

6/2/26 CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT INFORMATION

Compiled by A Concerned Citizen Who Wants You to VOTE!

Who am I?

I'm a mom and former executive at a well-known California company with global reach. I don't have any special political expertise or contacts. I'm just a voter who was frustrated by the fact that there was no single place to find all the info I needed to educate myself before casting my ballot. I've been creating this document for years; friends started asking for it, so I shared it, and my list has grown and grown. Some of my friends who share my values and perspectives, but don't have time to do research, just want me to tell them how to vote, and others want my resources so they can make their own decisions. So – I give you all my work so you can choose what you find useful. Being an educated voter is challenging, and requires a lot of effort that not everyone has time for. I do have that time, and I'm happy to share my resources so you can make the best decisions for yourself.

This document is based on my own ballot, but hopefully the resources listed will help you to find the info you need for your own. **Thank you for being an engaged voter!!**

Objective:

To put qualified Democratic candidates in place at all levels of government, especially at the local and judicial level.

Overview:

Resources are listed below so that every voter can look directly at the information and form their own opinions, or learn more background in order to make an informed decision. Where possible, party affiliations are noted. When available, organizations funding candidates/initiatives are noted.

When the candidate is the only Democrat on the ballot, no info or endorsements are noted.

The LA Times is sometimes the only source of information. HOWEVER, especially since the takeover by Patrick Soon-Shiong, the Times cannot be trusted to give perspective without MAGA influence from the owner. Since his takeover of the Times, they no longer endorse candidates, and instead provide a voter guide.

Voting:

Personally delivered ballots: must be delivered by close of polls on June 2, 2026.

Mailed ballots: must be postmarked on or before June 2, 2026, and received by your county elections office no later than June 9, 2026.

*******CRITICAL: US POST OFFICE RULES HAVE CHANGED, SO IF YOU WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN YOUR BALLOT IS POSTMARKED BY JUNE 2, YOU MUST GO PERSONALLY TO THE POST OFFICE AND ASK FOR YOUR ENVELOPE TO BE HAND-STAMPED WITH THE DATE. OTHERWISE, BALLOTS WILL BE STAMPED WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT A PROCESSING FACILITY, NOT THE DAY YOU MAIL IT.**

IF POSSIBLE, DROP YOUR BALLOTS DIRECTLY IN A SECURE DROPBOX

Here's the link to the CA Secretary of State website showing the voting info above:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/primary-election-june-2-2026>

Info on ballot drop box locations and other voting details:

<https://www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections/voting-options/vote-by-mail/vbm-ballot-drop-off>

>>> I normally suggest that people vote early, but not this year due to the unpredictable and shifting race for Governor. Early voting locations open on May 23, but I urge you to wait until later in the month to vote. Secure ballot drop-off locations opened on May 5.

Our “jungle” primary (wherein the top 2 vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the general election) is a system that can allow both candidates to be from the same party, which would shut out voters of the other party entirely – not great for democracy.

Wait for a clear frontrunner to emerge in the polls, then coalesce behind that candidate – we want to avoid splitting the votes across multiple Democrats in order to avoid the top 2 candidates ending up as MAGA Republicans. Be sure to vet polls carefully, as there are groups paying for polls that are simply propaganda intended to influence voters.

There are no perfect candidates, and many opinions on who would make the best governor. It’s possible that none of the top Democrats will be your ideal choice. But we know that any Democrat will represent your values and beliefs in a way that the two Republicans won’t.

High turnout matters in this election, but unified turnout is the goal this time if we want to prevent MAGA from running our state.

General Resources:

- Candidate websites
- Ballotpedia https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup
- LAist Voter Game Plan <https://laist.com/elections/>
- CalMatters nonpartisan independent voter guide <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2026/>
- Blue Voter Guide <https://bluevoterguide.org/state/california>
- League of Women Voters Vote 411 <https://www.vote411.org/california>
- CA League of Women Voters statewide ballot measure recommendations <https://lwc.org/ballot-recommendations/>
- LA Times Voter Guide <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-01/2026-california-election-voter-guide-primary>
- San Francisco Chronicle Voter Guide <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2026/california-primary-sf-bay-area-voter-guide/>
- Sacramento Bee Voter Guide <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/election/voter-guide/article315501746.html/>

Campaign Finance Resources

- Open Secrets - info on candidate finances <https://www.opensecrets.org>
- Transparency USA – info on candidate finances <https://www.transparencyusa.org>
- Political Integrity Project – info on CA Governor candidate finances <https://cagovtracker.com>
- CA Secretary of State searchable database for candidate financial info <https://cal-access.sos.ca.gov>

Endorsement Guides

- LA Sentinel Endorsement Slate - one of the oldest, largest, and most influential Black newspapers in the Western US <https://lasentinel.net/l-a-sentinel-2026-endorsement-slate.html>
- San Francisco Chronicle endorsements for statewide races <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2026/california-primary-sf-election-endorsements/#governor-anchor>
- CA Democratic Party Endorsements <https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Final-RATIFIED-2026-Primary-Election-Consent-Calendar.pdf>
- LA County Democrats Endorsements <https://www.lacdp.org/candidates>
- Sacramento Bee endorsements <https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article315730793.html>
- Courage Campaign Progressive Voters Guide endorsements <https://progressivevotersguide.com/california>
- Equality California endorsements <https://www.eqca.org/elections/>
- CA Environmental Voters endorsements <https://envirovoters.org/2026-endorsements/>
- Stonewall Democratic Club endorsements https://www.stonewalldems.org/2026_stonewall_endorsed_candidates
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA endorsements <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-affiliates-california/voter-guide>
- LA Progressive Voter Guide endorsements <https://www.laforward.org/voterguide>
- Emily's List national endorsed candidates <https://www.emilyslist.org>
- Aprilsballot.com (another local person who has been doing the research and sharing her ballot for years): <https://aprilsballot.com>
- Working Families Party Endorsements <https://workingfamilies.org/candidates/>
- San Francisco League of Pissed Off Voters Voter Guide. <https://www.theleaguesf.org>
- LA County Federation of Labor Voter Guide https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SoS9-tTmVZYqS8OM5oroiEpEUm6_dXL/view

New Media Resources

- Golden State – online media site created by the opinion writers who left the LA Times in protest against the new MAGA owner <https://www.golden-state.org>

FEDERAL OFFICES

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

US Representative, 36th District

- Ted Lieu – incumbent serving his 5th term in office, see some of his many accomplishments [here](#)
 - o <https://www.lieuforcongress.com>
 - o Endorsements: see enormous list of endorsements [here](#)
- Mariane Shamma – nursing student
 - o <https://www.mariannehumanityfirst.com>
 - o Endorsements: none
- Rustin Knudtson – data engineer
 - o <https://www.rustinforcongress.com>
 - o Endorsements: none
- Frederick Reardon - business development manager
 - o <https://www.reardonforcongress.com>
 - o Endorsements: none

RECOMMENDATION: Lieu

STATE OFFICES

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

There are 23 Democratic candidates running for office in this primary. Most of them don't have the slightest chance of winning, so I'm focusing on the top few who are polling the highest at this time.

Various background articles and info:

- ABC article about how the jungle primary originated <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/politics/how-californias-top-two-primary-could-reshape-the-governors-race/103-51a9ed1f-650a-4639-a6ae-a2de8f69f372>
- LAist overview of candidates <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-california-governor>
- LA Times overview of candidates <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-09/california-governor-2026-candidates-newsom-atkins-kounalakis-thurmond-villaraigosa-yee>
- Fullerton Observer – info on candidate finances <https://fullertonobserver.com/2026/05/05/follow-money-ca-governors-race-2026/>
- Political Integrity Project financial tracker for all governor candidates <https://cagovtracker.com/candidates>
- Transparency USA financial info <https://www.transparencyusa.org/ca/race/governor-of-california-76628>
- Golden State overview of the race <https://www.golden-state.org/inside-californias-free-for-all-governors-race/>
- San Francisco Chronicle article about which donors are supporting each candidate, and other general candidate info <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2026/ca-governor-campaign-finance/>
- San Francisco Chronicle interviews with the key candidates:
 - Becerra <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/xavier-becerra-california-governor-22250749.php>
 - Steyer <https://www.sfchronicle.com/video/article/tom-steyer-governor-california-22231148.php>
 - Porter <https://www.sfchronicle.com/video/article/california-governor-election-katie-porter-22231158.php>
 - Mahan <https://www.sfchronicle.com/video/article/california-governor-election-matt-mahan-22236792.php>

- Xavier Becerra
 - o <https://www.xavierbecerra2026.com>
 - o Bio includes roles as CA Assemblymember, US Congressman, CA Attorney General, US Secretary of Health and Human Services.
 - o Endorsements: see the list [here](#). Many endorsements from elected officials, labor unions, broad range of organizations and Dem clubs. Some notables: Congressmen Ted Lieu and Jim Clyburn, Service Employees International Union CA, CA Professional Firefighters, United Nurses Associations of CA, International Longshore and Warehouse Unions, CA Faculty Association, Equality CA, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA, CA Medical Association, Asian American Action Fund, HONOR PAC
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#) and [here](#).
 - **\$5 million** thru April 18
 - \$3.9 million from individuals
 - o Major donors: top 10 individuals donated between \$40K - \$45K, (see list for specific names) 18 committees/PACs donated \$39.2K each (including 6+ labor unions, Altamed Health Network, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, LSN Partners LLC consulting firm, Assoc of CA School Administrators, Chevron USA, Physician Assoc of CA PAC, Border Health Federal PAC, CA Medical Assoc PAC
 - o 6% from 5,084 small donors under \$200
 - \$580K from committees and PACs.
 - **\$455K in support in addition** to the above from 19 outside committees
 - No money spent in opposition to Becerra, although we've seen ads against him that may not have been included in the numbers yet.
- Tom Steyer
 - o <https://www.tomsteyer.com>
 - o A billionaire who made a lot of money on fossil fuels and for-profit prisons, Steyer walked away from these ventures about 15 years ago and has focused his wealth on holding corporations accountable, and supporting environmental issues.
 - o Endorsements: see the list [here](#). Some notables: Betty Yee; Sen Sheldon Whitehouse; Congressman Ro Khanna; numerous CA assemblymembers and state senators; 8 unions including teachers, nurses and domestic workers; 9 environmental groups including CA Environmental Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund, the Jan Fonda Climate PAC, and Climate Action CA; Courage CA, Smart Justice CA, Secure AI Project, YIMBY Action, Abundant Housing LA
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#) and [here](#). Basically funding his own campaign.
 - **\$162.4 million** raised through end April
 - \$162 million self-funded
 - \$187K from individuals
 - o Largest donor at \$39.2K Nathaniel Simons of Meritage Group
 - o Less than 1% of total donations from 149 small donors of \$200 or less
 - \$9K from committees and PACs
 - **\$7K in support in addition** to the above from 2 outside committees
 - \$52.3 million spent by CA Association of Realtors and PG&E in opposition to Steyer, as he's frequently stated. He's the only candidate currently showing any opposition spending against him, although we've seen ads against Becerra that may not have been included in the numbers yet.

- Katie Porter
 - o <https://katieporter.com>
 - o Appointed by CA AG Kamala Harris as an independent monitor of banks in a nationwide \$25 billion mortgage settlement, served 3 terms in Congress, currently teaches at the UC Irvine School of Law. Known for her whiteboard takedown of corporate executives and government officials during congressional hearings.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Some notable examples: Congressmen Dave Min, Derek Tran, Robert Garcia; 9 unions; EMILY's List; End Citizens United; Vote Mama PAC; CA Environmental Voters; Moms Demand Action, Sacramento Bee
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#) and [here](#).
 - **\$8.8 million** raised through end April
 - \$5 million from individuals
 - o Largest donor at \$78.4K is M&D Development, a real estate firm
 - o 19% of total donations from 44,032 small donors of \$200 or less
 - \$618K from committees and PACs
 - **\$191K in support in addition** to the above from 12 outside committees
 - No money has been spent in specific opposition to Porter
- Matt Mahan

Polling at around 5%, Mahan isn't really a contender in this race, but it's worth pointing out that his astonishingly high funding is almost completely sourced from Silicon Valley interests, which is of great concern. No endorsements from major organizations of any kind.

 - o <https://www.mahanforcalifornia.com>
 - o Of note: Mahan has a mind-blowing list of donors from Silicon Valley who donated the majority of his \$14 million thus far, not including outside committees and PACs
 - o Endorsements: see the list [here](#). Colorado Gov Jared Polis, 2 congressmen, numerous CA assemblymembers, mayors, city council members, county supervisors, district attorneys, 1 Dem club, Thrive LA (a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#) and [here](#).
 - **\$14.4 million** raised through end April
 - \$13.9 million from individuals
 - o Over 100 individual donors have given the max of \$78,400 each, mostly Silicon Valley tech bros, venture capitalists, and real estate firms (see list [here](#))
 - o Only 588 small donors have given \$200 or less
 - \$515K from committees and PACs
 - **\$42 million in support in addition** to the above from 16 outside committees/PACs
 - No money has been spent in specific opposition to Mahan

Additional candidates:

- Tony Thurmond
- Antonio Villaraigosa
- Raji Rab
- Joel Jacob
- Erin Zezulak
- Gary Kidgell
- Sophia Edum-a-Sam
- Barack D. Obama Shaw
- Mohammad Arif
- Carolina Buhler
- Akenyemi Agbede
- Louis De Barraicua
- Satish Rao
- Scott Shields
- Larry D. Azevedo
- Derek Grasty
- Thunder Parley
- Matthew Levy

RECOMMENDATION: Chances are very good that the top 2 candidates will be Becerra and Steyer. It's important to vote strategically to make sure we don't end up with 2 MAGA choices for governor. Wait as long as you can, and vote for the candidate who looks to be the strongest. **BEWARE OF FAKE POLLS** that are being used as propaganda to influence voters. Vet carefully when you look at polling.

There are no perfect candidates, and many opinions on who would make the best governor. It's possible that none of the top Democrats will be your ideal choice. But we know that any Democrat will represent your values and beliefs in a way that the two Republicans won't.

CALIFORNIA LT. GOVERNOR

Various background articles and info:

- LA Times overview of candidates and their fundraising <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-01/california-lieutenant-governor-election-voter-guide>
- CalMatters overview of the candidates <https://calmatters.org/politics/2026/04/california-lieutenant-governor-race/>
- Ballotpedia candidate statements and financial info https://ballotpedia.org/California_lieutenant_gubernatorial_election,_2026
- Transparency USA financial info <https://www.transparencyusa.org/ca/race/lieutenant-governor-of-california-76629>
- Sacramento Bee overview of the candidates and financial info <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/election/voter-guide/article315319465.html>
- Josh Fryday
 - o <https://joshfryday.com>
 - o Currently CA's Chief Service Officer, leading service, volunteer, and civic engagement efforts in the state. Was mayor of Novato, CA. Undergrad and law degree from UC Berkeley, JAG Corps Officer for the Navy. Was COO of NextGen America (a climate advocacy organization founded by Tom Steyer)
 - o Endorsements: see long list [here](#). Notables include Gavin Newsom, Pete Buttigieg, Barbara Boxer, Betty Yee, John Podesta and multiple environmental leaders, CA Teachers Assoc, CA Federation of Teachers, CA School Employees Assoc, CA Jewish Dems, Environmental Defense Fund, Vote Vets, multiple Dem clubs, Sacramento Bee and other Bay-area news outlets, several Bay-area Dem party leaders, Rick Caruso
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$3.6 million** raised through end April
 - Largest donor at \$269.64K is Andrew Schwartzberg, billionaire investor in affordable housing properties throughout the US
 - 51 other higher dollar contributors gave \$14.5K - \$34.6K, including individual donors and groups like CA Teachers Assoc, Pace of CA School Employees Assoc
 - 2475 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Fiona Ma
 - o <https://fionama.com>
 - o Current 2-term state treasurer. Prior elected positions: CA Board of Equalization, State Assembly, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
 - o Of note: Ma was accused of sexual harassment in 2021, and the state paid \$350K to settle the matter.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Includes MANY labor unions, many Dem clubs, numerous congressional members (like Ted Lieu, Dav Min, George Whitesides, Adam Gray, Judy Chu), and MANY state elected officials at all levels, including outgoing Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.
 - o Financial support: Ma has a large war chest of **\$9.6 million**, but current fundraising for Lt. Gov can be seen [here](#). She's been fundraising since 2023.
 - **\$2.6 million** raised through end April
 - Largest donor at \$28.7K is SoCal Pipe Trades District Council #16 PAC.
 - 21 other higher dollar contributors gave \$14.8K - \$19.7K, including individual donors, and groups like International Union of Operating Engineers Local 3 Statewide PAC, Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, State Building and Construction Trades Council of CA PAC
 - 1694 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

- Michael Tubbs
 - o <https://michaeltubbsforca.com>
 - o Elected as youngest major city mayor in the US at the age of 26 in Stockton. Currently Special Advisor to Gov Newsom for Economic Mobility, founder of End Poverty in CA and Mayors for a Guaranteed Income.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Dolores Huerta; former CA Senator Laphonza Butler; Congresspeople Robert Garcia, Ro Khanna, Sam Liccardo, Lateefah Simon; Mayor Karen Bass; Mayor Barbara Lee; many CA state electeds; educators; many Dem clubs; Courage California; People for the American Way; CA Environmental Voters; Service Employees International Union CA; CA Legislative Black Caucus; LA Forward; San Francisco Chronicle; CA Faculty Assoc
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$5.5 million** raised through end April
 - Largest donors: \$2 million from Steve Phillips, author and co-founder of the CA Donor Table and PowerPAC+, organizations focused on investing in progressive leaders of color. \$1 million from Evan Spiegel, CEO of Snap Inc, and co-founder of Snapchat. \$500K from Patty Quillin, philanthropist and wife of Netflix co-founder and Anthropic board member Reed Hastings. \$250K from M Quinn Delaney of CA Donor Table, a group of donors that invest in organizations, leaders, and candidates that center communities of color. \$174.6 from Raise the Wage CA Sponsored by the CA State Council of Service Employees. \$109.8K from Karla Jurvetson, Silicon Valley philanthropist and vice chair of EMILY's List
 - 15 other higher dollar contributors gave \$11.0K - \$19.8K, including individual donors, and groups like United Domestic Workers of America, Faculty for Our University's Future Sponsored by the CA Faculty Assoc, Service Employees International Union Local 721
 - 1552 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Janelle Kellman
 - o <https://www.janellekellman.com>
 - o Environmental lawyer
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Includes numerous state and local elected officials like assemblymembers, county supervisors, mayors, city council members, one retired state senator; CA Legislative Jewish Caucus; East Area Progressive Dems
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$542K** raised through end April
 - 860 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Oliver Ma
 - o <https://oliverma2026.com>
 - o Democratic socialist and civil rights lawyer.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Includes numerous Dem Socialist clubs, Dem clubs, United Auto Workers, United Chinese Americans Action Fund, Council on American-Islamic Relations Action, La Defensa, CA Democratic Council, handful of local electeds
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$506K** raised through end April
 - 890 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Jeyson Lopez
 - o <https://www.jeysonlopez4ca.com>
 - o Customer Experience Consultant, young
 - o Policy positions are unusual: stop funding Ukraine, does not believe in youth gender transition, supports voter ID. But holds other more Democratic beliefs.
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no info available

- Tim Myers
 - o Website shows as unsafe, do not open votetimmyers dot com. He has a Facebook page as Tim Myers.
 - o One of the founding members of the pop-rock band One Republic, and currently a music producer.
 - o Since his website is inaccessible, here's his Wikipedia page https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Myers
 - o Endorsements: unknown
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$7.5K** raised through April 18
 - Top donor gave \$5K: Zachary Lewis
 - 15 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Abdur Sikder
 - o <https://votesikder.com>
 - o Professor at San Francisco State and San Francisco Bay Universities.
 - o Endorsements: only 1 - Antonio Lopez, former East Palo Alto Mayor.
 - o Financial support: no info available

RECOMMENDATION: Tubbs

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Rob Bonta (incumbent)

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

- Shirley Weber (incumbent)

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION DISTRICT 3

- Mike Gipson
 - o <https://www.mikegipson.net>
 - o Current Assembly member from CA District 65. Former police officer, nonprofit leader and community organizer, former member of the Carson City Council
 - o Endorsements: long list of endorsements [here](#). Notables include CA Dem Party, LA Dem Party, CA Legislative Black Caucus, Equality CA, several Dem clubs, 26 unions, LA Police Protective League, CA Professional Firefighters, 7 Congressmembers (including Robert Garcia, Maxine Waters, Adam Gray, Dave Min), long list of state and local electeds (including Lt. Gov Eleni Kounalakis, AG Rob Bonta, Controller Malia Cohen, Treasurer Fiona Ma, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, all 4 LA County Supervisors, LA County Assessor Jeff Prang, Rolling Hills Estates Mayor Pro Tem Frank Zerunyan)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$823.7K** raised through end April
 - 302 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

- Yvonne Yiu
 - o <https://www.yvonneyiu.com>
 - o Former City Council Member and Mayor of Monterey Park, background in financial services, worked as financial advisor and regional manager at several large global companies, is a broker-dealer at her own firm with over \$1 billion in assets under her management.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Congress members Judy Chu and Dave Min, Torrance Unified School District President Betty Lieu, multiple city councilmembers and mayors
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$783.7K** raised through end April
 - \$700K funded by herself (\$450K) and \$250K from Albert Young, Sr. VP of Health Affairs at Astrana Health. All other donors less than \$3.5K. Yiu also loaned her campaign \$110K.
 - 98 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Baru Sanchez
 - o <https://barusanchez.com>
 - o CPA, former Cudahy City Council Member and Mayor
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$4.5K** raised through end April
 - 17 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Samuel Sukaton
 - o <https://www.samsukaton.com>
 - o Former “Jeopardy!” contestant, directed Bernie Sanders’ 2020 campaign in the Inland Empire, led various campaigns with CA Environmental Voters, was lead organizer for the LA Community College Faculty guild, has worked with various CA commissions and boards.
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$29.9K** raised through end April
 - 123 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Rudy Bermudez
 - o <https://www.bermudez4boe.com> no info on campaign website just a link to his business at <https://www.rudybermudez.com>
 - o Former Assembly member for 56th District, was Chair of the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation, was Vice Chair of the CA Board of Accountancy, was on the Norwalk-La Mirada Board of Education and Norwalk City Council
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no info available as of May 6
- Zhijing Liu
 - o No website, no info

RECOMMENDATION: Gipson

CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

LAist overview of the candidates <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-insurance-commissioner>

- Ben Allen
 - o <https://www.benallenca.com>
 - o Current State Senator District 24 since 2014, terming out
 - o Endorsements: see enormous list [here](#). Notables include Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla; many unions, environmental organizations, and Dem clubs: Congressman Ted Lieu: Assembly member Al Muratsuchi; long list of state senators, assembly members, and local electeds
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$1.5 million** raised through end April
 - Top 5 donors at \$19.4K – \$19.6K: philanthropists Nicole and Allan Mutchnik (he is the president of Harbor Freight Tools and she is chair of the Anti-Defamation League), CA Real Estate PAC, CA State Council of Service Employees Political Committee, CA Teachers Association for Better Citizenship, Service Employees International Union Local 721
 - 1079 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Steven Bradford
 - o <https://www.bradfordforcalifornia.com>
 - o Former CA state senator, former Chair of the Senate Banking Committee and the Select Committee on Boys and Men of Color, former Assembly Member and Gardena City Council member.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include 10 labor unions, CA Black Women's Collective PAC, numerous electeds including Congresspeople Adam Gray and Luz Rivas, Oakland Mayor and former Congresswoman Barbara Lee, CA Treasurer Fiona Ma, CA Secretary of State Shirley Weber, LA Mayor Karen Bass, LA County Assessor Jeff Prang
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$672.7K** raised through end April
 - Top 5 donors at \$12.1K - \$19.6K: Reynolds Tobacco Co, State Building and Construction Trades Council of CA PAC, CA State Assoc of Electrical Workers PAC, CA State Pipe Trades Council PAC, Hollywood Park Casino Co
 - 433 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Patrick Wolff
 - o <https://patrickwolff.com>
 - o Former management consultant, worked in Silicon Valley startups, worked at Capital One to build their home and auto insurance brokerage, later became a managing director of a leading hedge fund, then launched his own firm Grandmaster Capital Management. Currently an independent investor and Managing Member of BPW Capital Holding, investing in real estate. Former US Chess Champion and a chess grandmaster. Has pledged he will not take campaign contributions from insurance companies or corporate gifts, will not run for any other public office or work in any capacity in the insurance industry after being Insurance commissioner.
 - o Endorsements: scroll the main page of his website to see many media endorsements (including the San Francisco Chronicle, Sacramento Bee, The OC Register, LA Daily News), a handful of Dem clubs, CA Farm Bureau, YIMBY Action, Asian Americans for Good Government PAC
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$854.7K** raised through end April
 - Top donor is himself at \$500K, with an additional loan of \$100K, 17 top donors at \$9.8K - \$10K are all individuals, see list above
 - 258 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

- Jane Kim
 - o <https://www.janekim.org>
 - o Former San Francisco Supervisor, CA Political Director for Bernie Sanders 2020, currently the CA Director for Working Families Party. Is a lawyer.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Bernie Sanders; CA Teachers Assoc and CA Faculty Assoc; labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta; CA Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis; CA Controller Malia Cohen; Congress people including Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal, Grace Meng; multiple state senators and assembly members; long list of local and county electeds; 15 unions; many Dem clubs and political organizations; long list of Dem party leaders across CA
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$453K** raised through end April
 - Top 6 donors gave \$11.8K - \$19.6K: CA State Council of Service Employees Political Committee, CA teachers Assoc for Better Citizenship, Patty Quillin, United Domestic Workers of America Action Fund PAC, Service Employees International Union Local 1021 PAC and Local 721 PAC
 - 386 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

RECOMMENDATION: Allen

CALIFORNIA CONTROLLER

- Malia Cohen

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

This position is supposed to be non-partisan, but candidates' endorsements and terminology from their websites make clear their political preferences.

LAist Voter Guide for this race <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-superintendent-public-instruction>

- Al Muratsuchi
 - o <https://www.alforcaliforniaschools.com>
 - o Current Assemblymember for District 66 (terming out), Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, adjunct professor teaching government at El Camino Community College, member of the American Federation of Teachers. Formerly a civil rights lawyer and Deputy Attorney General with the CA Dept of Justice, former member of the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education. Former member of the Board of Trustees of the SoCal Regional Occupational Center and the State Allocation Board.
 - o Endorsements: see long list [here](#). Notables include CA Federation of Teachers, CA School Employees Assoc, Assoc of CA School Administrators, Equality CA, Congressman Ted Lieu, CA Treasurer Fiona Ma, multiple teachers unions, multiple trade unions, multiple state senators and assembly members, Palos Verdes Unified School District board members Linda Kurt and Ami Gandhi, multiple local city and school board electeds
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$694.2K** raised through April 18
 - Top 10 donors gave \$10.9K - \$33.9K: CA Federation of Teachers COPE; International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 13 PAC; Assoc of CA School Administrators; Pace of CA School Employees Assoc; Service Employees International Union Local 1000 PAC, Local 99 PAC and United Healthcare Workers West PAC; CA Teachers Assoc for Better Citizenship; CA State Council of Laborers PAC; CA State Council of Service Employees Political Committee
 - 555 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Richard Barrera
 - o <https://www.barreraforedu.com>
 - o President of the San Diego Unified School Board (2nd largest in CA), on the board for 16 years, has received multiple leadership awards
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include current Sup of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, long list of electeds, McClatchy media outlets (Sacramento Bee, Fresno Bee, plus more), multiple Dem clubs, CA Teachers Assoc and 5 other unions
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$202.9K** raised through April 18
 - Top 7 donors gave \$9.8K - \$19.8K: United Domestic Workers of America Action fund PAC, CA Teachers Assoc for Better Citizenship, plus 5 individuals
 - 398 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

- Anthony Rendon
 - o <https://www.anthonryrendon.org>
 - o Former Assemblymember and Speaker of the Assembly, former executive director of Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis; Congresspeople Pete Aguilar, Judy Chu, Laura Friedman, Robert Garcia, Sam Liccardo, Kevin Mullin, Luz Rivas; multiple state senators and assemblymembers; LA County Supervisors and CA mayors; many unions including the CA Faculty Assoc and United Nurses Assoc of CA; many educators and school board members; Moms Demand Action, CA Environmental Voters
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$260K** raised through April 18
 - Top 6 donors gave \$10.5K - \$19.6K: United Nurses Assoc of CA/Union of Health Care Professionals PAC plus 5 individuals
 - 76 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Josh Newman
 - o <https://newmanforspi.com>
 - o Former state senator for District 29 and past chair of the State Senate Education Committee, former Army officer, tech entrepreneur, currently Senior Fellow at UC Irvine's School of Social Ecology
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include numerous labor unions; Dem clubs; Congressmen Gil Cisneros and Derek Tran; numerous state senators and assemblymembers; numerous educators, education leaders and school board members; numerous local electeds
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$333K** raised through April 18
 - Top 10 donors gave \$9.8K - \$19.6K: CA Correctional Peace Officers Assoc PAC, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 3 Statewide PAC, SoCal Pipe Trades District Council #16 PAC, State Building and Construction Trades Council of CA PAC, United Assoc of Journeymen & Apprentices Local 250 PAC, Josh Newman Campaign, Pechanga Band of Indians, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Associated General Contractors PAC, Californians for a Prosperous Golden State
 - 165 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Nichelle Henderson
 - o <https://www.hendersonforcasuperintendent.org>
 - o Public school teacher for 30 years, current Faculty Advisor and Clinical Field Supervisor in the CSU system, leader in the CA Faculty Assoc, has been on the LA Community College District Board of Trustees since 2020, elected as delegate to the LA County Dem Party, appointed as labor representative of the LA County Quality and Productivity Commission and served as Chair, former VP and Secretary/Treasurer of the LA County School Trustees Assoc.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include multiple Dem clubs and community organizations, CA Legislative Black Caucus, Congresswoman Lateefah Simon, LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, multiple local electeds, community leaders, educators, and educational leaders
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$80.4K** raised through April 18
 - Top 4 donors gave \$2.5K - \$5.9K: Women in Power PAC, David Vella for College Board 2028, plus 2 individuals
 - 304 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

- Frank Lara
 - o <https://www.frank4caschools.com>
 - o Member of the Peace and Freedom party of CA. Teacher for 10 years. Executive VP of the United Educators of San Francisco since 2021. Currently on the CA Teachers Assoc Financing Public Education Committee.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$37.7K** raised through April 18
 - Top 3 donors gave \$1.4K - \$5K: United Educators of San Francisco, D&J Singh Farm, Eisa Al Shamma
 - 101 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Gus Mattammal
 - o <https://www.votegus.org>
 - o Director of the tutoring company Advantage Testing of Silicon Valley. Educator for over 22 years. Elected member of the Midcoast Community Council. President of SHIFT-bay Area, a non-partisan advocacy group in the San Francisco area that promotes transparent, accountable and rational public policymaking. Libertarian.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$111.3K** raised through April 18
 - Top 5 donors gave \$8.9K - \$9.8K: himself, plus 4 individuals
 - 100 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Wendy Castaneda Leal
 - o <https://www.castanedaleal4casuperintendent.com>
 - o Former Deputy Director of Educational Initiatives for the Native American Education Program in the New York City Public Schools. Developed the nonprofit Red Hawk Native American Arts Council. Worked on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations in North Dakota. Former school principal before becoming Director of Whole Child Education for the Roseland School District. Currently serves as Superintendent of the Semitropic School District. Has a doctorate in education.
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no financial reporting as of May 12
- Ainye Long
 - o No website, only Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/ainyelong4ca>)
 - o Public school teacher for 19 years
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no financial reporting as of May 12
- Sonja Shaw
 - o <https://shawforca.com>
 - o Clearly MAGA, her website uses known right-wing terminology like “parental rights,” “radical ideologies,” and “mask and vaccine mandates ignored families’ well-being.”
 - o Endorsements: Chad Bianco, Steve Hilton, Moms for Liberty, CA Republican Party
 - o Financial support: no financial reporting as of May 12

RECOMMENDATION: Muratsuchi

CALIFORNIA TREASURER

LAist overview of the candidates <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-california-treasurer>

- Eleni Kounalakis
 - o <https://eleniforca.com>
 - o Current CA Treasurer, elected in 2019. Originally worked for her father's real estate development company AKT Development Corp, eventually serving as president. Appointed by Obama to serve as US Ambassador to Hungary from 2010-2013. Elected Lt. Gov of CA in 2018, re-elected in 2022. Started a run for governor in 2023, but withdrew and chose to run instead for Treasurer.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#) Notables include Dem leaders Kamala Harris, Hillary Clinton, Barbara Boxer, Adam Schiff, Alex Padilla, Pete Buttigieg, Gavin Newsom, Fiona Ma, Malia Cohen, Rob Bonta, Nancy Pelosi, Robert Garcia, Pete Aguilar, George Whitesides. Lots of labor unions including CA Federation of Teachers, CA Teachers Assoc, CA School Employees Assoc, Service Employees International Union Local 87, Teamsters CA, numerous electeds and Dem clubs, Equality CA, Sierra Club, CA Environmental Voters
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$9.4 million** raised through April 18
 - Kounalakis gave \$572.1K of her own money
 - Top donor at \$53.8K is environmental and land use attorney Tina Thomas, next top 20 donors gave \$29.6K - \$39.2K: CA Professional Firefighters Ballot Issues Committee, CA Teachers Assoc for Better Citizenship, Professional Engineers in CA Govt PAC, venture capitalist Ronald Conway, Assoc of CA School Administrators PAC, CEO and president of ShopRite grocery stores Richard J Saker, Raise the Wage CA Sponsored by the CA State Council of Service Employees, CA Assoc of Highway Patrolmen, Cal Fire Local 2881 Small Contributor PAC, CA Nurses Assoc PAC, CA State Assoc of Electrical Workers, CA State Pipe Trades Council PAC, Service Employees International Union Local 721, Building a Stronger West Sponsored by Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, CA Real Estate PAC, CA State Council of Laborers PAC, NorCal Carpenters Regional Council Small Contributor Committee, Service Employees International Union 1000 State Employees, Matina and Sotiris Kolokotronis (he is founder and owner of SKK Developments real estate firm, and she is COO of the Sacramento Kings), founder of Medley Partners private market investment firm Mark W. Heising
 - 3648 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
- Anna Caballero
 - o <https://www.annaforcalifornia.com>
 - o Current State Senator. Former State Assembly member. Former City Council Member of Salinas, elected as first female mayor. Appointed by Jerry Brown to lead the CA State & Consumer Services Agency. Executive Director of Partners for Peace.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Congressmember Zoe Lofgren, long list of state and local electeds, several Dem clubs, several labor unions and statewide organizations like Latina Leads CA, YIMBY CA, CA Conference of Carpenters
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$909.9K** raised through April 18
 - Top 8 donors gave \$10K - \$19.6K: Building a Stronger Future for CA PAC Sponsored by Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, Niagra Bottling LLC, Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling LLC, CA Hospital Assoc PAC Sponsored by CA Assoc of Hospitals & Health Systems, Novo Nordisk Inc, real estate development and management firm Lance-Kashian & Company, Greater Anesthesia Service & PAC Sponsored by CA Society of Anesthesiologists, LA Police Protective League PAC
 - 370 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

- Tony Vazquez
 - o <https://vazquez4treasurer.com>
 - o Current member CA State Board of Equalization, former mayor of Santa Monica, former educator
 - o Endorsements: see list by scrolling down on his website. Notables include LA County Assessor Jeff Prang, CA Senator Ben Allen, Santa Monica College Board VP Sion Roy, Stonewall Dems, long list of local and state electeds
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$66.3K** raised through April 18
 - Top 5 donors gave \$3K – \$9.8K: Pala Band of Mission Indians & Affiliated Entity Pala Casino, Alex Padilla for City Council 2026 (NOT the Senator), Ryan LLC PAC Federal, Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill LLP, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
 - 87 unique contributors per Ballotpedia

RECOMMENDATION: Kounalakis

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE DISTRICT 24

I've attended multiple candidate forums for this race, and will note my observations regarding each candidate.

Various background articles and info:

- West Hollywood (WeHo) Online article about the top 3 candidates. <https://wehoonline.com/as-west-hollywood-reels-from-two-shootings-follow-the-money-in-the-sd-24-senate-race/>
- CalMatters overview of the candidates and fundraising <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2026/state-senate/#district-24>
- Sion Roy
 - o <https://drsionroyforsenate.com>
 - o Currently a cardiologist at Harbor-UCLA Hospital. current Vice Chair of the Santa Monica College Board, associate professor of medicine at Harbor-UCLA Hospital, past president of the Malibu PTA, youngest President of the LA County Medical Assoc, former president of the Santa Monica Dem Club, served for a year in AmeriCorps after med school.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). The only candidate in this race endorsed by the CA Dem Party. Some notables include: CA Medical Assoc, Sierra Club, Palos Verdes Dems, Service Employees International Union CA, Congresspeople Dave Min and Maxine Waters, Treasurer Fiona Ma, Attorney General Rob Bonta, multiple state and local electeds and community leaders
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$493.9K** raised through April 18
 - Top 7 donors gave \$10K - \$17.6K: Union of American Physicians & Dentists PAC, American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees CA People Small Contributor Committee, CA Medical Assoc, Dignity CA Service Employees International Union Local 2015, Greater Anesthesia Service & PAC, LA County Medical Assoc PAC, La Salle Medical Assoc
 - 762 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Interview by Santa Monica Daily Press <https://www.smdp.com/dr-sion-roy-enters-state-senate-race-with-physicians-lens-on-affordability-wildfire-recovery-and-practical-governance/>
 - o Observations: after attending several forums, Roy seemed most focused on the Palisades fire in which he lost his own home, as well as health care (due to his medical expertise), but did not seem as focused on other issues affecting the rest of the district. Did not find him to be a particularly engaging speaker. I was surprised when he won the Dem party endorsement.

- Mike Newhouse
 - o <https://www.newhouse4ca.com>
 - o Worked at CA Public Interest Research Group, Environmental Defense Fund, Wilderness Society. Lawyer with a focus on construction, housing, real estate, land use and planning and environmental law. Has his own small law firm and real estate brokerage. Elected to Venice Neighborhood Council and became President. Appointed by LA Mayor Eric Garcetti to be President of the West LA Area Commission. Appointed by LA Mayor Karen Bass to serve on the LA City Planning Commission. Teaches at USC Law School.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include 8 police unions, LA Coastal Protection Coalition, multiple local electeds, community leaders, business owners
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$501.5K** raised through April 18
 - Top 5 donors gave \$10.8K - \$11.8K: President of SoCal Build Group (a general contracting firm) Andrew Clark, educator and small business owner Gail Silverton, Peace Officers Research Assoc of CA PAC, co-founder and executive leader of Build Group Scott Brauning, CA Real Estate PAC
 - 638 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Interview by CityWatch LA <https://www.citywatchla.com/neighborhood-politics/32588-newhouse-runs-on-public-safety-in-tight-senate-contest>
 - o Observations: big personality, ease with public speaking, knowledgeable regarding issues and experienced in solving problems in his past roles working with government entities.

- Brian Goldsmith
 - o <https://www.briangoldsmith.com>
 - o Former journalist for outlets such as The Atlantic, Yahoo, CNN and CBS News. Former political producer for Katie Couric. including the famous Sarah Palin interview. Worked on Pete Buttigieg's presidential campaign
 - o Endorsements: see long list [here](#). Notables include Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, Barbara Boxer, Pete Buttigieg, Lt. Gov Eleni Kounalakis, LA District Attorney Nathan Hochman, Gabby Giffords, Antonio Villaraigosa, multiple state and local electeds, multiple labor unions (including Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund, IATSE LA-Based Local Unions, CAL FIRE Local 2881, LA Police Protective League, Giffords PAC, several Dem clubs, many community leaders, activists, philanthropists, media personalities, entertainment industry members (Helen Mirren, Eric Balfour)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$2.6 million** raised through April 18
 - Self-funded \$500K
 - Top 43 donors gave \$11.8K each: list of individuals is long, you can see in the above link. Of note are Rick Caruso (and wife Tina), well-known LA real estate developer and philanthropist, a Republican until switching to Dem before he ran for LA mayor against Karen Bass.
 - 1164 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Interview by Westside Current https://www.westsidecurrent.com/state_elections/senate-hopeful-brian-goldsmith-pitches-a-fresh-perspective-for-district-24/article_a2c2c44a-6d3d-4fc4-ab19-ed944bafd195.html
 - o Observations: at first seemed to focus on national issues instead of local ones, and wasn't a compelling speaker. At recent forums he's been much more engaging, passionate, and knowledgeable about issues/solutions affecting our district.

- John Erickson
 - o <https://www.johnerickson4senate.com>
 - o Current Chief of Staff for the Alliance for a Better Community. Former City Councilmember and Mayor of West Hollywood. Former Legislative Representative for LAX, former VP of Planned Parenthood LA, former VP of the CA Contract Cities Assoc, member of the National League of Cities, Clean Power Alliance, and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. Was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Serves on the board of the LA Women's March Foundation and the National Board of the National Organization for Women. Former President of the ACLU of SoCal.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Treasurer Fiona Ma, 4 LA County Supervisors, LA County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, long list of local electeds and community leaders, many labor unions (including CA Faculty Assoc, CA Federation of Teachers, CA School Employees Assoc, CA Teachers Assoc, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees), Equality CA, HONOR PAC, multiple Dem clubs and community organizations
 - o Financial support: info not available
 - o Interview by LA Blade <https://www.losangelesblade.com/2026/05/10/meet-john-erickson-candidate-for-california-state-senate-district-24/>
 - o Observations: very comfortable with public speaking, engaging and passionate about his experiences and activism, focused on dealing directly with constituents and stakeholders to solve problems. Doesn't seem to have yet developed viable plans regarding how to pay for the policies he supports.

- Ellen Evans
 - o <https://www.ellen4senate.com>
 - o Civil rights advocate and neighborhood leader. Board member of Equality CA Institute. Co-founded the Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assoc. Serves as VP of her local Neighborhood Council
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#) Notables include Equality CA, CA Dem Legislative Women's Caucus, Moms Demand Action Candidate Distinction, Dems for Israel LA, HONOR PAC, multiple local electeds and community leaders
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$243.9K** raised through April 18
 - Top 7 donors gave \$5.9K – \$11.8K: Michael Powell, Sarah Kilpatrick, CA Jewish PAC, Carla Kimball, Kelly Kimball, Paul Watford, Women in Power PAC
 - 468 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Interview by CityWatchLA <https://www.citywatchla.com/neighborhood-politics/32619-the-ellen-evans-interview-detail-driven-in-a-crowded-24th-senate-race>
 - o Observations: not the same caliber as the main contenders in this race. Not comfortable with public speaking. Seems like a good neighborhood representative, but not ready for a role of this size in state government.

- Eric Alegria
 - o <https://www.ericalegria.com>
 - o Small business owner, current member of Palos Verdes Board of Education, COO of Wellness Equity Alliance. Former Rancho Palos Verdes City Council Member and Mayor, instructor at USC and formerly at El Camino college.
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#) Notables include former Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Paul Seo, Palos Verdes Board of Education Member Ami Gandhi and President Linda Kurt, former Palos Verdes Board of Education member Rick Phillips, multiple local electeds and community leaders, 2 unions, CA Cities for Local Control
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$154.2K** raised through April 18
 - Top 7 donors gave \$5K - \$11.8K: Patricia Alegria, Steven Alegria, Jack Peterson, Long Point Development LLC (Terranea Resort), Roger Lin, Paul Seo (sat on Rancho Palos Verdes City Council with Alegria and is currently running for District 66 Assembly), Brian Alegria
 - 273 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Interview by Beverly Press <https://beverlypress.com/2026/04/alegria-hopes-to-take-track-record-to-sacramento/>
 - o Observations: not the same caliber as the main contenders in this race. Has fueled disappointment and feelings of betrayal in Palos Verdes by many parents who worked hard to support him in his race for the PV Board of Education, then just barely 4 months into his 4-year term he surprisingly decided to run for State Senate. Left many in the community feeling that he only used his election as a stepping stone to his next role in government, as opposed to being the dedicated advocate we thought we'd elected.

- Amaris Dordar
 - o <https://amarisdordaresqforsenate.la>
 - o Lawyer and ethicist
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: info not available
 - o Interview by OC Register <https://www.ocregister.com/2026/05/05/amaris-dordar-sd-24-candidate-2026-primary-election-questionnaire/>
 - o Observations: has only attended one candidate forum that I'm aware of. Not a comfortable presenter, was embarrassingly called out for answering questions after obviously getting the answers live from AI on her phone and awkwardly reading them verbatim.

- Zennon Ulyate-Crow
 - o <https://www.zennonforsenate.com>
 - o Founded the Student HOMES Coalition, the leading national student housing non-profit. Was Assistant to the Progressive and Grassroots Engagement Director for the Biden for President Campaign. Executive Director People First CA. Executive Director for Abundance Network Santa Monica.
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: info not available
 - o Interview by Beverly Press <https://beverlypress.com/2026/05/23-year-old-ulyate-crow-brings-fresh-eyes-to-district-24-race/>
 - o Observations: young and passionate with great stage presence and a commanding voice. Not ready for this role, but definitely someone to watch in the future.

RECOMMENDATION: I would normally more seriously consider a candidate endorsed by the Dem party, but I haven't yet felt convinced about Roy. I'm still considering, and may vote for Goldsmith.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 66

During each election season, delegates from Dem clubs and organizations vote on whether to endorse candidates at the state party endorsement conference. 3 of the 4 Assembly candidates urged their supporters to vote against an endorsement, allowing the voters to decide whom to elect in the primary without influence from the party. Paul Seo did not join in this effort. The plan succeeded, no candidate received the required number of votes to achieve endorsement, so there's no Dem party endorsement in this race.

- Sara Deen
 - o <https://www.saradeenforca.com>
 - o President of Palos Verdes Board of Education, Board Member SoCal Regional Occupational Center, Advisory Board Member New Ground Muslim Jewish Partnership for Change, serves on the Advisory Board of the Gardena High School Global Business Magnet Program, former President of the South Coast Interfaith Council, small business owner, family dentist, taught at UCLA's Advanced Dentistry program
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include: Indivisible South Bay LA, CA Teachers Assoc, CA Dental Assoc, CA Nurses Assoc, National Union of Healthcare Workers, CA School Employees Assoc, CA Faculty Assoc, LA College Faculty Guild Local 1521, CA YIMBY, South Bay Forward, Moms Demand Action, CA Bike Assoc, CA Medical Assoc
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$554.8K** raised through April 18
 - Self-funded \$100K
 - Top 23 donors gave \$5.9 - \$11.8K: CA Fed of Teachers, CA Nurses Assoc PAC, CA Teachers Assoc for Better Citizenship, CA Dental Assoc PAC, Door to Door Valet Cleaners, 18 individuals (see above link for list of names)
 - 595 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Observations: I have observed Deen more than the other candidates over the years due to her position on the school board, and her recent appearances at multiple forums and meetings are consistent with her past behavior. She is a strong and passionate communicator, and an articulate and collaborative member of the school board. She becomes deeply involved in and educates herself on issues, listening to and working with all stakeholders in order to reach resolution. She has been exceptionally even-handed and composed in dealing with extremist and MAGA members of the community, which is impressive in these times.
 - o Of note: Just last week a Political Action Committee (PAC) opened up opposing Deen. She is the only candidate in this race who is having money spent against her, which seems to indicate that they're fearful she'll win. They've raised \$542K to oppose her. The name of the PAC is "Deen for Assembly 2026; Advocates for Safe Schools, Affordable Housing and Health Care and Jobs, Opposing Sara." See the link [here](#) to the public information they're required to share (another \$50K in funds do not yet show as received on that link, but they show as spent by Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers on their page [here](#)).

These PACS try to create benign names to hide who is really funding them. Other PACs that are hiding their identities are also donors to the original anti-Deen PAC. I've done all the mind-numbing research down the rabbit hole (which is all available through the Secretary of State's website, if you care to dig), but the bottom line is this: this PAC is funded by these entities:

- Google
- CA Charter Schools Association Advocates
- Personal Insurance Federation of CA Agents & Employees
- Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America
- Edison International
- PG&E
- CA Apartment Association
- Davita Inc. (a kidney dialysis healthcare provider)
- CA Assoc of Hospitals and Health Systems

- Prologis (a real estate, commercial & warehouse property management company)

I always follow the money. Why would Big Tech, Big Energy, Big Pharma, Real Estate, Insurance and Big Healthcare want to oppose Sara? Perhaps they fear her policies.

Interestingly, just today the CA Apartment Association funded a media buy and mailers for Paul Seo in the amount of \$240K. (see [here](#)) They previously gave \$350K to JOBSPAC, which then gave \$218K to the anti-Deen PAC. It looks like this outside group is supporting Seo while funding attacks on Deen. Why are Seo's supporter PACs not campaigning for him in a positive way instead of tearing down his opponent? I find this incredibly distasteful.

- Paul Seo
 - o <https://www.paulseo.com>
 - o Mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes, former Army Officer, former Deputy District Attorney for LA County, current Deputy Attorney General in the Special Prosecutions Section of the CA Dept of Justice
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include: Sen Adam Schiff, Sen Andy Kim, Congresspeople Judy Chu and Dave Min, CA Treasurer Fiona Ma, CA Attorney General Rob Bonta, multiple state and local electeds, Palos Verdes Board of Education Member Eric Alegria, multiple community leaders, several Dem clubs, many labor unions and various organizations (including Service Employees International Union, Teamsters Joint Council 42, CA Assoc of Highway Patrolmen, Assoc for LA Deputy Sheriffs, LA Police Protective League, Laborers International Union of North America Local 1309)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$695.1K** raised through April 18
 - Self-funded \$13.7K, plus an additional loan of \$1K
 - Top 14 donors gave \$11.8K - \$14.3K: CA State council of Service Employees Political Committee, Dignity CA Service Employees International Union Local 2015, PPI America Inc (appears to be involved in PVC piping industry), Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers West PAC, 10 individuals (see above link for list of names)
 - 689 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Observations: Though he has an impressive background, Seo only attended the Dem party pre-endorsement meeting, and no public forums that I'm aware of or that I attended, so I haven't observed him much. I attended a small community coffee with him, and he was directly asked about taking donations from AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee). AIPAC donations have become a political flashpoint because of the group's strong pro-Israel lobbying efforts that have reached into both political parties, which is especially controversial at this time. When directly asked if he were taking any AIPAC donations, Seo said this local election would not be on the radar for AIPAC because it was too small. When pushed further to ask if he would commit to not taking AIPAC funds in the future, he deflected and said he couldn't make any promises about future funding issues, and changed the subject. I found this concerning as the backlash against taking these funds has grown very large. See my comments above regarding Seo's negative attacks on Deen through an outside PAC.

- Scott Houston
 - o <https://scotthouston.org>
 - o Member of the Board of Directors for the West Basin Municipal Water District, serves on the Board of Directors of the LA County Business Federation, appointed by LA Supervisor Holly Mitchell to serve on the LA County Commission for Older Adults,
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Congresspeople Luz Rivas and Mark Takano, many state and local electeds, multiple unions and organizations (including CA Statewide Law Enforcement Assoc, United Nurses Assoc of CA/Union of Health Care Professionals, Equality CA, CA Environmental Voters, Redondo Beach Police Officers Assoc, CA Jewish Dems, Stonewall Dems, CA Legislative LGBTQ Caucus)
 - o Financial support: see full list [here](#)
 - **\$373.5K** raised through April 18
 - Top 5 donors gave \$8.4K - \$11.8K: American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees 1902 PAC Californians for Clean & Reliable Water, American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees AFL-CIO Federal, Peace Officers Research Assoc of CA, CA Real Estate PAC, SoCal Pipe Trades District Council #16 PAC
 - Received \$126K in expenditures from an outside group ([here](#)) that's funded by fossil fuel and tobacco companies, plus funders of the PAC against Sara Deen.
 - 631 unique contributors per Ballotpedia
 - o Observations: only attended the Dem party pre-endorsement meeting and one public forum. Seemed knowledgeable, do not have any particular impressions of him.

- Shannon Ruiz-Ross
 - o <https://www.shannonrossforassembly.com>
 - o Member of the LA County Beach Commission, President of the local Park Advisory Board, formerly a casual longshoreman. Her website implies that she serves on the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, yet the organization's website shows that she isn't currently a member (info [here](#)).
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, multiple state and local electeds, CA Faculty Assoc, several locals of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union
 - o Financial support: no info available
 - Although Ross has yet to file the required financial disclosures, she has received independent expenditures of \$568K from a PAC funded by Marathon Petroleum, Valero Services Inc, and CA Resources Corp (a major oil and gas production company). See link [here](#) and [here](#). These expenditures paid for her mailers, research and TV/media buys. These funders also contributed to the anti-Deen PAC.
 - o Observations: she only attended the pre-endorsement meeting for the Dem party, so no chance to form any opinion of her from any public forums. Her mailers tout her protection of our beaches and coastline, yet she's funded by fossil fuel companies?

RECOMMENDATION: Deen

COUNTY OFFICES

LA COUNTY ASSESSOR

LAist overview of the race <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-la-county-assessor>

LA Times Overview of the race. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-01/2026-california-election-los-angeles-county-assessor-voter-guide>

- Jeffrey Prang
 - o <https://jeffreyprang.com>
 - o Incumbent since 2014
 - o Endorsements: see very long list [here](#). Notables include Sen Adam Schiff, Congresspeople Judy Chu and Laura Friedman, many state senators and assemblymembers, 4 LA County Supervisors, LA Sheriff Robert Luna, Mayor Karen Bass, long list of local electeds, long list of unions, organizations and Dem clubs (including HONOR PAC, LA County Firefighters Local, Stonewall Dems, LA County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, Women Leading Change Dem Club), multiple local news outlets
 - o Financial support: **\$391.4K** raised through May 7
- Stephen Adamus
 - o <https://adamusforla.com>
 - o Attorney with the Assessor's Office for 14 years.
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no info available
- Rob Newland
 - o <https://www.newland4assessor.com>
 - o Real estate appraiser and housing economist
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no info available
- Sandy Sun
 - o No website
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no info available
- Steven Palty
 - o No website
 - o Accountant
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: no info available

RECOMMENDATION: Prang

LA COUNTY SHERIFF

LAist overview of the race <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-los-angeles-county-sheriff>

Financial information could only be found in the LAist overview above.

- Robert Luna
 - o <https://www.lunaforsheriff.com>
 - o Incumbent since 2022, previously 36 years in Long Beach Police Dept, last 7 as Chief of Police
 - o Endorsements: see list [here](#). Notables include LA Dem Party, Planned Parenthood LA County Action Fund, Sen Alex Padilla, Congresspeople Judy Chu, Robert Garcia, George Whitesides; numerous state senators and assemblymembers, all 5 LA County Supervisors, LA County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, Mayor Karen Bass, many local electeds and community leaders, numerous Dem clubs, numerous unions (like LA Police Protective League, LA County Federation of Labor, multiple International Longshore and Warehouse Union locals, LA County Firefighters IAFF Local I1014, Teamsters Joint Council 42, 2 Service Employees International Union Locals
 - o Financial support: **\$978.3K** raised through May 7
- Alex Villanueva
 - o <https://alexvillanueva2026.com>
 - o Former Sheriff with 36 years in the LA County Sheriff's Dept. Was extremely controversial, placed on a "do not hire" list following findings by the County Equity Oversight Panel that he violated policies regarding discrimination and harassment during his term. Clashed regularly with the Board of Supervisors, called vaccine mandates unconstitutional, opened investigations into his critics, including an LA Times reporter who covered the Sheriff's Dept. Extremist right-winger.
 - o Endorsements: LA County Republican Party, multiple Republican electeds and Police Officer Associations.
 - o Financial support: **\$202.4K** raised since May 7
- Mike Bornman
 - o <https://captainmikebornman.com>
 - o 36 years in the Sheriff's Dept.
 - o Endorsements: multiple law enforcement personnel and officials, one hypnotherapist (!)
 - o Financial support: **\$93K** raised through May 7
- Eric Strong
 - o <https://www.strong4sheriff.com>
 - o Spent 30 years in law enforcement, with the Compton Police Dept, then the Pasadena Police Dept, and finally the Sheriff's Dept. In 2023 was loaned to LA County Probation as the department's chief safety and security officer. Retired in 2025. Previous work included Internal Affairs, SWAT, community engagement, and as a patrol unit commander.
 - o Endorsements: musician Stevie Wonder, Progressive Dem Club, Bunkhouse Behavioral Health
 - o Financial support: **\$72.8K** raised through May 7

- Andre White
 - o <https://andrewwhite4sheriff.com>
 - o Gang Detective with Operation Safe Streets. 11 years in the Sheriff's Office, prior 6 years as an EMT.
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: **\$53.9K** raised through May 7

- Brendan Corbett
 - o <https://www.corbettforsheriff.com>
 - o 39 years in the Sheriff's Dept serving in patrol, SWAT operations and as assistant sheriff overseeing custody
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: **\$53.5K** raised through May 7

- Oscar Martinez
 - o <https://oscar4sheriff.com>
 - o Current Watch Commander at the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. As a deputy, has served in Custody Operations, on patrol, in Professional Standards, in the Public Information Office and as a chief's executive aide
 - o Endorsements: CA Republican Assembly, CA Republican Veterans Assoc
 - o Financial support: **\$14.9K** raised through May 7

- Karla Carranza
 - o <https://www.carranza4sheriff.com>
 - o A Sergeant, has 21 years in the Sheriff's Dept
 - o Endorsements: none
 - o Financial support: **\$1.5K** raised through May 7

RECOMMENDATION: Luna

JUDICIAL RACES

Judiciary-specific Resources:

LA County Bar Association ratings are listed by each candidate's name. It's hard to find judicial info. Judges shouldn't be announcing their party affiliation, but some of them do, and some of them can be inferred from their supporters. Here are some good resources that can give helpful info:

- Candidate websites
- LA County Bar Association ratings <https://lacba.org/?pg=lacba-news&blAction=showEntry&blogEntry=144319>
- LA Times Superior Court Voter Guide <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-01/2026-california-election-los-angeles-county-superior-court-judge-voter-guide>
- LA Sentinel <https://lasentinel.net/l-a-sentinel-2026-endorsement-slate.html>
- LAist Voter Guide <https://laist.com/news/politics/voter-guides/2026-election-california-primary-la-county-judges>
- Courthouse News Service <https://www.courthousenews.com>
- **Metropolitan News-Enterprise, an LA daily legal newspaper (www.metnews.com). This site has some interesting articles about the candidates, requires a bit of searching. Most candidate info is in the "Viewpoint" link at the top, see "Recent Opinion Pieces." More in-depth information here than most other places. Leans right.**
- Judge Voter Guide, an extremist right-wing site - vote against whomever they endorse! This site seems not to have been updated since 2024, so no info here as of this writing <https://judgevoterguide.com>
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide (very lefty - <https://www.laprogressive.com/election-and-campaigns/los-angeles-progressive-voter-guide>)
- The Robing Room, like a Yelp for judges – take a big grain of salt with this site, as with any Yelp review www.therobingroom.com
 - o LA County specific list of all reviews of all judges: <https://www.therobingroom.com/state/CA/county/153/judges>
- Court Watch Los Angeles <https://courtwatchla.org>

LA County Superior Court Judges

Office #2

Tal Valbuena (Qualified)

Robert S. Draper (Not Qualified)

- Met News: Draper (see analysis [here](#))
- LA County Dems: Valbuena
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Valbuena
- LA Times article: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-04-29/los-angeles-judicial-candidates-2026-election>

Valbuena endorsements: MANY Dem clubs (West Hollywood/Beverly Hills, LA County, Stonewall, Torrance, Culver City, Santa Monica, Avance Dems, East Area Progressive Dems), HONOR PAC

- <https://www.talforjudge.com>

Draper endorsements: former LA DA Stever Cooley, 4 current judges

- <https://judgerobertdraper.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Valbuena is the only choice, Draper is Not Qualified

Office #14

Irene Lee (Well Qualified)

Angie Christides (Qualified)

- Met News: Lee (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Lee
- LA County Dems: Lee
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Christides

Lee endorsements: LA Sentinel, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of LA County, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, LA City Attorneys Association, Mexican American Bar Association, I-Chinese American PAC, National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association, Western States Carpenters, many Dem clubs, MANY judges, elected officials, attorneys and prosecutors.

- <https://www.ireneleeforjudge.com>

Christides endorsements: multiple Dem clubs, HONOR PAC, many judges, lawyers, prosecutors, law enforcement professionals

- <https://www.angie4judge2026.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Lee

Office #39

Binh Dang – no opponent

Office #60

Ann Maurer – no opponent

Office #64

Maria Ghobadi (Well Qualified)

Rhonda Haymon (Qualified)

Francisco Amador (Not Qualified)

- Met News: Ghobadi (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club : Ghobadi
- LA Sentinel: Haymon
- LA County Dems: Ghobadi
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Haymon

Ghobadi endorsements: many Dem clubs, many unions, National Women's Political Caucus, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, Crime Survivors PAC, LA Association of Deputy District Attorneys, AFSCME LA County Deputy Probation Officers' Union, many judges, attorneys, elected officials.

- <https://mariaghobadi4judge.com>

Haymon endorsements: several elected officials, Western States Carpenters, several Dem clubs, several educators

- <https://www.rhondahaymon4judge.com/meetrhonda>

Amador endorsements: none

- <https://amadorforjudge.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Ghobadi

Office #65

Justin Clayton (Qualified)

Anna Slotky Reitano (Qualified)

Samuel Krause (Qualified)

Chellei Jimenez (Qualified)

- Met News: Jimenez (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Reitano
- LA County Dems: Clayton
- LA Sentinel: Clayton
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Clayton

Clayton endorsements: Culver City Dems, Avance LA Dem Club, La Defensa, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 11, multiple judges, multiple elected officials and attorneys

- <https://claytonforjudge2026.com>

Reitano endorsements: National Women's Political Caucus, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, multiple Dem clubs, multiple judges, legal professionals, elected officials and community leaders

- <https://www.reitanoforjudge.com>

Jimenez endorsements: National Women's Political Caucus, Western States Carpenters, Mexican American Bar Association, Blessed Foundation, 4 Dem clubs, 2 judges, 1 former mayor of Lancaster

- <https://www.chelleiforjudge.com>

Krause endorsements: none

- <https://samuelkrause4judge.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Clayton

Office #66

Ben Forer (Well Qualified)

Cheryl Turner (Qualified)

- Met News: Forer (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Forer
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Turner

Forer endorsements: Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, Crime Survivors PAC, HONOR PAC, La Defensa, Mexican American Bar Association, Peace Officers Research Association of California, multiple Dem clubs, many judges, prosecutors, and attorneys, multiple community and academic leaders

- <https://benforer4judge.com>

Turner endorsements:

- No website

RECOMMENDATION: Forer

Office #81

David B. Walgren (Exceptionally Well Qualified)

Daniel Kapelovitz (Qualified)

- Met News: Walgren (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Walgren
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Walgren

Walgren endorsements: MANY judges and elected officials, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, Crime Survivors PAC, Association of Deputy District Attorneys, LA City Attorneys Association, Long Beach Police Officers Association, Western States Carpenters, LA Police Protective League, Mexican American Bar Association, multiple Dem clubs

- <https://www.walgrenforjudge.com>

Kapelovitz endorsements: only endorsement is from his own law firm, the Radical Law Center

- <https://radicallawcenter.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Walgren

Office #87

David DeJute (Qualified)

Anthony Bayne (Well Qualified)

Sharee Gordon (Qualified)

- Met News: Bayne (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: DeJute
- LA County Dems: DeJute
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - DeJute

DeJute endorsements: The LA Sentinel, HONOR PAC, Western States Carpenters, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, Dems for the Protection of Animals, Mexican American Bar Association, multiple Dem clubs, former mayor of LA James Hahn, several judges, several law firm partners and legal professionals, billionaire real estate developer and former long-time Republican Rick Caruso

- <https://www.dejuteforjudge.com>

Bayne endorsements: International Longshore & Warehouse Union SoCal District Council, Peace Officers Research Association of CA, many judges, district attorneys, public defenders, several elected leaders and law enforcement professionals

- <https://electbayneforjudge.com>

Gordon endorsements: LA City Attorneys Association, multiple judges, attorneys, educators,

- <https://www.shareesandersgordon.com>

RECOMMENDATION: DeJute

Office #116

Paul Thompson (Qualified)

Patrick Connolly (Well Qualified)

- Met News: Connolly (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Thompson
- LA County Dems: Thompson
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Thompson
- LA Times article: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-04-29/los-angeles-judicial-candidates-2026-election>

Thompson endorsements: The LA Sentinel, MANY Dem clubs, several unions, I-Chinese American Political Action Committee, La Defensa

- <https://www.votepaulthompson4judge.com>

Connolly endorsements: LA Police Protective League, Long Beach Police Officers Association, Western States Carpenters, CA Alcoholic Beverage Control Agents, multiple unions, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, MANY judges and attorneys, multiple elected officials

- <https://www.reelectjudgepatconnolly.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Thompson

Office #131

David Ross (Qualified)

Donna Tryfman (Qualified)

Troy Slaten (Qualified)

Carlos Dammeier (Qualified)

- Met News: Tryfman (see analysis [here](#), commentary on Ross [here](#), other commentary on Ross and Slaten [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Tryfman
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide – Tryfman or Ross

Ross endorsements: multiple unions, multiple Dem clubs, several elected officials, many judges and attorneys

- <https://davidrossforjudge2026.com>

Tryfman endorsements: MANY judges and legal professionals, multiple elected officials, various community leaders, Crime Survivors PAC, Citizens for Accountable Leadership, Western States Carpenters, Dems for the Protection of Animals

- <https://www.tryfmanforjudge2026.com>

Slaten endorsements: no endorsements, but look at his website to see his very unusual resume beginning as a child actor

- <https://troyslatenforjudge.com>

Dammeier endorsements: none

- <https://dammeier4judge.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Tryfman

Office #141

Mariela Torres – no opponent

Office #176

Zachary Smith (Qualified)

Gloria Marin (Well Qualified)

- Met News: Marin (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Smith
- LA County Dems: Smith
- CA Dems: Smith
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Smith

Smith endorsements: The LA Sentinel, multiple Dem clubs, Mexican American Bar Association, multiple judges and many legal professionals

- <https://zach4judge.com>

Marin endorsements: National Women's Political Caucus, Crime Survivors PAC, HONOR PAC, Association of Deputy District Attorneys, National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association, several Dem clubs, 2 unions, numerous judges and attorneys, several former elected officials

- <https://www.gloriamarinforjudge.com>

RECOMMENDATION: Smith

Office #181

Ryan Dibble (Well Qualified)

Thanayi Lindsey (Not Qualified)

- Met News: Dibble (see analysis [here](#))
- Stonewall Dem Club: Dibble
- LA County Dems: Dibble
- Knock LA Progressive Voter Guide - Dibble

Dibble endorsements: many judges, multiple elected officials, LA Sentinel, Mexican American Bar Association, HONOR PAC, multiple Dem clubs, Crime Survivors PAC, Western States Carpenters, Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Citizens for Accountable Leadership

- <https://www.dibbleforjudge.com>

Lindsey endorsements: several judges and attorney, various community members

- <https://www.electjudgelindseyforlasuperiorcourt.org/about.html>

RECOMMENDATION: Dibble

Office #196

Candice Henry – no opponent

LA COUNTY MEASURE ER – ESSENTIAL SERVICES RESTORATION ACT FOR LA COUNTY GENERAL SALES TAX MEASURE

Shall the measure to help our community address severe federal cuts enacted by the President and Congress; reduce the loss of essential services, including healthcare for County residents; reduce the risk of closing the County's four public hospitals and numerous clinics, and significant healthcare provider layoffs and other service cuts by enacting a 1/2 percent (0.5%) general sales tax for 5 years, generating approximately \$1 billion annually, with independent audits, be adopted?

Would increase the sales tax from 9.75% to 10.25% for five years to provide funding for local health departments and services.

- Ballotpedia:
[https://ballotpedia.org/Los_Angeles_County,_California,_Measure_ER,_Sales_Tax_Increase_for_Health_Services_Measure_\(June_2026\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Los_Angeles_County,_California,_Measure_ER,_Sales_Tax_Increase_for_Health_Services_Measure_(June_2026))
 - o **Money raised in support \$4,450,000**
 - Largest donors: St. John's Community Health (at least \$4 million), California Community Foundation (\$200K), Service Employees International Union Local 721 (\$200K), LA County Medical Association Political Action committee (\$50K)
 - o **Money raised in opposition**
 - Unreported as of this writing
- MLK Community Healthcare: <https://www.mlkch.org/MeasureER>
- YES on ER LA: <https://www.yesoner.la/>
- Measure ER Fact Sheet, from Chief Executive Office, County of LA:
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1202661_EssentialServicesRestorationActforLosAngelesCountyGeneralSalesTaxMeasureFAQ_FINAL.pdf
- CalMatters: <https://calmatters.org/health/2026/01/la-sales-tax-medical-ballot/>
- LA Times article: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-01/2026-california-election-los-angeles-county-measure-er-healthcare-sales-tax-voter-guide>

Supporters:

- Louise McCarthy, President and CEO of the Community Clinic Association of LA County
- Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Hilda Solis, Lindsey Horvath, Janice Hahn
- LA County Dems
- Lindsay Horvath, LA County Supervisor
- LA County Medical Association
- St. John's Community Health
- Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project
- LONG list of supporters <https://www.yesoner.la/endorsements>

Opponents:

- Supervisor Kathryn Barger
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

RECOMMENDATION: YES