. This judge heard the Pentagon Papers case. He also was the judge in the case against a former federal agent who shared secrets with a Soviet Union spy.

Schiff got into California politics in 1996. He became the youngest state senator at the time. In 2000, voters elected him to Congress. He was a member of the moderate Blue Dog Coalition. However, now he is a **progressive**. He wants to make housing more affordable. He also wants to protect labor rights. And he hopes to help immigrants with no legal documents have a way to become citizens.

Schiff has faced some problems. For years, he said he had two main places where he lived, as reported by CNN. One was in Potomac, Maryland. The other was in Burbank, California. Someone speaking for Schiff said he did this to get loans. He didn't want people to think either home was a vacation home.

Experience

- **U.S. House representative**
2001-present

Schiff was part of a group called the Blue Dog Coalition until 2013. As part of this group, he wanted to balance the country's budget. Also, he wanted harsher punishments for people who kill police officers. And he wanted stronger national security. More recently, he became known for leading the first impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump in 2019. The Senate did not convict Trump.

- **California state senator**
1997-2000

Schiff introduced a bill to make sure K-12 public schools had the most recent textbooks. He also wanted to set up a group to continue the light rail project. The light rail would connect downtown Los Angeles and east Pasadena. Because of this, Schiff became known as "Father of the Gold Line." He was chairperson of the Judiciary Committee, too. He introduced bills that were tough on crime. However, most of these



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bills never became law. These included bills that would have tried 14-year-olds as adults. Another bill would have punished anyone who hired immigrants with no legal documents with a fine or jail time.

- **Assistant U.S. attorney**
1987-93

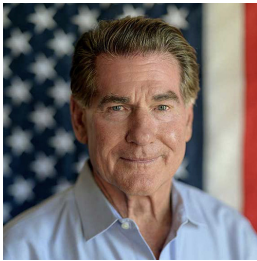
Schiff was the main lawyer to prosecute Richard Miller. Miller was a former FBI agent who was convicted for sharing secret documents with a Soviet Union spy. Miller received \$65,000 in gold and cash for the information.

- **Law clerk for federal Judge William Matthew Byrne**
1986-87

Schiff clerked for Byrne. Byrne was the judge in the trial involving Daniel Ellsberg, who shared the Pentagon Papers. These papers showed how the U.S. government had increased their role in the Vietnam War while lying to the American public about it.

What He Says: “California deserves a senator who is in the middle of the fight, who is taking on some of the toughest challenges. But California also deserves a senator who knows how to get things done.”

Fun Fact: Schiff is proud of his tries at being a stand-up comic. He has performed for 15 years at a yearly show at a Los Angeles comedy club. Schiff said he writes his own material and tries to improve it. “You can tell when your material is landing,” he said.



Meet Steve Garvey

Professional Baseball Representative
Republican

Background

Garvey, 75, was born in Tampa, Florida. His father drove a bus. His mother was a secretary in an insurance firm. Garvey was a bat boy as a child. The teams he worked with were the Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Yankees, and the Detroit Tigers.

Garvey played football and baseball at Michigan State University. Then he joined the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1969. In 1982, he became part of the San Diego Padres. He retired from baseball in 1987. He still has the record for the fourth-longest number of games played in a row in major league baseball.

After leaving baseball, Garvey started a marketing firm. Also, he was the host of radio shows. And he starred in a TV series. He helped raise funds for GOP candidates, too. These included Presidents George Bush and Ronald Reagan. Garvey became a speaker whose job was to inspire and motivate people. In one job, he received \$25,000.

His post-baseball career had some scandals, lawsuits, and financial troubles. Garvey referred to these as his “midlife disaster.” In 1989, he was romantically involved with



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three women at once. Two of them became pregnant and sued him. Garvey told courts repeatedly he had a lot of debt. He had trouble paying his gardener, caterer, and attorneys. This was reported by the *Los Angeles Times* in 2006.

Garvey thought about running for the U.S. Senate around 1981 but did not. Now, he promises not to restrict abortion rights. Also, he supports private investment in housing for the homeless. He says he will fight inflation. Garvey supported Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020. He has not said anything about the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

Experience

- **Owner of Marketing Firm**

1996-2002

The Garveys ran the Garvey Management Group from their home in Utah. Candace Garvey was listed as the director, according to state records. The Garveys said in court documents that she was the only owner. However, Steve is listed as the owner in at least one agreement from April 1997. This is according to state records.

- **Major League Baseball player**

1969-87

Garvey was a first-round pick in 1968 by the Los Angeles Dodgers. He began playing in the major leagues a year later. He was a National League All-Star for 10 seasons. He was in five World Series. He was the National League Championship MVP in 1974. He joined the San Diego Padres in 1982. That's where he ended his career.

What He Says: "I think we need a new voice, fresh voice and fresh ideas in California, and I'm ready to step up to the plate. ... My campaign is going to be based on common sense. It's going to be based on compassion and building consensus."

Fun Fact: Garvey played himself in small roles for several TV series. This was during and after his baseball career. He was on one episode of "Fantasy Island." He was also in the HBO show "Arli\$\$." He appeared in the daytime soap operas "The Young and The Restless" and "The Bold and The Beautiful."

The Candidates' Views On the Issues

Note: The questions and answers that follow are not the exact questions or quotes of the candidates. They have been simplified to make them easier to read.

Economy and Inflation

California and the rest of the nation are not in a **recession**. However, inflation is still high. Some polls show that even with more jobs and an increase in wages, Californians are still worried about their finances. They are unsure about what lies ahead in 2024.

Q: What are three policies you think the federal government should put into use to reduce inflation?

Adam Schiff

First, we should look at why the cost of goods has increased. We can do this by looking at scarcity, or shortness of supply. We can provide housing people can afford



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through federal investments and tax credits. We can increase our renewable sources of energy by producing more. We can expand the number of people working in healthcare. We can also have childcare that costs less.

Second, we need to increase competition. Enforcing laws that prevent unfair business practices will help bring prices down.

Third, we must lower the costs of medicine. The government should work out the prices of prescription drugs. It should also allow prescription drugs to be brought into the United States from other countries. And it should pass Medicare for All.

Steve Garvey

My main focus would be to reduce inflation. This would help the crisis so many families across California and the nation are facing with things not being affordable. One way to fight inflation is to vote against new federal spending. Another way is to stand up to higher tax increases and regulations. These will increase the cost of living on everyday goods and services. Some regulations can stop economic growth and increase the cost of producing goods. This also includes eliminating too many regulations as it relates to new home construction.

Q: How do you define “good-paying jobs”? What three specific actions will you take to bring those jobs to California?

Adam Schiff

A good-paying job is one that allows workers to afford to live close to where they work. It provides good healthcare, childcare, and leave. It also makes it possible for workers to retire with honor. I’ll fight to pass the PRO Act. Workers would then have access to strong union jobs. I’ll also work to gain funding so that more businesses start here and stay here. This also supports the inventive economy so important to California’s future. In addition, I’ll fight to expand childcare. I’ll try for an Apollo-like project to create millions of green jobs. And I’ll try to bring jobs lost overseas back to the United States.

Steve Garvey

Good-paying jobs are employment opportunities that offer wages and benefits that are competitive. They help make sure blue-collar workers can afford food and have a place to live. They also offer opportunities for career growth. One way we can attract businesses back to California is to get rid of regulations that make it difficult for businesses to operate. We can reduce the state’s corporate income tax rate. We could also provide **incentives** for new small businesses. These include reducing taxes for their first year. I also support federal incentives for research and development activities. That way, California will remain a leader in developing technology.

Criminal Justice

Californians’ concerns about crime grew during the COVID pandemic. They haven’t lessened since there are fewer law enforcement officers in many communities. California does have some of the country’s strictest gun laws. But an important measure that would ban concealed weapons in most public places is with the courts.



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Q: What are three policies you want to put into law to reduce crime in California and the United States?

Adam Schiff

A good way to keep our communities safe is to invest in violence prevention and provide support for law enforcement. We should also provide substance abuse and mental health services. I will continue my work to get rid of the pile-up of rape kits. Also, I support using DNA evidence to solve violent crime. We can help prevent organized crime by using federal, state, and local task forces. I also support an increase in funding to fight fentanyl use. This includes stopping drugs from entering our borders and going after drug smuggling organizations.

Steve Garvey

We need to support law enforcement so they can keep our communities safe. Also, we need to build and strengthen the relationship between federal law enforcement and state and local law enforcement. They need to work together, not against each other. Lawyers who work for the government also need to support the law. They should not push the agenda of one party. Strengthening the southern border and giving additional support to border patrol should also be done.

Q: What is your solution to rising gun deaths in the nation?

Adam Schiff

We must ban assault weapons and large capacity magazines. We should ban ghost guns, or those with no serial numbers. We should expand background check requirements and make them universal. The age to buy weapons should be raised. We should have more gun buyback programs. Also, we should hold gun associations, manufacturers, and dealers responsible. My bill to end the gun industry from not being punished is very important. President Biden has said that this may be the most important effort to prevent gun deaths. Finally, we must improve mental health services to attack one of the top causes of gun deaths among young people—suicide.

Steve Garvey

I support the right to bear arms. However, I think that some restrictions and common-sense measures are necessary. These include background checks before purchasing guns. This would help make sure that weapons are kept out of the hands of criminals. It is important not to just continue adding gun control restrictions. This is something we have seen at the state level in California. Rather, we should figure out how certain policies are working and adjust them based on results. We can keep guns out of the hands of criminals while also protecting Second Amendment rights.

Immigration

The crisis at the border has an effect on California. Local nonprofit groups have had to support large numbers of migrants in San Diego and Imperial counties. U.S. border authorities dropped off more than 42,000 people in San Diego County. This was between last September and November. These people had no direction or assistance, according to county officials.



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Q: What are three immigration reform policies you think Congress should put into use?

Adam Schiff

First, we need to reform immigration policies. We should pass the U.S. Citizenship Act. We should create a way to citizenship for 11 million immigrants who have no legal documents. This includes Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status holders, and farmworkers. Second, we need to provide resources to address the challenges at the border. We should invest in more staff, judges, and interpreters so that cases do not pile up. And third, we must provide resources for communities along the border and elsewhere in the country. By doing so, they can provide kind and thoughtful support to those seeking to remain here while their requests to stay are solved.

Steve Garvey

First, we need to strengthen our southern border to keep criminals out of our communities. We need to stop drug and gun trafficking. And we need to promote the legal path to citizenship in the United States. Second, we need to respect the citizenship process. We should make sure those who are trying to become citizens legally are given the opportunity first. Lastly, I am a supporter of a merit-based immigration system. This means we would accept immigrants with skills and education so that they can contribute to the U.S. economy. We need to end the problems at the border. We should make the process easier and reward those looking for citizenship legally.

Q: Should immigrants who do not have legal documents have a way to become U.S. citizens? If so, how would that happen?

Adam Schiff

Yes. We must pass immigration reform to keep families together and treat immigrants with fairness, dignity, and respect. Dreamers and frontline workers should have a clear path to citizenship. I support the U.S. Citizenship Act. This would create a way to citizenship for 11 million immigrants who do not have legal documents. This includes Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status holders, and farmworkers. I also support the American Dream and Promise Act to create a permanent path for “dreamers.” In the Senate, I’ll fight hard to pass immigration reform.

Steve Garvey

Those who are looking for a path to citizenship legally should come first. We also need to make the legal immigration process easier. Many have waited patiently in line for years to get their chance at becoming a U.S. citizen. We need to reward those individuals for following the law.

Labor

Strikes by labor unions last year helped lead to wins for unions in the Legislature. These wins included higher minimum wages than the statewide \$16 an hour for fast food and healthcare workers. And actions by labor groups continue in 2024.



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Q: What should the federal minimum wage be? And if you believe it needs to be changed, what can you do to make it happen?

Adam Schiff

The federal minimum wage needs to be increased to keep up with inflation and years of poor wage growth. I had been fighting for \$15 in Congress for a long time. Each state does not have the same economic circumstances, I support a \$20 minimum wage. I also support increasing the minimum wage for healthcare workers to \$25 an hour. To accomplish this, we'll need to get rid of the filibuster, or delaying methods, and elect more Democrats to the Senate.

Steve Garvey

California has one of the highest minimum wage rates in the nation. It is much higher than the federal minimum wage. Each state and its voters have the ability to raise their minimum wage. California has done this multiple times.

Q: What are three labor policies you want to put into effect as the next U.S. senator?

Adam Schiff

First, I'm going to fight to pass the PRO Act. This is the most pro-labor union legislation in a generation. It would mean that unions are better able to bargain together, get a fair contract, and enforce it. Second, I will work to make sure that workers are not left behind as technology continues to change the workplace. I would change tax policies so that we bring good jobs back home. And third, I will insist that federal infrastructure money be used to create good paying union jobs. They should have labor agreements, current wages, and local workers.

Steve Garvey

We need to stop businesses from leaving California. This can be done by creating a better business climate with lower corporate taxes. This will allow businesses to offer their employees better benefits and increased pay. Also, California needs to support the agriculture and tech industries. These are two key industries that are important to California's growth. Supporting these industries will lead to more jobs and income for the state.

Housing and Homelessness

California's housing crisis got worse during the pandemic. And California has the most homeless individuals of any state. In 2023, the number was more than 171,000. California spent more than \$20 billion to deal with the problem. Still, it has not been solved. The public is concerned about homelessness. California cities are hoping a case before the U.S. Supreme Court will give them more rights to clear places where the homeless stay. Prop 1, passed in March, allows the state to borrow \$6.4 billion more to build treatment beds for those with mental illness, including those living on the street.



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Q: What do you think is the biggest reason for California's homelessness problem?

Adam Schiff

Housing that people cannot afford and homelessness go together. The main reason is that there is not enough housing that people can afford. It is also the single greatest challenge for working and middle-class families. Many try to afford a place to live near where they work. Often, they cannot. We need to build more housing. It needs to be done quickly and at the lowest possible cost.

Steve Garvey

The biggest driving factors of homelessness are drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues. It is not caring to let these people suffer and die on the street. We should do more to get them the help they need.

Q: What are three policies you believe will make housing more affordable in California?

Adam Schiff

First, we need to increase the supply of housing people can afford. This can be done by expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. There should be a federal investment in such housing. Second, we need to reduce building regulations and the time it takes to build low-income housing. This can be done by making sure local, state, or federal agencies work faster and make applications to build new housing a major focus. And third, we need to strengthen protections for home buyers. We should also remove issues related to homeownership for first-time buyers. We should stop practices against people of color and other groups that keep them out of the renting and home buying markets.

Steve Garvey

There is a short supply of housing that people can afford. However, California makes it difficult for home builders to quickly construct new housing because of its regulations. This can be fixed by reducing regulations on new home construction. We can also change the zoning laws to allow for more types of housing to be built. The height of buildings can be increased to allow for buildings that hold more individuals, especially in urban areas. The federal government can also establish financial help, such as tax credits or grants, for developers who focus on building housing units people can afford.

Foreign Policy

The U.S. isn't directly at war. But it is deeply involved in supporting Ukraine against the Russian invasion. The U.S. also supports Israel after the October 7 Hamas attack. In California, this has become an issue. Some elected officials and interest groups support an end to the fight to ease the crisis facing those in Gaza.

Q: Do you support an end to the Gaza war? Why or why not?

Adam Schiff

I support humanitarian pauses in the fighting to allow aid into Gaza. This should also be done to get hostages out. I cannot support a permanent end that would allow Hamas



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terrorists control of Gaza. I cannot support an end as long as they are threatening to attack Israel again in a similar way they did on October 7. I cannot support an end while Hamas continues to hold hostages, including Americans. I also support the Biden administration's efforts to urge Israel to make greater efforts to avoid civilian casualties and mourn the loss of innocent Palestinian civilians. The two-state solution will not be possible while a terrorist group continues to control Gaza.

Steve Garvey

The civilian casualties we are seeing on both sides of this conflict are heartbreaking. I hope to see an end to this conflict as soon as possible. However, Israel has the right to defend itself from terrorists. Until Hamas is destroyed, Israel must be able to continue their operations against terrorists.

Q: Do you believe the U.S. should get involved in military conflicts in foreign countries? And if so, when should this happen?

Adam Schiff

Military involvement should be the last thing we do. It should only happen when vital U.S. interests and the security of our people are at risk. Preventing fighting is far more important than getting involved when war has broken out. Development assistance is also critical to reducing the conditions that cause conflict. The U.S. still plays an important role in the world in promoting democracy and basic human rights. We cannot step back from the world, especially when freedom is being threatened everywhere. Our values must rule our decisions. We should rely on talking, or diplomacy, and using strategy in dealing with conflict.

Steve Garvey

I believe in peace through strength. When the United States is at its strongest, both militarily and economically, we do not need to become involved in the affairs of other countries. Our ability to reach agreements without conflict and our stability influence others.

Q: Do you support reducing or increasing the federal budget on defense and national security? Why or why not?

Adam Schiff

I support efforts to make the Pentagon's budget the right size. I also think that the systems we invest in should be ones the country truly needs. They should not merely benefit the contractors who make or supply them. That's why I have supported amendments to cut 10% of the Pentagon's budget. That's why I have supported getting rid of weapons systems the administration doesn't need or want. At other times, I have opposed the defense bill altogether. I thought the spending was way too high. It either used up resources that might be devoted to other domestic priorities or contained extreme partisan policy additions.

Steve Garvey

I support increasing the federal budget on defense and national security. Making the United States military more modern is extremely important. So, too, is making sure our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to protect American



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interests. Further, increasing the federal budget for defense and national security promotes more job creation across the United States.

Climate Change

The drought has stopped, but California faces problems over water rights. It also struggles to reach its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The state is counting on federal money for climate programs. The state is also facing an increased threat of wildfires. The federal government owns the most forested land in the state.

Q: What are three policies you want to put into effect related to climate change?

Adam Schiff

First, I'll fight to increase things to make people want to develop renewable energy and new technologies. These will make America the leader in the green economy. This will end benefits for the fossil fuel industry that is harming the planet. Second, I will fight to pass the Green New Deal. This will help us secure hundreds of billions more in funding for renewable energy. It will create millions of green jobs and end our dependence on fossil fuels. And third, I will fight to reform the Supreme Court, which favors one party. It is determined to end protections to the environment.

Steve Garvey

Climate change is real and is happening across the globe. Here in California, we see the effects of climate change with constant drought, increased wildfires, and sea level rise. We must find a way to protect our environment without destroying our economy and jobs. Increasing infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations is important, especially in rural areas. Also, we should increase federal investment in research and development of carbon capture and storage and other solutions. Lastly, the federal government should support sustainable, or green, land management practices. These include replanting areas with trees, which would reduce carbon and help ecosystems remain strong.

Q: Should California use clean energy? And if so, what will you do as Senator to make people want to use clean energy?

Adam Schiff

Absolutely. California has built our renewable energy sources quicker than expected. This has created a lot of new jobs in the process. We must move away from fossil fuels and go toward clean, renewable energy. The Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made historic investments in clean energy. But we must view these investments as just the first step. I will fight to invest in new green technologies. These include next generation batteries, more efficient solar systems, grid technology that changes to clean energy, and more.

Steve Garvey

I support energy policy that includes a diverse mix of energy resources. We cannot rely too heavily on just one method of energy, such as solar or wind energy. That is because these rely on the weather. A mix of energy resources is the best approach to reducing the possibility of future power outages and rolling blackouts. As the nation



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works to move toward clean energy, we must make sure we have the infrastructure available before putting into effect any extreme rules.

Fundraising

A total of \$14.8 million has been invested in this race. Candidates directly received \$14.8 million. Outside spending is \$19,100.

Adam Schiff
<p>\$14.6 million raised</p> <p>Independent expenditures</p> <p>Oppose</p> <p>\$0</p> <p>Support</p> <p>\$19,100 paid for by 3 groups. They are: Democratic Majority for Israel; BlueWaveAmerica; Planned Parenthood/Los Angeles County Action Fund.</p>

The data comes from Open Secrets, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that tracks money in politics. The information was last updated on Sep. 3, 2024.

Polling Information

Likely voters were asked who they would vote for if the November 5 U.S. Senate election were being held today.

All likely voters			
Adam Schiff	53%	Steve Garvey	33%

Key Endorsements

Adam Schiff	Steve Garvey
<p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine statewide unions • U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi • Former U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer • Assembly Speaker Robert Riva <p>Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Los Angeles Times</i> • <i>La Opinión</i> 	<p>Supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego Police Officers Association



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Section 5: U.S. House



KEY TERMS

- undocumented migrants** people who live in the United States without legal documentation, or permission
- centrist** a person who has moderate views, or views in the middle (between progressive and conservative)
- impeach** charge an elected leader or official with a crime
- redistricting** changing the boundaries, or lines, of a district

Voters will pick their representatives in 52 U.S. House districts. The 2022 results in California helped give control to Republicans.

What to Know

What Do U.S. Representatives Do?

- They help create legislation.
- They work for the concerns of the people they are representing, or constituents. This is done by convincing other representatives, or leaders, that these concerns are important.
- They keep raising money and campaigning. U.S. representatives run for office every 2 years.

Background

California is a key congressional battleground state. This is especially true for its swing districts. A swing district is a district that could be won by either party. Now, Republicans have a majority of just 5 seats in the U.S. House. California's representatives include 40 Democrats and 12 Republicans.

Twenty-eight districts in California have a majority of non-white voters. These include 16 districts with a Latino majority. These districts help California satisfy the Voting Rights Act. They also show California's ethnic diversity.

California has an impact on which party will control the U.S. House next year. Republicans hope to gain several seats now held by Democrats. However, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee added 5 California districts it hopes to take over.

Members of Congress are paid \$174,000 a year. Leaders of both parties receive higher salaries.

The top two finishers in March have moved on to the November general election. It does not matter if the two candidates are from the same party.



Finding Your District

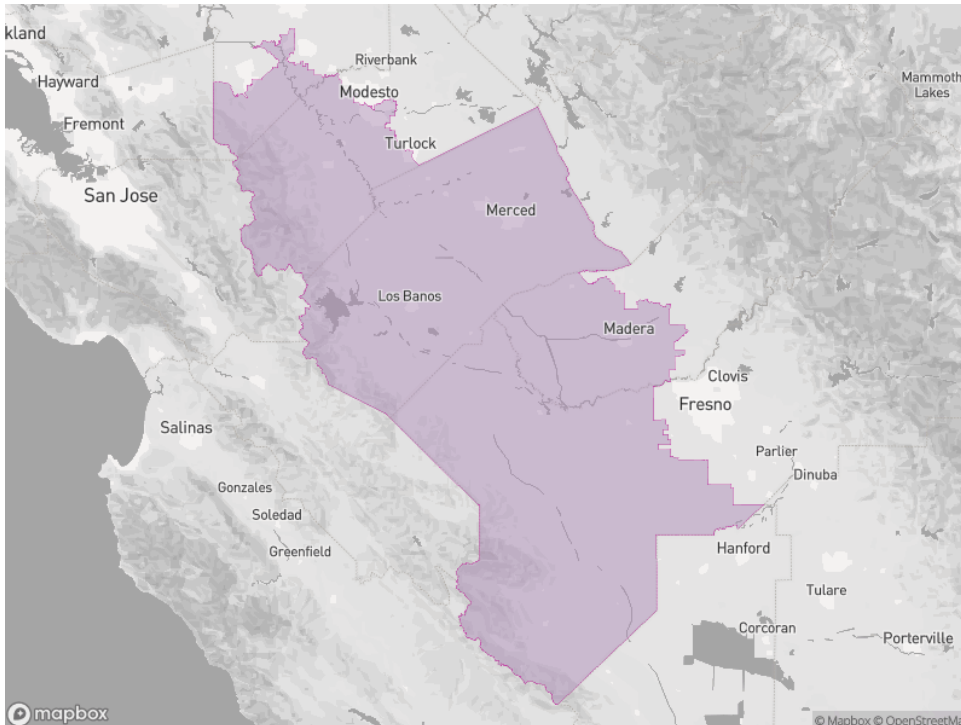
Do you know which congressional district you live in? You can find your districts and representatives using the Internet. All you need to do is type in your address!



GO TO



<https://cal.news/fyd>



District 13

This district is located along the San Joaquin Valley. It includes all of Merced County and parts of Madera, Stanislaus, Fresno and San Joaquin counties. The heavily agricultural district is almost 70% Hispanic. Nearly one in three residents was born outside the United States. One in five is living in poverty.

Voter registration: 41.3% Democratic, 29.4% Republican, 21.6% no party preference

The Candidates

Adam Gray

Small Businessman/Educator
Democrat

John Duarte

Farmer/U.S. Representative
Republican



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The Scoop

Primary results: John Duarte, 54.9%, Adam Gray, 45.1%

In 2022, the race for this seat was one of the closest races in the nation. Republican Rep. John Duarte, from a farming family in Modesto, defeated former Democratic State Assemblymember Adam Gray. The two will run against each other again this November.

Both Duarte and Gray are saying that they are the best moderate politician for the district. Duarte was the first Republican elected to the seat since 1974. He describes himself as a moderate Republican. He is conservative about the economy but disagreed with his party on border restrictions for **undocumented migrants**. He does not support a federal abortion ban. Duarte argues that women should have the right to an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy.

Gray describes himself as a “radical **centrist**.” He has also opposed or disagreed with members of his own party. He introduced a bill to suspend or stop a planned raise in the tax on gas. He was also removed from committees, or special groups of lawmakers, because of a suggestion about taking more water from Central Valley. In 2022, his moderate views helped him get more votes than Gov. Gavin Newsom in this district, winning almost 50% of the vote.

Gray and Duarte are both interested in water issues — one of the most important issues for district voters. Both have said they will make sure local farms have access to water. They will also be trying to gain support among Latino voters, who make up more than half of the voters in the district.

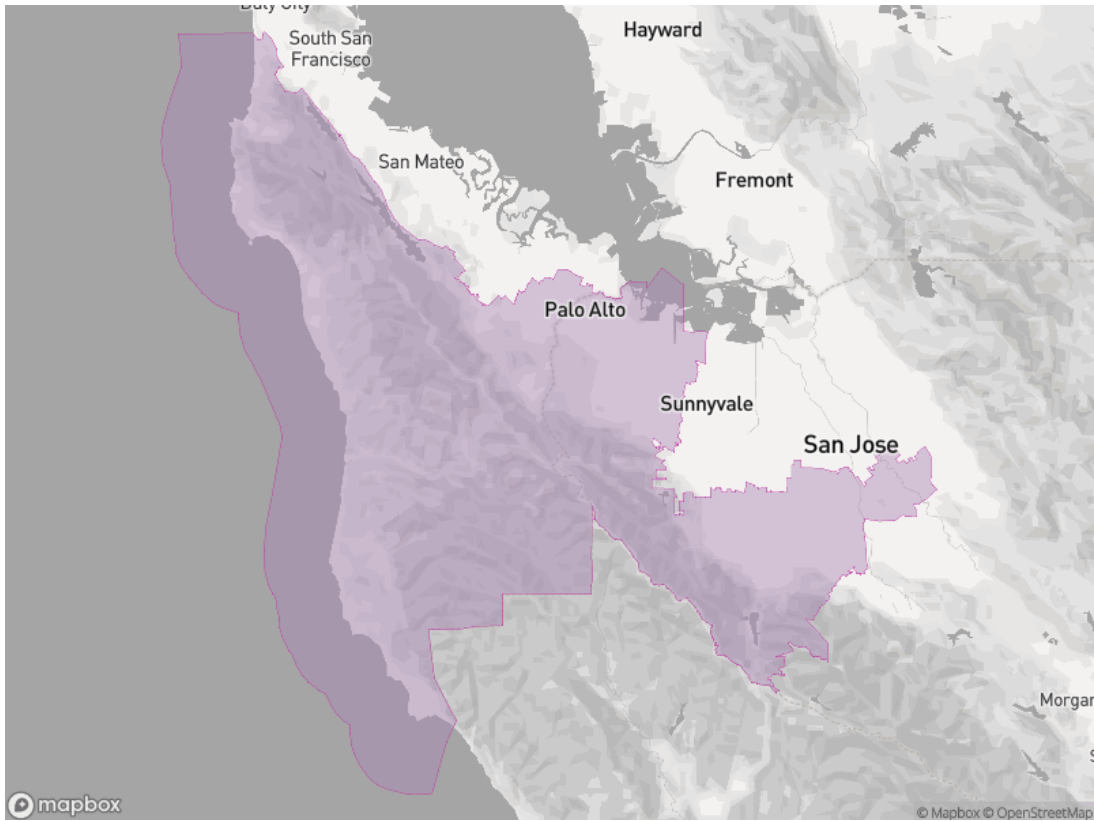
Key Endorsements

John Duarte	Adam Gray
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Republican Party• National Federation of Independent Business• Central Valley Leadership Round Table• Peace Officers Research Association of California	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla• Reproductive Freedom for All• Blue Dog PAC• Equality California• California Federation of Teachers <p>MEDIA ENDORSEMENTS for Gray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fresno Bee• Modesto Bee



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District 16

Stretching down the San Francisco peninsula to San Jose, this district includes Silicon Valley. It is one of the wealthiest districts in the entire country. Most people in the district are white. However, the district also has a large and politically influential Asian American community.

Voter registration: 52.9% Democratic, 16.4% Republican, 25.8% no party preference

The Candidates

Evan Low

California State Assemblymember
Democrat

Sam Liccardo

Small Businessperson/Educator
Democrat



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The Scoop

Primary results: Sam Liccardo 21.1%, Evan Low 16.6%

Rep. Anna Eshoo is retiring after being in Congress for more than 30 years. Her retirement led to many Silicon Valley Democrats trying to replace her. Then came drama.

State Assemblymember Evan Low and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian were tied for second place in the March primary. This was the first tie for second place in a primary in California history. Then a former worker for former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who won the most votes in the primary, asked for a recount. He said that Low wanted the recount. Low disputed it and tried to stop the recount. The costly recount was paid for mostly by some Liccardo contributors and a pro-Liccardo organization. It eventually showed that Low finished in second place by five votes. Simitian had lost the primary election.

Low and Liccardo have since both accused each other of dirty tricks. Low argued Liccardo wanted the recount to remove one of the other candidates. Liccardo said that this wasn't true. Then, in May, Liccardo lost the party's endorsement by one vote. He accused Low of moving delegates around to win the party's support. They have even argued about the results of polls.

Both candidates support abortion rights. They both have a complicated record on issues including rent control and reforms, or changes, to the police. Low has stressed his Chinese American roots and support from the LGBTQ community, of which he is a member. Liccardo, on the other hand, has support from environmental organizations. He said he would not take campaign donations from fossil fuel companies.

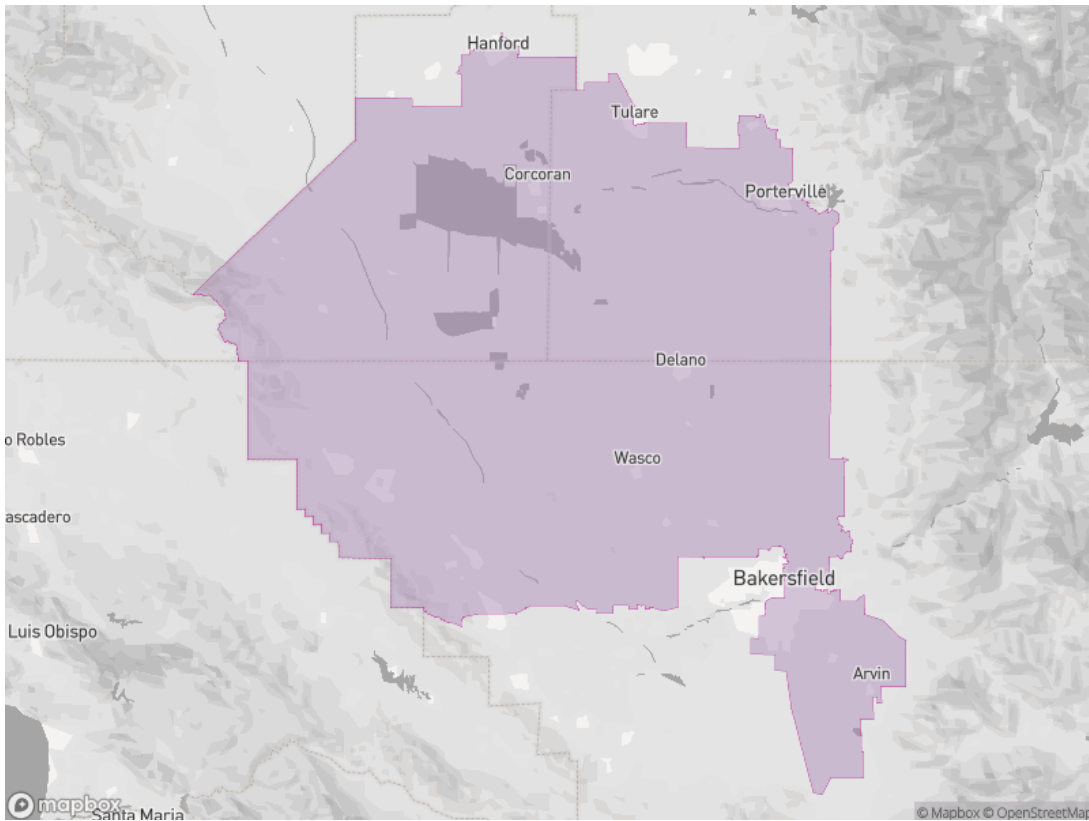
Key Endorsements

Evan Low	Sam Liccardo
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Democratic Party• California Labor Federation• California Teachers Association• U.S. Sen. Laphonza Butler	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everytown for Gun Safety• Sierra Club• Latino Victory Fund• San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan• San Francisco Chronicle (media)• The Mercury News (media)



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District 22

This district is in the San Joaquin Valley, the largest area of farmland in California. It includes Kern, Kings and Tulare counties. It contains the cities of Delano, Shafter and Porterville, plus parts of Bakersfield. It is a mostly Latino district. Almost 70% of voters are Mexican-American. One in five families live in poverty. Only one in 10 residents have a college bachelor's degree or higher.

Voter registration: 41.7% Democratic, 27.2% Republican, 22.7% no party preference

The Candidates

Rudy Salas

College Teacher
Democrat

David Valadao

Farmer/Congressman
Republican



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The Scoop

Primary results: David Valadao 32.7%, Rudy Salas 31.3%

This Central Valley district will have a very competitive race. The current Republican Assemblymember is David Valadao, a dairy farmer. He is running against former Democratic state Assemblymember Rudy Salas. In 2022, Valadao beat Salas by less than 4,000 votes.

It is a seat that Valadao has kept winning since 2012, even though the district is mostly Democratic. That's partly because of Valadao's moderate conservatism. Also, many Democratic voters in the area don't always vote. Valadao was defeated by a Democrat in 2018 but won the seat again in 2020. In 2022, he was one of the only two Republicans to keep their seats after they voted to **impeach** former President Donald Trump in 2021.

Both Salas and Valadao ran against politicians from their own party in the March primary. Democratic party leaders spent millions of dollars supporting Salas. They prevented Sen. Melissa Hurtado, a Bakersfield Democrat, from splitting Democratic votes. And Valadao defeated Republican Chris Mathys, who describes himself as a "MAGA Conservative."

Salas will likely face similar attacks from the last election. Conservatives are trying to say that his views will lead to high prices and crime rates. But Salas has also talked about his moderate record. For example, he was the only Democrat to oppose a 2017 gas tax raise. He also wrote a bill to punish shoplifters two years ago. Democrats think that many Latinos will vote for Salas. He is the son of a farmworker and was the first Latino on the Bakersfield City Council. He would also be the first Latino to ever represent the congressional district.

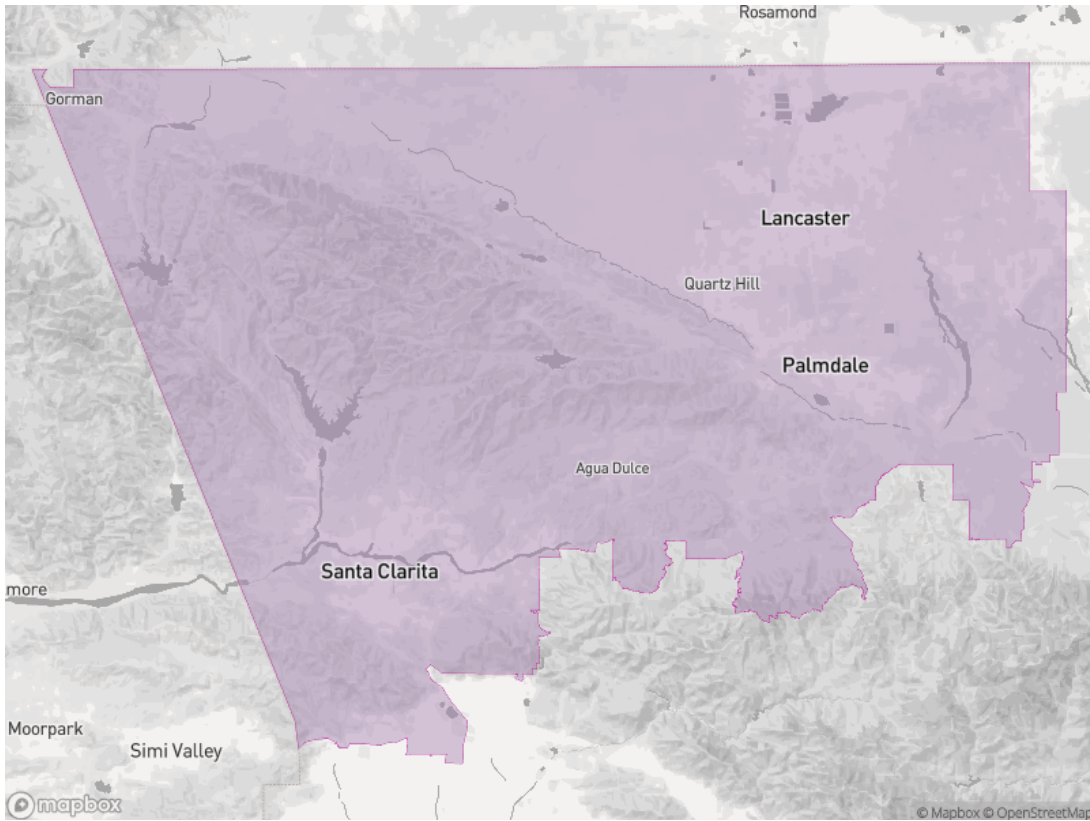
Key Endorsements

Rudy Salas	David Valadao
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gov. Gavin NewsomUnited Farm WorkersU.S. Sen. Alex PadillaCalifornia Democratic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">California Republican PartyFormer U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton



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District 27

This district is in northern Los Angeles County. It is home to the Antelope Valley and includes the desert cities of Santa Clarita, Palmdale and Lancaster as well as parts of the city of Los Angeles. The district also has several aerospace and defense companies. Almost half of the people in the district are Hispanic.

Voter registration: 40.1% Democratic, 30.0% Republican, 21.3% no party preference

The Candidates

Mike Garcia

Congressman / Father
Republican

George Whitesides

Aerospace Businessman / Father
Democrat



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The Scoop

Primary results: Mike Garcia 54.9%, George Whitesides 32.8%

This is one of five congressional districts in California that is represented by a Republican, but voted for President Joe Biden in 2020. It is one of the most closely watched races this November.

Republican Rep. Mike Garcia is the son of Mexican immigrants and a U.S. Navy veteran. He also worked for the large defense company Raytheon. Garcia was first elected to the seat during a special election in 2020. He replaced a Democrat who resigned because of scandals with inappropriate relationships. In the next election, in November 2020, he won by 333 votes. He defeated Democratic candidate Christy Smith in November 2020 and again in 2022.

This time, Garcia is running against a new Democrat: George Whitesides. Whitesides was the chief of staff of NASA under President Barack Obama. He's raised more money than Garcia. Whitesides also attacked Garcia for supporting Donald Trump and wanting to restrict abortion and limit money for social programs.

Garcia has argued that he cares about issues that matter to everyday voters. He called Whitesides an "extreme liberal" who only moved to the area in 2010 after getting an education on the East Coast. Garcia is supported by a pro-cryptocurrency organization that plans to spend millions of dollars on TV ads.

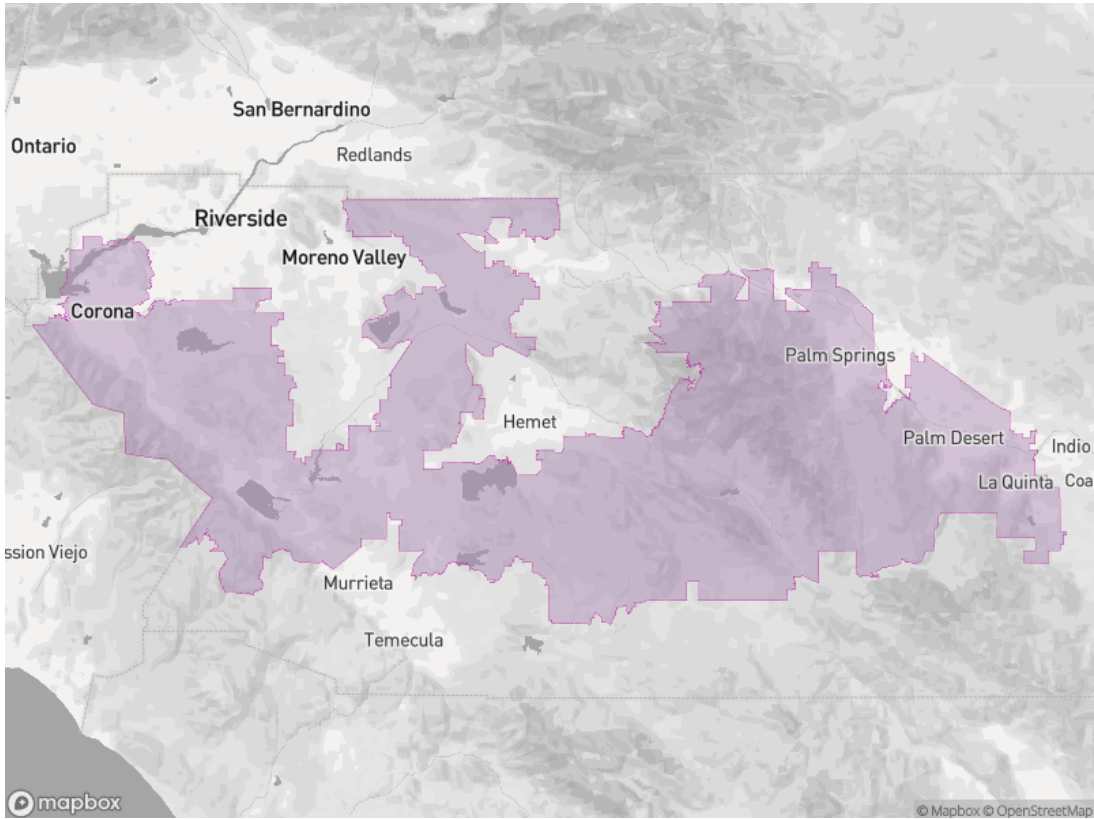
Key Endorsements

Mike Garcia	George Whitesides
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Republican Party• Los Angeles Republican Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Democratic Party• California Labor Federation• U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla• Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi



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District 41

The Inland Empire district in western Riverside County is home to the mostly Democratic city of Palm Springs. The city is famous for electing the nation's first all-LGBTQ city council. But it also includes the more divided city of Corona and more Republican parts of the county. The district was once very conservative, but it became more Democratic over time. This change was partly because of a more diverse population, including people who moved from Los Angeles, and the **redistricting** in 2021.

Voter registration: 36.3% Democratic, 37.0% Republican, 18.6% no party preference

The Candidates

Ken Calvert

U.S. Representative
Republican

Will Rollins

Counterterrorism Law Attorney
Democrat



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The Scoop

Primary results: Ken Calvert 53%, Will Rollins 38.4%

Republican Rep. Ken Calvert is the longest-serving Republican in the California state legislature. He has represented the area without much challenge since 1993, until he almost lost to a Democrat in a close race in 2022. His opponent, former federal prosecutor Will Rollins, is running against him again in November.

Calvert and Rollins disagree about LGBTQ rights, an issue that is especially important in Palm Springs. About half of the residents identify as part of the LGBTQ community. Rollins, who is gay, is trying to connect with gay voters with his personal experience. He is also attacking Calvert for voting against government recognition of same-sex marriages and against repealing the military’s “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy. Calvert said his position on same-sex marriage has changed, and that some Democrats voted the same way he did at the time.

Calvert has attacked Rollins’ actions as a prosecutor. He said that Rollins was “soft on crime” and did not take a position on a proposition that would give people tougher punishments for certain crimes. Rollins responded that he prosecuted people who took part in the Jan. 6, 2020, riot at the U.S. Capitol. He said that Calvert voted against certifying (or officially recognizing) the election results that day. Calvert said he had concerns about voting irregularities in Arizona and Pennsylvania, but he believes that Biden won the election.

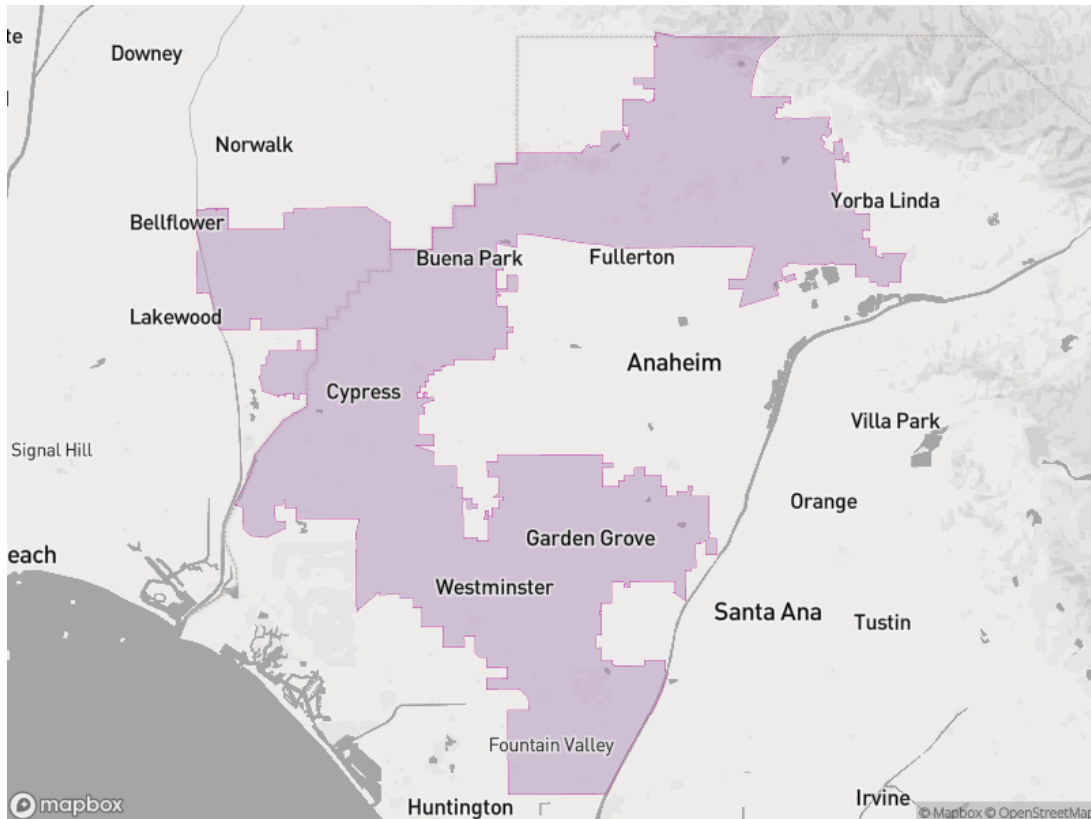
Key Endorsements

Will Rollins	Ken Calvert
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi• U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla• Human Rights Campaign PAC• Blue Dog PAC• National Union of Healthcare Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Border Patrol Council• U.S. Chamber of Commerce• International Union of Police Associations• National Federation of Independent Business



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District 45

The C-shaped district is in northwestern Orange County. It includes the cities of Garden Grove and Buena Park. It's also home to Little Saigon, the largest Vietnamese community outside Vietnam itself. Asian Americans, who make up 36% of the district population, are a key group of voters. Latino and white people each make up about a third of the district.

Voter registration: 37.4% Democratic, 33.0% Republican, 24.0% no party preference

The Candidates

Derek Tran

Workers' Rights Advocate
Democrat

Michelle Steel

U.S. Representative
Republican



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The Scoop

Primary results: Michelle Steel 54.9%, Derek Tran 15.9%

This district has helped determine which party controls Congress in recent elections. The district supported Joe Biden for president in 2020. But voters supported Republican John Cox during the 2018 election for California governor.

The seat is currently held by Republican Rep. Michelle Steel. She is a South Korean immigrant who defeated a Democrat in a close race in 2020. Steel defended her seat against another Asian American candidate in 2022. This year, she is running against Derek Tran. He is a personal injury lawyer, veteran and son of political refugees. He would be the first Vietnamese American to represent Little Saigon in the House.

The area's large Vietnamese-American population could be important to this election. Democrats hope that Tran will help them win voters in a community that is fairly conservative. But Tran faces a tough challenge. In past campaigns, Steel benefited from the anti-communist feelings of many Vietnamese voters. She has also raised and spent more money than Tran. At the beginning of July, she had three times more money than Tran.

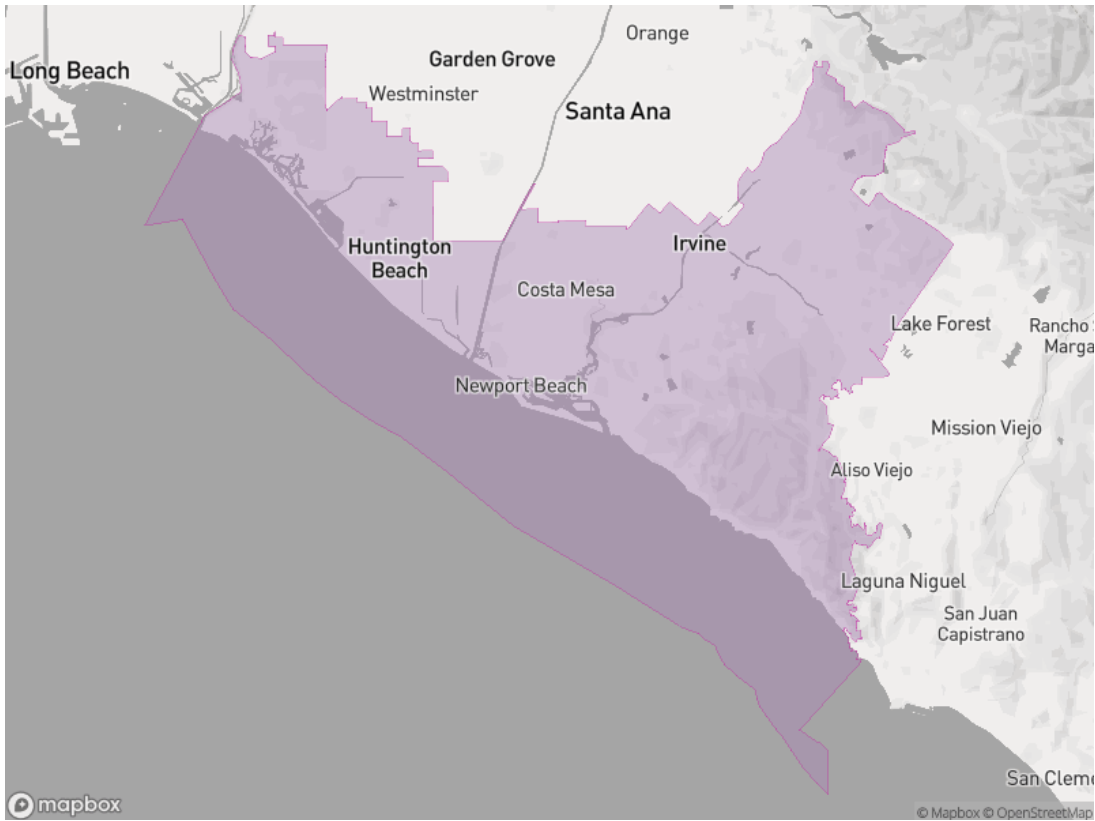
Key Endorsements

Michelle Steel	Derek Tran
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Republican Party• National Federation of Independent Business Federal PAC• Former U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy• Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Democratic Party• California Labor Federation• California Attorney General Rob Bonta• U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla



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District 47

Running along the coastline of south Orange County, this district contains the Democratic city of Irvine as well as mostly Republican cities such as Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. More than half of the residents are white, while Asians are nearly a quarter of the population.

Voter registration: 35.1% Democratic, 35.0% Republican, 23.7% no party preference

The Candidates

Dave Min

State Senator / Dad

Scott Baugh

Orange County Business Owner

Republican



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The Scoop

Primary results: Scott Baugh 32.1%, Dave Min 25.9%.

This district became divided between Democrats and Republicans after the redistricting following the 2020 Census. The national Democratic Party is focusing on winning this seat. It is now represented by progressive Rep. Katie Porter, who is not seeking re-election. Porter lost her primary election for U.S. Senate this March.

Republican attorney and former state lawmaker Scott Baugh lost to Porter in a close election in 2022. He is running again this year. Meanwhile, Democrats are hoping to keep the seat. Their candidate, state Sen. Dave Min, is working to win the support of Asian-American voters. They could be very important to the race.

Both candidates have tried to describe each other as extreme, especially on the issue of crime. Baugh criticized Min because he was arrested for drunken driving in 2023. He also described Min as soft-on-crime. Min supported bills limiting the release of some people's criminal records after they finished their sentences. However, he also supports Proposition 36, which would give tougher penalties for thefts and certain drug crimes. Min has called Baugh a "career criminal," saying that he broke election laws in the past. He also criticized a rule Baugh introduced as chairperson of the Orange County Republican Party. This rule prevented Republican candidates from supporting police unions.

Key Endorsements

Dave Min	Scott Baugh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. Rep. Katie Porter• California Democratic Party• Service Employees International Union• Police Officers Research Association of California• The Los Angeles Times (media endorsement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Republican Party• National Federation of Independent Business• U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson



Section 6: State Senate



KEY TERMS

supermajority a majority that is bigger than a simple majority (such as two-thirds)

term limits legal restrictions on the number of terms a person can serve in a particular elected office

Voters will pick their representatives in half of the 40 state Senate districts. Each of these districts has more than 900,000 constituents, or people they represent.

What to Know

What Do State Senators Do?

- They represent the people in their area by holding meetings and listening to what's important to them.
- They work on committees, which are like teams within the state Senate that focus on different topics like jobs, health care, and the environment.
- They introduce new ideas for laws and suggest ways to spend the state's money.

Background

The state Senate had many changes in 2022. This was because of a combination of term limits and new district maps following the 2020 Census. State senators serve for four years, but not all of them are chosen at the same time. This year, only the 20 districts with odd numbers (for example, 1, 3, 5, 7) will pick new state senators. That means many voters will not vote for a state senator this year.

The current Senate has 32 Democrats and 8 Republicans. Right now, Democrats have a two-thirds **supermajority**. This allows them to pass tax increases without any Republican votes. It also allows them to put constitutional amendments on the ballot. If Republicans can take over five of the seats held by Democrats, then the Democrats will no longer have a supermajority.

State senators are paid \$128,215 a year. They also get \$214 a day for expenses when the Legislature is in session. Party leaders get higher pay.

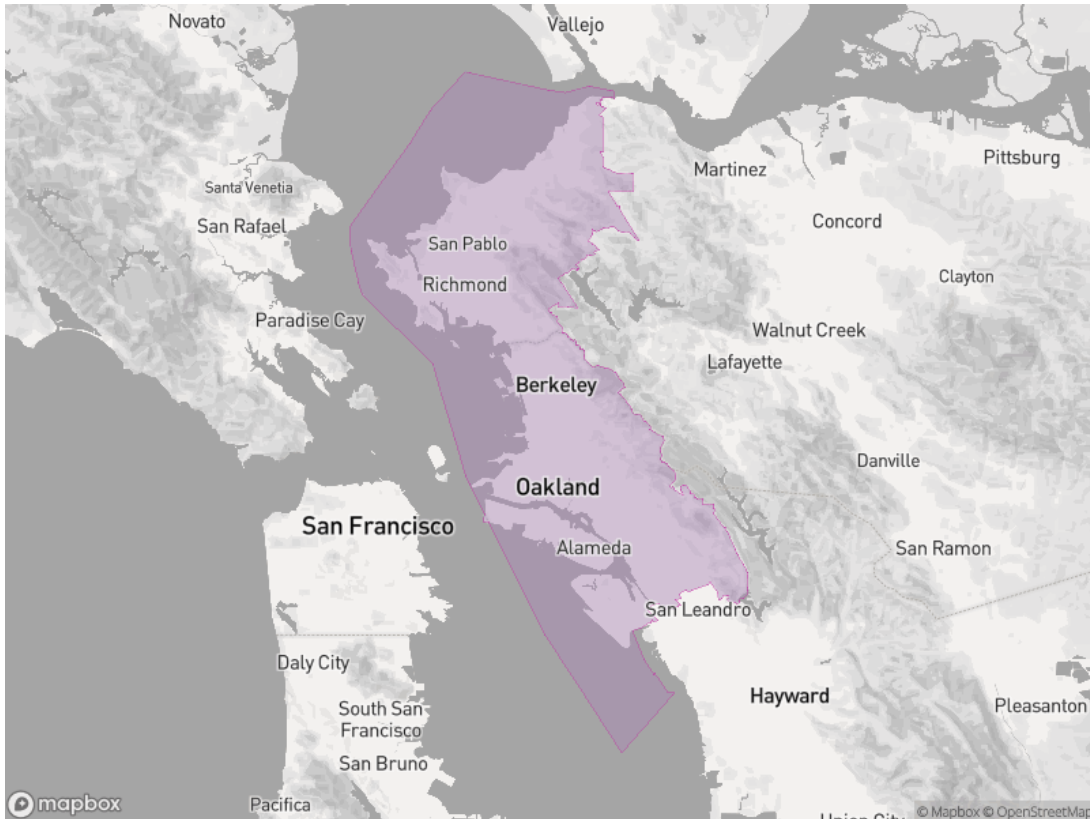
Finding My District

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District 7

This East Bay district includes parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and a small part of San Francisco County. The district has a mix of incomes and wealth levels. It includes the cities of Berkeley and Oakland, which, in 2022, had some of the highest rates of homelessness in California.

Voter registration: 68.2% Democrat, 6.4% Republican, 20.4% no party preference

The Candidates

Jesse Arreguín

Democrat

Mayor of Berkeley

Jovanka Beckles

Democrat

AC Transit Director



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The Scoop

Primary results: Jesse Arreguín 32.1%, Jovanka Beckles 17.7%

This race is for the seat of Sen. Nancy Skinner. She will need to leave the State Senate in December because of **term limits**. This was the most expensive race for a California State Senate or State Assembly race in this year's primary.

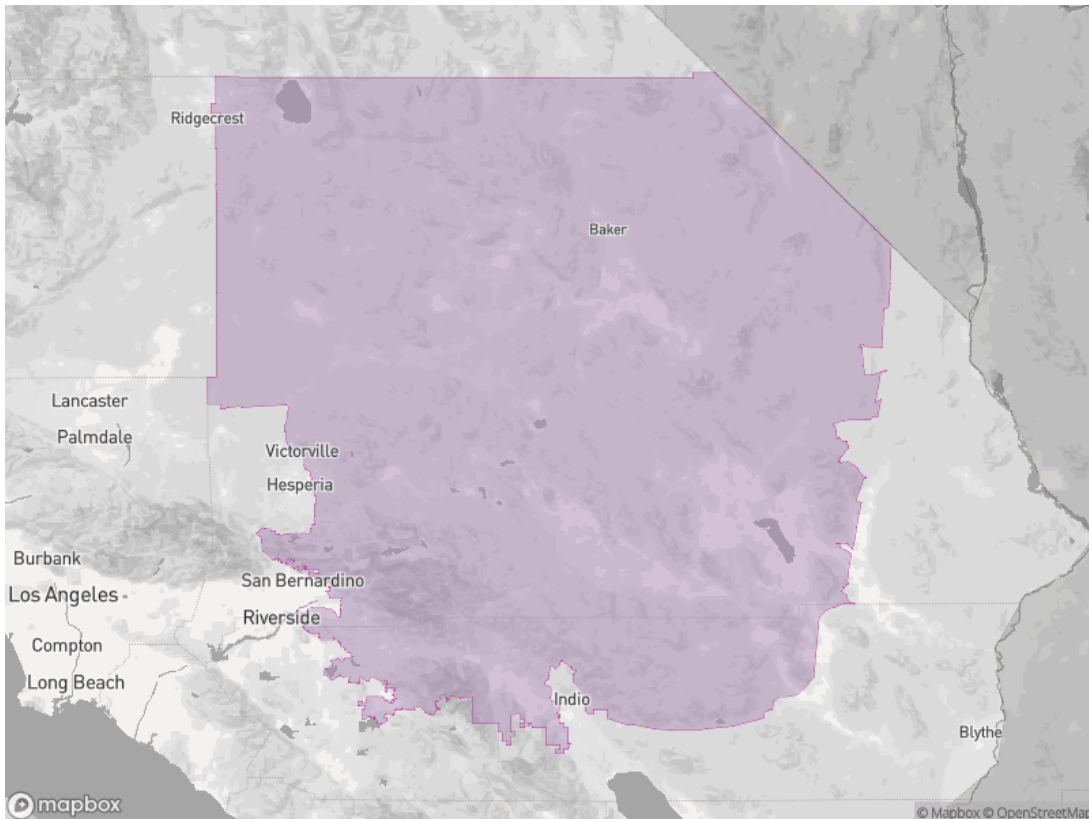
Early results seemed to show that Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín and Oakland City Council member Dan Kalb would win first and second place. But later, many votes came in for Jovanka Beckles. She used to be a Richmond city council member and a member of the Bay Area Rapid Transit board.

Beckles spent far less on the primary race than Arreguín or Kalb, but she came in second place. That means she and Arreguín are the candidates for the election in November. Beckles surprised people by how well she did in that race. Can she surprise them again?

Skinner, a powerful lawmaker, is supporting Arreguín. So is the Democratic Party. Arreguín is still raising more money than Beckles. But he has been criticized for taking money from business groups for landlords, developers and realtors. Beckles has support from progressive groups and elected leaders, including U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Key Endorsements

Jesse Arreguín	Jovanka Beckles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Democratic Party• Planned Parenthood• State Building and Construction Trades Council• California YIMBY• United Farm Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Teachers Association• California Labor Federation• California Working Families Party• U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna• U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders



District 19

This district was created after the 2020 Census. It covers the Coachella Valley to the San Bernardino Mountains. The district includes the cities of Palm Springs, Barstow and Big Bear Lake. It is also home to Joshua Tree National Park. National parks, hobbies or outdoor activities, and tourism are important issues here.

Voter registration: 36.7% Democrat, 35.6% Republican, 18.7% no party preference

The Candidates

Lisa Middleton

Democrat
Palm Springs City Council Member

Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh

Republican
State Senator / Businesswoman



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The Scoop

Primary results: Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh 53.8%, Lisa Middleton 46.2%

This district is divided between Democrats and Republicans. Even so, the primary was not close. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh came in first place. She was the state senator in the old district, which includes most of the new district. But the primary happened before President Joe Biden decided not to run for re-election.

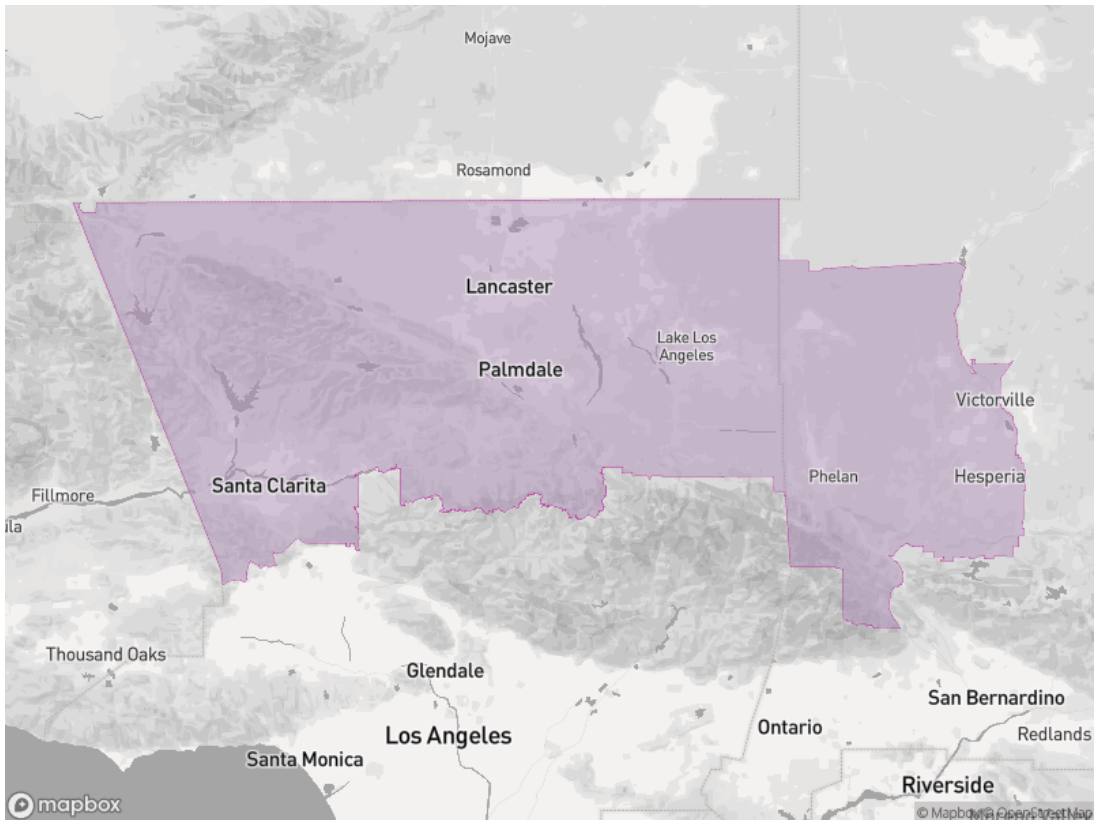
Some experts believe Democratic voters' excitement for Kamala Harris could help Democrat Lisa Middleton win. The district has become more Democratic since 2020. Democrats now have about a 1 percentage point advantage in voter registration.

Before she became a state senator, Ochoa Bogh was an elementary school teacher, school board member and Realtor. She was the first Republican Latina to serve in the Senate. While she was a lawmaker, she held leadership positions on education, housing and human services.

Middleton worked as an auditor, or person who checks or verifies records related to money. Later, she was the vice president for California's State Compensation Insurance Fund. She also served as a leader of California's Fraud Assessment Commission.

Key Endorsements

Lisa Middleton	Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Democratic Party• National Union of Healthcare Workers• Equality California• Reproductive Freedom for All California	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Republican Party• Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association• California Association of Highway Patrolmen



District 23

This Southern California district includes some communities on the coast, such as Santa Barbara. It also includes smaller, rural farming communities and the village of Solvang, which has traditional European-style buildings and businesses inspired by towns in the country of Denmark.

Voter registration: 39.6% Democrat, 30.8% Republican, 21.1% no party preference

The Candidates

Kipp Mueller

Democrat

Workers Rights Attorney

Suzette Martinez Valladares

Republican

Small Business Owner



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The Scoop

Primary results: Suzette Martinez Valladares 32.8%, Kipp Mueller 29.4%

This Northern Los Angeles County district changed because of redistricting. It is now represented by a Republican, but it became more Democratic since 2014. People will be watching to see whether excitement among Democrats for the presidential race helps them win this race.

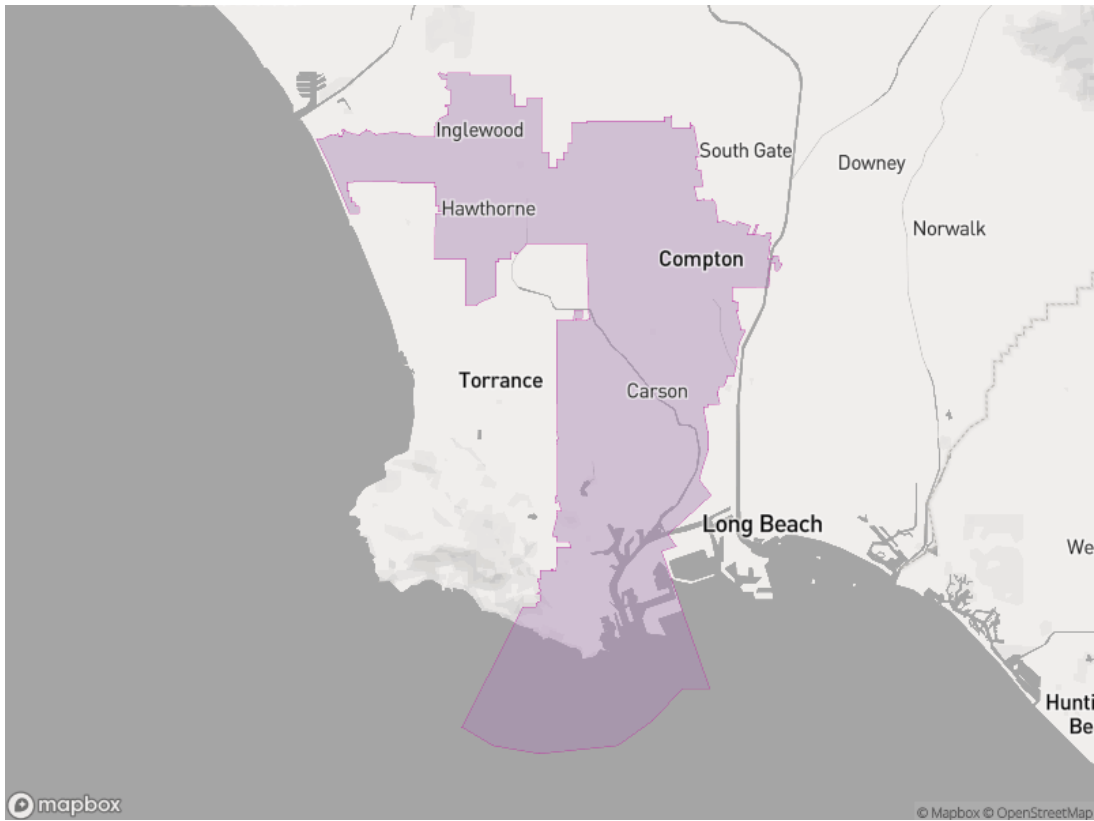
Sen. Scott Wilk, the state senator for the current district, won as a Republican in a district with mostly Democratic voters in 2016 — but the race was very close. The new district lines could give Wilk’s former Democratic opponent, Kipp Mueller, another chance to win the seat. Wilk cannot run again because of term limits.

Mueller worked for the U.S. Department of Justice consumer protection branch for President Barack Obama. He also was an attorney, focusing on workers’ rights and helping people request asylum (a safe place that provides protection from danger in their own country). He worked with the Catholic Charities of Los Angeles Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project.

He’s running against Suzette Martinez Valladares. She was a Republican Assemblymember, but lost her race for reelection by about 500 votes in 2022. Valladares was the executive director of Southern California Autism Speaks before her time in the Assembly.

Key Endorsements

Kipp Mueller	Suzette Martinez Valladares
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Environmental Voters• California Nurses Association• State Building and Construction Trades Council• SEIU California	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sen. Scott Wilk• Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association• Peace Officers Research Association of California• Log Cabin Republicans



District 35

This Southern California district includes parts of the city of Los Angeles, as well as nearby Carson, Compton, Inglewood and Hawthorne. The dense, or crowded, area is home to many low-income and working-class communities. Since the cities in the district are close to many highways and the Los Angeles International Airport, voters have concerns about pollution and the environment. They are also concerned about costs of goods and services.

Voter registration: 58.7% Democrat, 11.7% Republican, 21.7% no party preference

The Candidates

Michelle Chambers

Democrat

Community Justice Advocate

Laura Richardson

Democrat

Businesswoman / Housing Advocate



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The Scoop

Primary results: Laura Richardson 27.8%, Michelle Chambers 24.5%

Laura Richardson served in the Assembly in 2006 for a year. Then she was elected to Congress in a special election in 2007 and served until 2013. She is hoping to come back to the Legislature to replace Sen. Steven Bradford. He is leaving because of term limits.

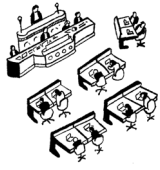
But some local leaders are reminding voters of problems during Richardson's career. She was accused of attacking her LGBTQ+ opponent, but she denied it. She also received a warning and fine from the House Ethics Committee for using her staff members to work on her 2010 campaign. Richardson is endorsed by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

In the primary, Richardson won 3,000 more votes than Michelle Chambers. She is also a Democrat. Chambers has worked as the external affairs manager for the California Department of Justice. An external affairs manager often focuses on communication and relationships with the community.

Whoever wins this seat will have a big job to do. Bradford had been leading efforts to work on reparations, or payments, for people whose family were enslaved in the United States. Both Chambers and Richardson have said they support ideas from the reparations plan. Some of these ideas include cash payments, free public college and paying a fair amount for jail and prison work, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Bradford has endorsed Chambers.

Key Endorsements

Michelle Chambers	Laura Richardson
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Teachers Association• Dolores Huerta, United Farm Workers co-founder• California Democratic Party• California YIMBY• Sen. Steve Bradford	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Association of Highway Patrolmen• Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16• U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters• Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass



Section 7: State Assembly



KEY TERMS

incumbents people who are already serving as elected government officials

Voters will choose their representatives in all 80 state Assembly districts. Many representatives will be new, because of retirements and term limits. How many of those challenging **incumbents**, or people already in office, will be successful? And how many seats will change from one party to the other?

What to Know

What Do State Assemblymembers Do?

- They vote on up to 3,000 different things each year, usually in a way that most people in their area would want.
- They also help decide how the state spends money.

Background

In 2022, 25 members resigned from the Assembly. Some took other jobs. Some retired. The 2022 election saw more changes too. Some people were not reelected to office.

Duties can depend on which party a representative belongs to. Democrats control 62 of the 80 seats right now. That's a supermajority. So members of that party should be prepared to come up with important legislation. Republicans should be prepared to spend a lot of time criticizing Democrats. They also complain about being kept out of decisions.

But not all Democrats are the same. They often disagree. They disagree about health care, housing, environmental regulation, taxes and labor law. In districts that are more Democratic, certain groups work hard to get the Democrat they prefer elected. These groups include unions, activists who are liberal, and those interested in business who have a lot of money.

Regular Assemblymembers are paid \$128,215 a year. They receive \$214 a day for expenses when the Legislature is in session. Party leaders get higher pay.

Finding Your District

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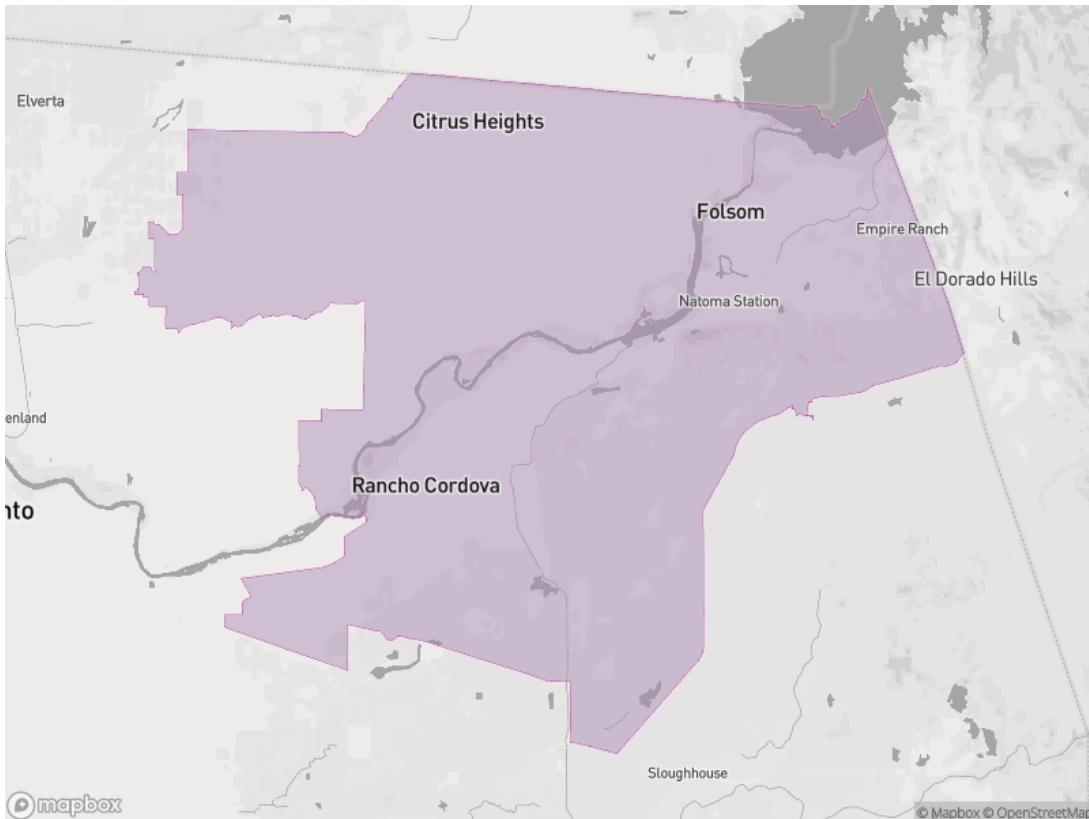

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District 7

The eastern suburbs of Sacramento are often politically divided. These places include some of the area's wealthiest communities, as well as working-class cities near what used to be the Mather Air Force Base.

Voter registration: 37.6% Democratic, 33.0% Republican, 20.7% no party preference

The Candidates

Josh Hoover

Republican

Member of the State Assembly, 7th District

Porsche Middleton

Democrat

Councilmember, City of Citrus Heights



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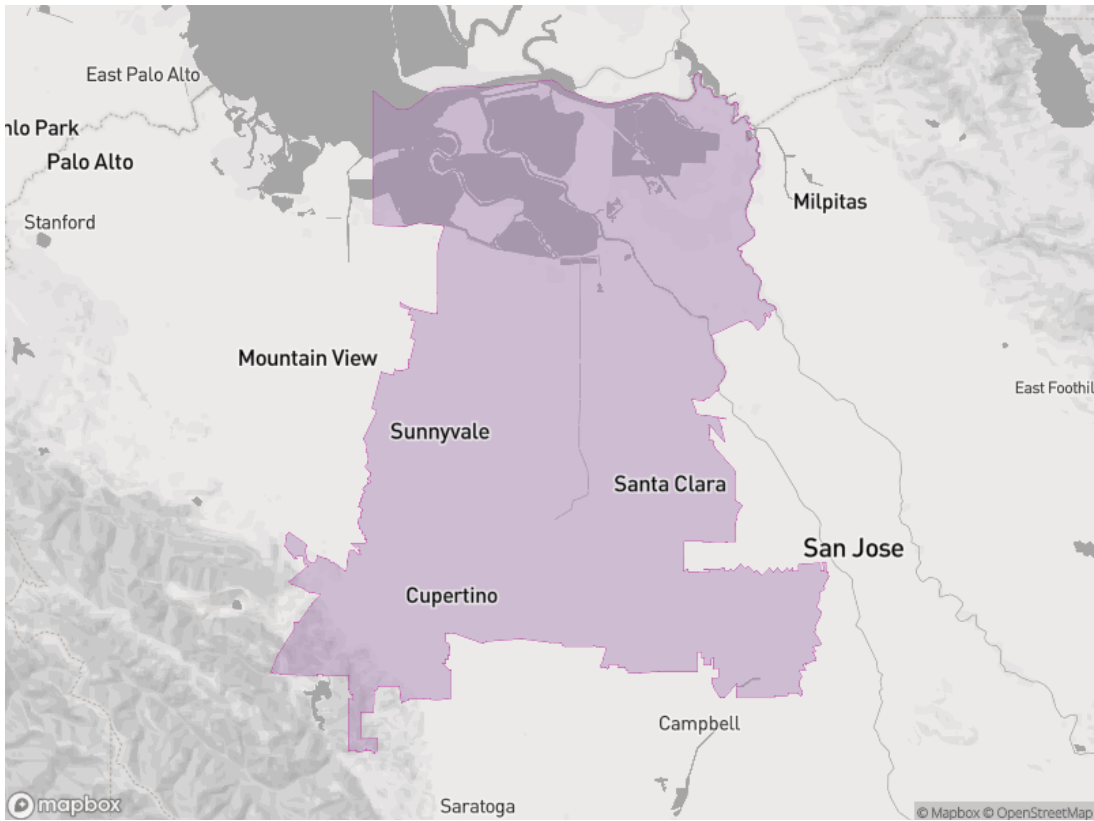
The Scoop

Primary results: Hoover: 52.7%, Middleton: 29.3%

Democrats are looking for revenge in this race. In 2022, Assemblymember Josh Hoover, a Republican from Folsom, defeated the longtime Democratic Assemblymember in a close election. Porsche Middleton, a housing advisor, is a member of the Citrus Heights city council. Middleton finished second in the March primary. Hoover won the primary, even though more Democrats are registered in the district. But when it's time to vote for president in California, usually more Democrats than Republicans vote. During his first term, Hoover mostly focused on problems related to homelessness and fentanyl. He has also argued against making state government workers, who make up a large part of the district's voters, return to the office instead of working from home.

Key Endorsements

Josh Hoover	Porsche Middleton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Police Chiefs Association• Peace Officers Research Association of California• California Rifle & Pistol Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Labor Federation• Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte• California Legislative Black Caucus



District 26

This seat in the South Bay includes a part of San Jose and the suburbs of Cupertino, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale, which have many tech workers. The district is usually represented by Democrats, and many people who live there are Asian Americans.

Party registration: 51.8% Democratic, 14.7% Republican, 29.1% no party preference

The Candidates

Patrick Ahrens

Democrat

College Board President

Tara Sreekrishnan

Democrat

Governing Board Member, Santa Clara County Board of Education



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The Scoop

Primary results: Ahrens: 34.4%, Sreekrishnan: 26.9%

Patrick Ahrens and Tara Sreekrishnan are similar in many ways. Both are Democrats. Both are in their early 30s. Both work for state lawmakers. Ahrens is the district director for Assemblymember Evan Low. Sreekrishnan is the deputy chief of staff and legislative director for Sen. Dave Cortese. Both serve in a local elected office (the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board and the Santa Clara County Board of Education). Yet this election is going to be a tough race. It may also be one of the most expensive campaigns of the fall. Business and labor groups each want to gain advantages in the Assembly. Businesses and organizations gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to the candidates. Uber, PG&E and the California Apartment Association spent big to help Ahrens. State employee unions, charter school advocates and the soda industry gave money to Sreekrishnan.

Key Endorsements

Patrick Ahrens	Tara Sreekrishnan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte• Equality California• California Labor Federation• Peace Officers Research Association of California	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sierra Club California• California Environmental Voters• California Labor Federation• Everytown for Gun Safety



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District 27

This mostly Latino district runs along Highway 99 from Merced to Fresno and then down to Coalinga. Like in other rural areas in the Central Valley, voters are fairly conservative, even though many are registered Democrats.

Party registration: 41.5% Democratic, 28.4% Republican, 22.3% no party preference

The Candidates

Esmeralda Soria

Democrat

State Assemblymember

Joanna Garcia Rose

Republican

Auditor/Mother



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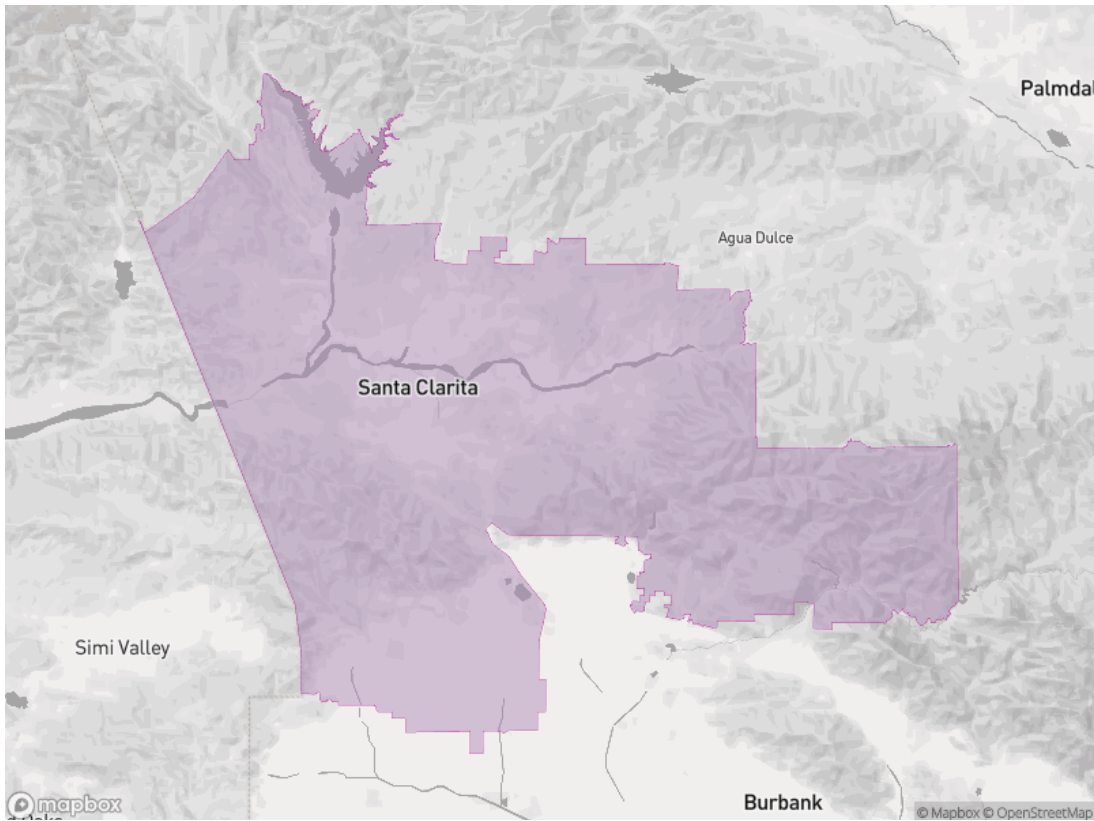
The Scoop

Primary results: Rose: 50.9%, Soria: 49.1%

First-term Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, a Merced Democrat, faced a close election in the primary. She finished behind Republican Joanna Garcia Rose, a tax auditor who had raised less than \$50,000 at that point. Now the Republican Party sees a good opportunity to win a seat. They hope to limit the number of Democratic seats in the assembly by focusing on voter frustration over the economy and crime. It will be a tough task. The Democratic Party has far more money and resources in California. It's going to use a lot of its power in this district to avoid finishing in second place again. Soria has also been supporting issues that interest moderate voters. For example, she went against her party during a conflict over laws about retail theft.

Key Endorsements

Esmeralda Soria	Joanna Garcia Rose
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Labor Federation• California Police Chiefs Association• Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rep. John Duarte• Rep. Tom McClintock• Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke



District 40

The northern suburbs of Los Angeles County, centered around Santa Clarita, are whiter and wealthier than nearby communities in the San Fernando Valley. The area was once mostly Republican. However, it has become more politically divided over the past decade.

Party registration: 41.7% Democratic, 29.8% Republican, 21.6% no party preference

The Candidates

Pilar Schiavo

Democrat
Assemblywoman

Patrick Lee Gipson

Republican
Retired Deputy Sheriff



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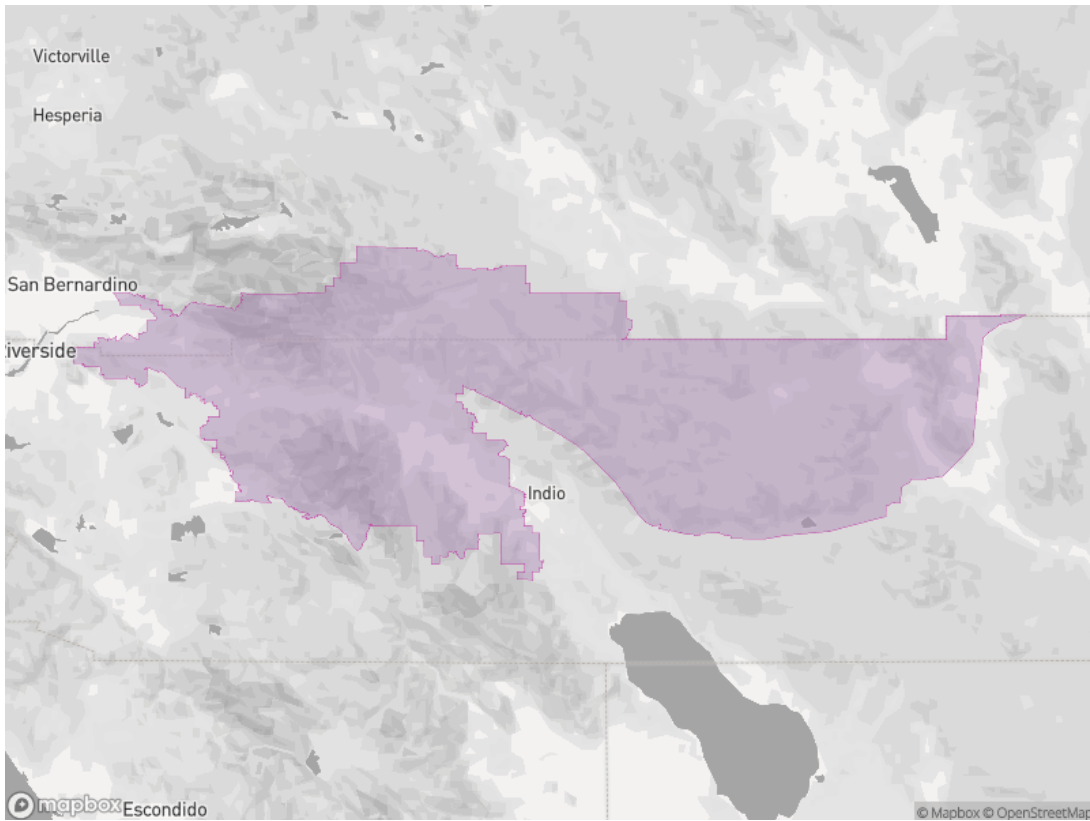
The Scoop

Primary results: Schiavo: 50.2%, Gipson: 49.8%

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, a first-term Democrat from Santa Clarita, has a tough task this fall. The party controlling this seat has changed in each of the past three elections. Republicans would like to win the seat back again. Schiavo won by just 522 votes in 2022. She led her Republican opponent by nearly the same amount in the primary. Her opponent, retired sheriff's deputy Patrick Lee Gipson, is running on public safety and parents' rights in schools. It's certain to be a close race. The results might be affected by the actions of both parties in the congressional district that overlaps with this assembly district. It is a target for Democrats trying to win a Republican-held seat.

Key Endorsements

Pilar Schiavo	Patrick Lee Gipson
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Labor Federation• Los Angeles Police Protective League• Sierra Club California	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs• Peace Officers Research Association of California• Chino Valley Unified School District Board President Sonja Shaw



District 47

This district goes east from San Bernardino into Riverside County along Highway 10. It includes wide rural areas, including Joshua Tree National Park, and a large LGBTQ community around Palm Springs.

Party registration: 39.8% Democratic, 34.0% Republican, 17.9% no party preference

The Candidates

Greg Wallis

Republican

Member of the State Assembly

Christy Holstege

Democrat

City Councilmember/Businesswoman



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The Scoop

Primary results: Wallis: 48.6%, Holstege: 46.4%

This is an exciting rematch of a race from 2022. During that election, Assemblymember Greg Wallis, a first-term Republican from Rancho Mirage, defeated Democrat Christy Holstege, a lawyer and Palm Springs city councilmember, by just 85 votes. The race was so close that Holstege actually attended a meeting for new Assemblymembers in Sacramento before finding out she had lost. Wallis has stayed carefully in the political center. He even supported a measure to protect same-sex marriage rights in the California Constitution. But Democrats are hoping to win the seat, especially after Holstege and another Democratic candidate won most of the votes in the primary. A close race in the congressional district that overlaps with this assembly district could also affect the campaign. In that race, Democrats are also trying to win a Republican-held seat.

Key Endorsements

Greg Wallis	Christy Holstege
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Police Chiefs Association• Peace Officers Research Association of California• California Professional Firefighters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gov. Gavin Newsom• California Labor Federation• Sierra Club California• California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus



District 57

This district is in South Los Angeles. It is the home of many Black voters and political leaders. In recent years, the population has become more Latino.

Party registration: 61.2% Democratic, 7.5% Republican, 22.8% no party preference

The Candidates

Efren Martinez

Democrat

Education Commissioner/Businessman

Sade Elhawary

Democrat

Educator/Community Organizer



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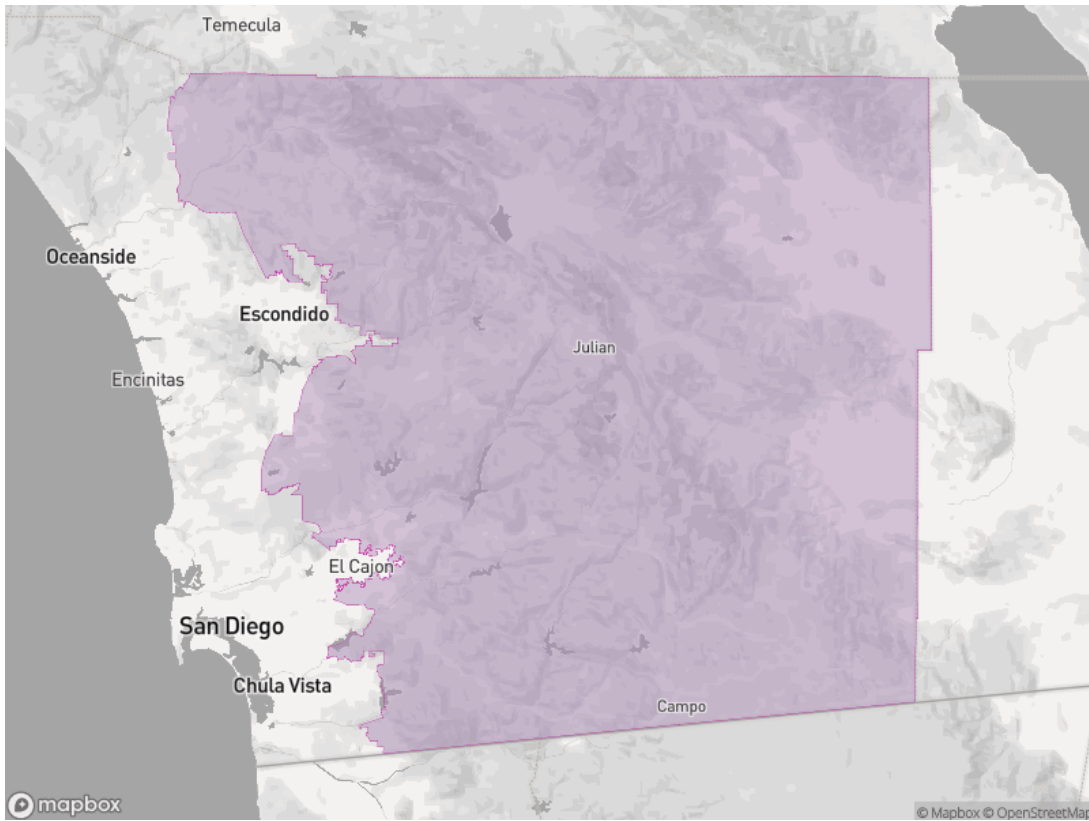
The Scoop

Primary results: Martinez: 32.7%, Elhawary: 31.1%

Longtime Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer is not able to run because of term limits. But voters may know one name on the ballot: Efren Martinez, a businessman who has often run for local office (he has usually been unsuccessful). In one election in 2020, he challenged Jones-Sawyer. That race became very ugly when the state prison guards union got involved. Martinez has strong support from law enforcement. He placed first in this year's primary, but few people voted. Sade Elhawary, a progressive community organizer, finished second. Political differences between the two candidates may not matter much in this election. Instead, the candidates' race may be more important. Martinez is the son of Mexican immigrants, while Elhawary is of Black and Guatemalan descent. Many Latinos are frustrated because they do not have much political representation in South Los Angeles. Meanwhile, leaders in the Black community fear losing power. In 2022, an audio recording of city council members making racist remarks leaked. The recording caused conflicts between these two groups. Elhawary and her supporters criticized Martinez during the primary. They said Martinez made comments to scare Latino voters from supporting her.

Key Endorsements

Efren Martinez	Sade Elhawary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rep. Adam Schiff• Peace Officers Research Association of California• Los Angeles Police Protective League	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass• Sen. Laphonza Butler• California Labor Federation• California Legislative Black Caucus



District 75

This seat is in a mostly Republican area, and both candidates are Republicans. The district represents inland San Diego County, a more rural area that reaches east from mostly conservative suburbs such as Poway and Santee.

Voter registration: 29.4% Democratic, 41.5% Republican, 21.0% no party preference

The Candidates

Carl DeMaio

Republican

Small Business Owner

Andrew Hayes

Republican

Small Business Owner



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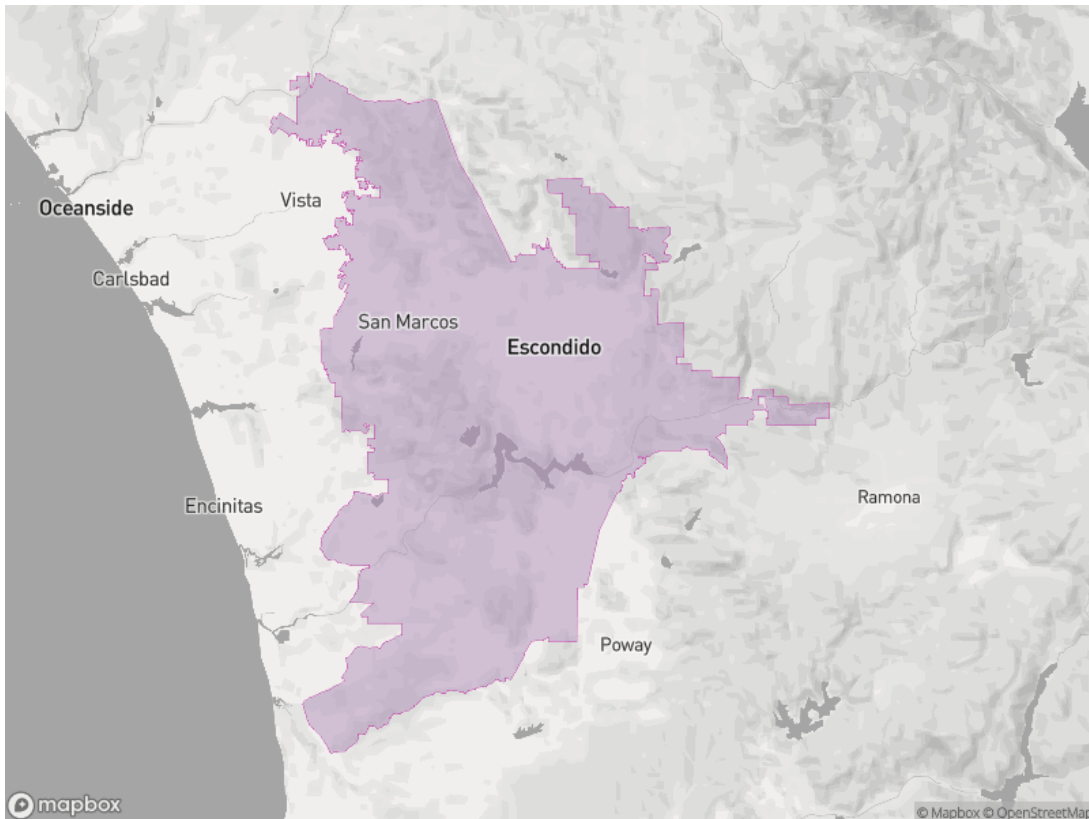
The Scoop

Primary results: DeMaio: 42.9%, Hayes: 18.7%

This race will decide who will win the seat of Assemblymember Marie Waldron. It is a fight over the future of California's Republican Party. The California and San Diego County Republican Party are supporting Andrew Hayes. He is the district director for Senate Republican leader Brian Jones. But in the primary, Hayes received less than half as many votes as Carl DeMaio. DeMaio, a conservative talk show host, hopes that voters will see him as the future of the party. The contest has already changed the county Republican Party. The party replaced its chairperson after she unsuccessfully tried to switch the party's endorsement from Hayes to DeMaio. But not all the voters in the primary picked a Republican. More than a third of the voters picked a Democrat. These voters might now help decide the winner.

Key Endorsements

Carl DeMaio	Andrew Hayes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Republican Party• San Diego County Republican Party• Peace Officers Research Association of California• California ProLife Council



District 76

This district includes the northern part of San Diego, the suburbs of Escondido and San Marcos, and Camp Pendleton. It is an area that has been divided between Democrats and Republicans. Recently, it has been growing more Democratic.

Party registration: 37.5% Democratic, 30.7% Republican, 24.6% no party preference

The Candidates

Kristie Bruce-Lane

Republican

Businesswoman/Victims Advocate

Darshana Patel

Democrat

Scientist/School Board Member



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The Scoop

Primary results: Bruce-Lane: 49.5%, Patel: 34.2%

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein nearly lost his seat in 2018, in which Democrats won many elections. After that election, he became a member of the Democratic Party. He said that he disagreed with the extreme positions and behavior of Donald Trump, who was the president at the time.

Republicans want to win in this district, but they could not defeat Maienschein. This year, though, he could not run again because of term limits. As a result, Republicans have a better chance of winning the seat. The Republican candidate is Kristie Bruce-Lane, who runs a group that helps homeless children who have been victims of domestic violence. She lost to Maienschein by about 3 percentage points in 2022. In the March primary, Bruce-Lane won almost half the votes. She is running against Democrat Darshana Patel, a research scientist. Patel could benefit from growing energy among Democratic voters after the Democratic Party switched presidential nominees.

Key Endorsements

Kristie Bruce-Lane	Darshana Patel
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Federation of Independent Business California• California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce• Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CA YIMBY• Planned Parenthood Action Fund of the Pacific Southwest• California Teachers Association• Sierra Club California



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