



California General Election Guide

November 3, 2026

Statewide offices, Board of Equalization, all 20 State Senate and 80 State Assembly races, and 14 ballot propositions

Key dates

Date	What happens
October 5	Counties begin mailing ballots to every registered voter. Vote centers and drop boxes open on a rolling basis.
October 19	Last day to register online or by mail. After this date you can still register and vote in person the same day (conditional registration) at any vote center or county elections office.
November 3	Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mail ballots must be postmarked by this date and received within seven days.
December 11	Deadline for the Secretary of State to certify results.

Endorsement labels used in this guide

- **Dem Party:** California Democratic Party general election endorsements, ratified August 2, 2026. "No consensus" means the party did not endorse in a race between two Democrats.
- **CAGOP:** California Republican Party, the official state party. Shown where CalMatters reported the endorsement; the full list is at cagop.org/cagop-endorsements-2026.
- **CRA:** California Republican Assembly, a conservative volunteer organization (not the state party). Its general election list was published July 3, 2026 and updated August 22.
- **CalMatters rating:** Competitive, Leans Democratic, or Safe Democratic, as assigned in the CalMatters 2026 Voter Guide for the races it tracks. Races without a rating were not singled out by CalMatters.

Statewide races at a glance

Office	Candidate	Candidate	Notes
Governor	Xavier Becerra (D)	Steve Hilton (R)	Open seat. Newsom is term-limited.
Lieutenant Governor	Fiona Ma (D)	Gloria Romero (R)	Open seat. Kounalakis is term-limited.
Secretary of State	Shirley N. Weber (D, incumbent)	Donald P. (Don) Wagner (R)	
Controller	Malia M. Cohen (D, incumbent)	Herb W. Morgan (R)	
Treasurer	Eleni Kounalakis (D)	Jennifer Hawks (R)	Open seat. Ma is term-limited.
Attorney General	Rob Bonta (D, incumbent)	Michael E. Gates (R)	
Insurance Commissioner	Ben Allen (D)	Jane Kim (D)	Open seat. Two Democrats.
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Richard Barrera (nonpartisan)	Sonja Shaw (nonpartisan)	Open seat. Office is nonpartisan.
Board of Equalization, District 1	Nelson Esparza (D)	Shannon Grove (R)	Open seat.
Board of Equalization, District 2	Sally J. Lieber (D, incumbent)	John Pimentel (D)	Two Democrats.
Board of Equalization, District 3	Mike Gipson (D)	Samuel P. Sukaton (D)	Open seat. Two Democrats.
Board of Equalization, District 4	Tom Umberg (D)	Denis Bilodeau (R)	Open seat.

Governor

The office: California's chief executive proposes and signs a budget of roughly \$300 billion, signs or vetoes every bill, appoints judges and agency heads, and leads disaster response. Gov. Gavin Newsom is term-limited and stayed neutral in the race to succeed him. Republicans last won the office in 2006.

Primary context: Becerra and Hilton emerged from a 61-candidate field. Billionaire Tom Steyer spent more than \$215 million of his own money and did not advance. Polling through the summer showed Becerra with a wide lead.

Xavier Becerra (Democratic)

Ballot designation: Voting Rights Attorney

Background: Becerra served as the Biden Administration's Secretary of the US Health and Human Services Department from 2021 to 2025. Born in Sacramento, he attended Stanford, earning his bachelor's in economics in 1980 and his JD in 1984. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1985. He worked as an aide to State Senator Art Torres in 1986 and as a Deputy Attorney General with the CA Department of Justice from 1987 to 1990. He was elected to the Assembly in 1990 and served one term, then successfully ran for retiring Congressman Edward Roybal's seat in 1992. He unsuccessfully ran for L.A. Mayor in 2001, winning 6% of the vote in the primary. He continued to win re-election in Congress, serving in the Democratic House leadership until resigning in 2017 to accept an appointment by Gov. Jerry Brown to be California Attorney General following Kamala Harris' election to the US Senate. He won election to a full term in 2018, serving until his 50-49 confirmation by the US Senate as HHS Secretary in 2021. He returned to Sacramento in 2025.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, Equality California, California Faculty Association (dual endorsement).

Campaign finance: Raised at least \$33 million overall and ended June with about \$6.2 million in the bank. Since July 1 he has raised roughly \$6 million in donations of \$1,000 or more, including at least 17 maximum \$39,200 checks in the first half of August alone. Major backers include Meta (about \$1.2 million to supporting groups), health care interests, labor unions and tribes.

Steve Hilton (Republican)

Ballot designation: Small Business Owner

Background: Hilton was born in Great Britain to parents who emigrated from Hungary in 1956. He earned his bachelor's in political science from Oxford in 1990. He worked for the Conservative Central Office, where he met future Prime Minister David Cameron while he was a campaign coordinator for John Major during the 1992 campaign. He worked for the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency and on political campaigns for Boris Yeltsin and political parties in Poland and Ireland in the mid 1990s. He founded Good Business, a social marketing agency, in 1997. He was edged out for selection for Surrey Heath's safe Tory parliamentary seat in 2005, then helped engineer Cameron's Conservative Party leadership campaign later that year. Following Cameron's ascent to PM, Hilton served as his strategy director from 2010 to 2012. He departed for an academic sabbatical at Stanford amid internecine clashes inside Number Ten. He co-founded CrowdPAC in 2016. After penning an editorial endorsing Donald Trump for Fox News in 2016, he became a fixture on the network with the 2017 launch of The Next Revolution, an hour-long program hosted by Hilton that aired from June 2017 until May 2023 as he began gearing up for his gubernatorial run and devoting more time to Golden Together, his California-centric policy organization. A US Citizen since 2021, he resides in Atherton with his wife, Rachel Whetstone, who was chief communications officer for Netflix until 2024.

Endorsements: President Donald Trump, California Republican Assembly, Nisei Farmers League, Israeli-American Civic Action Network.

Campaign finance: In total, Hilton has raised about \$21.2 million through the June primary. Ended June with about \$2.1 million on hand. Since July 1 he has raised about \$3.6 million in donations of \$1,000 or more, though he outraised Becerra in donations under \$1,000 during the first half of 2026. His largest August donors include the owners of a Fresno gas station company that is also the state GOP's biggest 2026 donor.

Record: No prior elected office.

Where they stand

Issue	Becerra (D)	Hilton (R)
Cost of living	Proposes to declare a state of emergency to freeze utility and insurance rates; crack down on price gouging.	Promises dramatic relief, including cutting gas prices to \$3 a gallon, slashing utility bills, and abolishing the DMV while capping vehicle registration fees at \$73. He blames heavy bureaucracy and climate regulations for high prices.
Taxes	Supports progressive income tax and Prop 3 (extending high-earner rates). Opposes Prop 40. Has not ruled out tax increases; would tax corporations whose low-paid workers qualify for public health coverage.	Eliminate state income tax on the first \$150,000 of earnings and flatten the rate above that. Cut the gas tax in half. Opposes Prop 40.
Housing	Emergency declaration to finance 40,000 already-approved affordable units; push cities to zone for apartments and condos; expand down payment assistance; limit bulk corporate home purchases.	Focuses on building single-family starter homes (around 1,000 square feet) rather than dense urban apartments, and proposes reforming the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to curb development lawsuits.
Homelessness	Ongoing state funding for rental assistance and preventative services; public dashboard tracking state-funded units. Says people should not refuse shelter but stops short of arrests.	Police should clear all encampments; fund sober housing rather than only low-barrier shelters; overhaul homelessness spending.
Climate and energy	Supports traditional California climate goals and aggressive transitions toward clean energy, though he promises to tackle unjustified utility spikes.	Roll back climate mandates; end requirements to buy solar and wind power; allow more natural gas production; advocates for expanding in-state oil drilling and refinery processing.
Trump administration	Would take the same adversarial stance he took as attorney general on immigration and environment.	Endorsed by Trump; expects a cooperative relationship that brings more federal help.
Public safety	Voted for Prop 36 (2024) and would fully fund it, including court-ordered drug treatment. Leaves sentencing to judges. Supports the sanctuary law.	Runs heavily on restoring law and order, stopping retail theft, and dismantling soft-on-crime policies he associates with the Sacramento establishment.
Health care	Former single-payer supporter, now favors expanding coverage broadly; cut insurer administrative spending; require more telehealth coverage; workforce recruitment fund.	End Medi-Cal for undocumented immigrants and redirect the money; more insurer competition; limit provider consolidation.
Tech and AI	Favors expanding state regulations and safety protections surrounding artificial intelligence, and supports exploring a direct government-purchased stake in AI enterprises.	Criticizes current regulatory approaches as both over- and under-reaching, favoring a streamlined business climate that encourages tech innovation without heavy state micromanagement.

Issue	Becerra (D)	Hilton (R)
Education	No major proposals released.	Phonics instruction; hold back third graders not reading at grade level; easier teacher dismissal; charter conversions; public funds for private school in underperforming districts; opposes the transgender athlete law.

Lieutenant Governor

The office: First in line of succession and acting governor when the governor is out of state. Presides over the Senate with a tie-breaking vote and sits on the UC Board of Regents, CSU Board of Trustees, State Lands Commission and Ocean Protection Council. Incumbent Eleni Kounalakis is term-limited and running for treasurer.

Fiona Ma (Democratic)

Ballot designation: State Treasurer/CPA

Background: Ma began her career as a Tax Associate for Ernst & Whitney in 1988, serving in that capacity until launching her own CPA practice in 1994. In 1995, she began her career in public service, serving as a district representative for then-State Senator John Burton and winning an appointment to the Assessment Appeals Board of San Francisco. In 2002, she was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, serving one term until she was elected to the State Assembly in 2006, serving three terms, including three years as Majority Whip and two years as Speaker pro Tempore, until being termed out in 2012. In 2014, she successfully ran for the newly-redrawn District 2 Board of Equalization seat, defeating Republican James Theis by a decisive 68.7%/31.3% margin. She holds a bachelor's in Accounting from Rochester Institute of Technology, a masters in Taxation from Golden Gate University, and an MBA from Pepperdine. She is married to Jason Hodge, a firefighter and President of the Oxnard Harbor Commission.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party.

Campaign finance: In total, Ma has raised \$9.8M with around \$1.6M still on hand.

Gloria Romero (Republican)

Ballot designation: Educator/Businesswoman

Background: Romero was elected to AD49 in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, serving as Majority Whip. She ran successfully for SD24 in a March 2001 special election and was elected to full terms in 2002 and 2006. Prior to that, she served on the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees from 1995 to 1998 and chaired the Los Angeles Elected Charter Reform Commission in 1997. She was Senate Majority Leader from 2004 to 2009, the first female to hold that position. She ran for Superintendent of Public Instruction in the 2010 primary, then served as director for Democrats for Education Reform. She is the founder and executive director of Scholarship Prep Charter School, a TK-8th grade charter school in Santa Ana. She studied psychology at UC-Riverside, earning her master's in 1980 and her Ph.D. in 1983. She served as a professor and lecturer at CSU-Los Angeles and at Pepperdine. In 2024, citing the Democratic Party's abandonment of working-class families and parental rights, she left the party and became a Republican.

Endorsements: California Republican Assembly.

Campaign finance: In total, Romero was able to raise \$224K with about \$51K still on hand.

Secretary of State

The office: Chief elections officer: certifies candidates and results, maintains the voter rolls, publishes the official voter guide, and runs the Cal-Access campaign finance database. Also handles business filings and the State Archives.

Shirley N. Weber (incumbent) (Democratic)

Ballot designation: California Secretary of State

Background: Weber was appointed Secretary of State by Gavin Newsom to fill the vacancy created when he appointed Alex Padilla's to the US Senate seat vacated by Kamala Harris' election as Vice President of the United States. At the time of her appointment, she had served in the Assembly since 2012. Prior to that, she served on the San Diego Board of Education and as a professor of African-American studies at San Diego State University. Born in Hope, Arkansas, to sharecroppers, she received her bachelor's master's and doctorate degrees in speech communications from UCLA. At the age of 23, she became a professor at San Diego State University, where she helped develop the department of African Studies. In 1988, she was elected to the Board of Education of San Diego City Schools. At the time of her election to the Assembly in 2012, she was the mayor's appointee and the chair of the Citizens' Equal Opportunity Commission. Weber is the mother of two children, the eldest, Akilah, a medical doctor who won a 2021 special election for her mother's Assembly seat and currently serves in the State Senate. Her late husband, Daniel Weber, was a CA state judge.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party.

Campaign finance: Weber has raised a total of \$593K with about \$1M cash on hand still.

Donald P. (Don) Wagner (Republican)

Ballot designation: Orange County Supervisor

Background: Wagner was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in a 2019 special election following incumbent Todd Spitzer's election as Orange County District Attorney in 2018, defeating former Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez. He was re-elected to a full term in 2020, defeating Ashleigh Aitken 52.3%/47.7% in the March primary, and defeated Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan 63.5%/36.5% in 2024. He previously served as Irvine mayor, winning election in 2016 and re-election in 2018. He served in the Assembly from 2010 until reaching his term limit in 2016, and before that served on the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2010. He ran unsuccessfully for Assembly in 2004, coming in third behind Chuck Devore in the GOP primary, and lost a close 2015 special election to fellow Republican John M.W. Moorlach for the State Senate seat that was left vacant after Mimi Walters was elected to Congress. He earned his bachelor's in English from UCLA in 1983 and his JD from University of California's Hastings College of the Law in 1987. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1987 and has been inactive since 2023. The founder of the OC chapter of the Federalist Society, he and his wife, Megan, reside in Santa Ana and are the parents to three children. Wagner's 20-year-old son, Paul, died tragically in 2010.

Endorsements: California Republican Assembly.

Campaign finance: In total, Wagner has been able to raise around \$651K with about \$104K still on hand.

Controller

The office: The state's chief fiscal officer: pays the state's bills, audits state and local spending, and sits on the Board of Equalization, CalPERS and CalSTRS boards, and the Franchise Tax Board.

Malia M. Cohen (incumbent) (Democratic)

Ballot designation: State Controller/Mother

Background: Cohen was elected to the Board of Equalization in 2018, defeating Republican Mark Burns 72.8%/27.2%. At the time of her election, she was finishing her second term on the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors, first winning election in 2010. During her time on the Board, she served as chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee and vice chair of the San Francisco Transportation Authority Committee. She previously worked with Emerge, an organization training Democratic women in careers in politics, and worked as a field organizer for Gavin Newsom's first campaign for mayor. Upon Newsom's election, she worked for him and his chief of staff as a confidential secretary for two years. After leaving the mayor's office, Cohen was legislative

aide to San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, and started a social media and public policy consulting firm. She holds a bachelor's in political science from Fisk University and a master's in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University. She resides in the Portrero Hill neighborhood of San Francisco.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party.

Campaign finance: In total, Cohen has been able to raise a total of \$2.3M with around \$1.57M cash on hand.

Herb W. Morgan (Republican)

Ballot designation: Chief Investment Officer

Background: Has been with Cantor Fitzgerald since 2017 and currently serves as chief investment officer for Cantor Fitzgerald Investment Advisors. He graduated from El Camino High School in 1984 and earned his bachelor's in economics from UC-Santa Cruz in 1988. He was regional VP for J&W Seligman from 1990 to 1996, senior VP for Voya Investment Management from 1996 to 2000, senior VP at BNY Mellon from 2000 to 2003 and for Linsco Private Ledger from 2002 to 2004. He was chief investment officer for Sand Hill Global Advisors in Palo Alto from 2007 to 2010 and served as CEO and chief investment officer at Efficient Market Advisors from 2004 to 2017. He was president of the San Diego City Employees Retirement System board of administration from 2009 to 2013, served on the boards for the Theta Chi Fraternity, the Fraternity & Sorority Political Action Committee, Cristo Rey San Diego High School, and The Private Shares Fund. He resides in San Diego.

Endorsements: California Republican Assembly.

Campaign finance: In total, Morgan has raised \$694K with around \$165K cash on hand still.

Record: No prior elected office.

Treasurer

The office: The state's banker: manages a large investment portfolio, sells state bonds, and chairs financing authorities for housing, schools, health facilities and clean energy. Incumbent Fiona Ma is term-limited and running for lieutenant governor.

Eleni Kounalakis (Democratic)

Ballot designation: Lieutenant Governor of California

Background: Kounalakis was elected Lt. Governor in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. Prior to that, she served as US Ambassador to Hungary under President Obama from 2010 to 2013. A longtime Democratic activist and fundraiser, Kounalakis and her father contributed \$8.7 million to an IE backing Phil Angelides' gubernatorial campaign in 2006. The daughter of a Greek immigrant who began as a field laborer and later became one of California's largest land developers, she spent 18 years building her father's business, the AKT Development Corp, rising to the rank of president. A five-time DNC delegate, she has served as an at-large member of the California Democratic State Central Committee. She authored 'Madam Ambassador: Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties and Democracy in Budapest' in 2015. She served on the San Francisco Port Commission, chaired the California Advisory Council for International Trade and Investment, and was a senior advisor Albright Stonebridge Group. She holds a bachelor's in English from Dartmouth and an MBA from UC-Berkeley. She and her husband, journalist Markos Kounalakis, reside in San Francisco. They have two children.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party, Former Secretary Hillary Clinton, former Sen. Barbara Boxer, Reps. Mike Thompson, Laura Friedman; State Sen Melissa Hurtado; Asms Stephanie Nguyen, Juan Carillo, Jacqui Irwin, Jasmeet Bains, Blanca Rubio, Lisa Calderon, Blanca Pacheco, Mike Gipson, Avelino Valencia

Campaign finance: In total, Kounalakis has been able to raise \$9M with about \$2.1M cash on hand.

Jennifer Hawks (Republican)

Ballot designation: Retired Business Executive

Background: Hawks is a retired business executive and mother. A Silicon Valley resident since 1983, she served on community and public boards, and on the executive team at Sacred Hearts School. She resides in Los Altos.

Endorsements: California Republican Assembly.

Campaign finance: Hawks has been able to raise a total of \$94K with around \$14.9K cash on hand still.

Record: No prior elected office.

Attorney General

The office: The state's chief law officer. Runs the Department of Justice, represents California in court, enforces consumer protection, civil rights, environmental and antitrust law, and writes ballot titles and summaries for propositions.

Rob Bonta (incumbent) (Democratic)

Ballot designation: California Attorney General

Background: Bonta was appointed attorney general by Gavin Newsom following Xavier Becerra's confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in the Biden administration. At the time of his appointment, he had served in the State Assembly since 2012, the first Filipino American elected to the CA State Legislature. At the time of his election to the Assembly, he was serving his first term on the Alameda City Council, winning election in 2010, and was a deputy city attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, where he focused on fighting fraud and anti-consumer practices. Prior to that, he served as an elected member of the Alameda Health Care District Board of Directors. He received his bachelor's in history from Yale. After studying at Oxford University in England, he returned to Yale to earn his law degree. He and his wife, Mialisa, who was elected to his Assembly seat in a 2021 special election, have three children.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party.

Campaign finance: Bonta has been able to raise a total of \$8.3M with around \$6.2M cash on hand.

Michael E. Gates (Republican)

Ballot designation: Deputy United States Attorney

Background: Gates is a Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the US Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. He previously served as Huntington Beach's elected City Attorney from 2014 to 2025, aggressively litigating against mandates from Sacramento. He grew up in Huntington Beach, playing football and wrestling in high school. He earned his bachelor's in business from Pepperdine and his JD from Chapman University. He was admitted to the California Bar in 2008 and practiced general law at a local firm prior to his election. He and his wife reside in Huntington Beach.

Endorsements: California Republican Assembly, former Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero.

Campaign finance: Gates has been able to raise \$1.5M in total with around \$872K cash on hand remaining.

Insurance Commissioner

The office: Regulates the nation's largest property and casualty insurance market, approves or rejects rate changes, oversees the FAIR Plan (the insurer of last resort) and handles consumer complaints. Insurers have pulled back from California as wildfire risk has grown. Incumbent Ricardo Lara is term-limited. Both candidates are Democrats; in the June primary Kim led with about 24% to Allen's 19%.

Ben Allen (Democratic)

Ballot designation: California State Senator

Background: At the time of his election to the State Senate in 2014, was a member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education, elected in 2008, an attorney with the law firm of Richardson & Patel LLP, and a UCLA Law School lecturer. While in law school, he served as a voting member of the UC Board of Regents. Prior to his law career, he worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), and then for Rep. Jose Serrano of New York as communications director. He earned a bachelor's in history from Harvard University, a master's in Latin American studies from Cambridge University, and a JD from UC Berkeley Law School.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party, California Environmental Voters, California Professional Firefighters, Sierra Club, San Francisco Chronicle editorial board.

Campaign finance: Allen has raised a lifetime total of \$2.4M with about \$326.5K cash on hand left.

Jane Kim (Democratic)

Ballot designation: Attorney/Consumer Advocate

Background: Kim was first elected to the San Francisco *Board of Supervisors* in 2010, winning re-election in 2014. She ran unsuccessfully for State Senate in 2016, losing a close 51%/49% race to fellow Supervisor Scott Wiener, then ran unsuccessfully for San Francisco mayor in 2018. The first Korean American elected official in San Francisco, she previously mounted an unsuccessful run for the San Francisco Board of Education in 2004 as a member of the Green Party, finishing 7th in a field of 12 candidates. In 2006, she made another run and was ultimately successful. After the election of Barack Obama, Kim changed her party registration to Democratic, and in 2010 she was elected president of the San Francisco Board of Education. A strong advocate of tenants' rights, she holds bachelor's degrees in political science and Asian American Studies from Stanford, and she received her law degree from UC-Berkeley. She was admitted to the California Bar in 2009. Born in Manhattan to parents who emigrated from Seoul in 1971, she currently resides in the SoMa neighborhood.

Endorsements: SEIU California, California Teachers Association, California Faculty Association.

Campaign finance: Kim has raised a lifetime total of \$1.1M with about \$198.9K cash on hand.

Where they stand

Issue	Allen	Kim
Home insurance	Home and community-level mitigation to reduce risk and restore insurability.	Tie insurers' ability to sell auto policies in California to their willingness to write home policies.
Auto insurance	Expanding the low-cost program to everyone could hurt the low-income drivers who need it most.	Open the state's low-cost auto insurance program to every California driver.
Claims	Require real-time reporting of delays and outstanding claims after disasters; require explanations for denials; add staff and a consumer advocate.	Freeze rates when a policyholder files a claim; penalize insurers that delay; public dashboard of insurer claims records.

Issue	Allen	Kim
Climate	Hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for its role in wildfire risk.	Require insurers to disclose how premiums are invested, including fossil fuel holdings.
Development	Bring local officials, firefighters, builders and insurers together; avoid building in high-risk areas and encourage moving away from them.	The state must stop building in high-risk areas, but more areas will inevitably become high risk.
FAIR Plan	More oversight and accountability to the department.	"Natural disaster insurance for all" would shrink the need for the FAIR Plan, which still needs more accountability.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

The office: Heads the California Department of Education and serves as a statewide advocate for nearly 6 million public school students. Local districts control most budget and curriculum decisions. Under a new law, starting in 2027 a governor-appointed education commissioner will run the department and many of the superintendent's duties shift to the State Board of Education. The office is nonpartisan; no party label appears on the ballot. Incumbent Tony Thurmond is term-limited.

Richard Barrera (nonpartisan office; registered Democrat)

Ballot designation: State Superintendent Advisor

Background: Barrera has served on the San Diego Unified School Board since 2008 and is a *senior advisor* to Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. A first-generation San Diegan whose father immigrated to the US from Colombia, he graduated from El Cajon Valley High School, earned a bachelor's in history from UC-San Diego, and a master's in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He worked as a labor organizer for United Domestic Workers and United Healthcare Workers, served on the boards of the *California Immigrant Policy Center*, the San Diego Cooperative Charter School, San Diego League of Conservation Voters, and the Greater Golden Hill Community Planning Committee. He is the parent of two sons and resides in San Diego.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association, California Charter School Advocates, United Domestic Workers.

Campaign finance: Barrera has raised a lifetime total of \$637K and still has \$63.7K cash on hand.

Sonja Shaw (nonpartisan office; endorsed by Republican groups)

Ballot designation: School District President

Background: Shaw was elected to the Chino Valley USD School Board in 2022, describing herself as a “soccer mom” driven to action by COVID-19 school closures and the masking and vaccination mandates that followed. She unseated incumbent Christina Gagnier. During her time on the board, she spearheaded policies banning non-US or non-military flags in classrooms, requiring parental notification if a child identifies as transgender, and making it easier to remove books with sexually explicit content from the library shelves. She is the self-employed owner of AMP Fitness, a small women’s fitness business in Chino, and worked as a professional photographer. The mother of two children, she resides in Chino with her husband, Chris.

Endorsements: California Republican Party, California Republican Assembly, Moms for Liberty, California Rifle and Pistol Association.

Campaign finance: Shaw has raised a lifetime total of \$511K and still has about \$125K cash on hand.

Board of Equalization

The office: The nation's only elected tax board: four district members plus the controller. It sets standards for county property tax assessors, assesses property owned by utilities and railroads, administers the alcohol excise tax and insurance tax, and hears some taxpayer appeals. Four-year terms.

District	Candidate	Candidate	Endorsements and notes
1 (inland California)	Nelson Esparza (D) Teacher/Economist/Councilmember. Fresno City Council member.	Shannon Grove (R) State Senator/Businesswoman. Former Senate Republican leader from Bakersfield.	Dem Party: Esparza. CRA: Grove. Open seat as Ted Gaines terms out this year.

District	Candidate	Candidate	Endorsements and notes
2 (coastal, north of LA)	Sally J. Lieber (D, incumbent) Former Assemblymember and Mountain View mayor.	John Pimentel (D) San Mateo County Community College District trustee.	Dem Party: Lieber. Lieber took 56% in the primary.
3 (Los Angeles area)	Mike Gipson (D) State Assemblymember/Father. Assemblymember from Carson since 2014.	Samuel P. Sukaton (D) Labor Union Organizer.	Dem Party: Gipson. Open seat as Tony Vasquez terms out this year; two Democrats advanced.
4 (San Diego area and Orange County)	Tom Umberg (D) Small Businessman/Senator. State senator and former Assemblymember.	Denis Bilodeau (R) Councilmember/Civil Engineer. Led the June primary field.	Dem Party: Umberg. CRA: Bilodeau. Open seat as Mike Schaefer terms out this year.

Ballot propositions

Fourteen statewide measures qualified. Several were placed by the Legislature as part of late-June deals that pulled rival measures from Uber, trial lawyers, hospitals and health care unions off the ballot. Three measures (40, 41 and 42) are in direct conflict over the billionaire wealth tax: if more than one passes, the one with the most votes controls on conflicting provisions. Every measure passes with a simple majority.

Summary of positions

Prop	Title	Dem Party	Republican Party
1	Affordable housing bond	Support	Opposed by Republican state lawmakers
2	Rainy day fund	Support	Opposed by Legislative Republicans
3	Make high-earner income tax permanent	Support	No position listed
4	Public campaign financing	Support	No position listed
5	Recall election reform	Support	Oppose
37	\$25 billion homebuying loan program	Support	No position listed
38	Immunology research bond	Support	No position listed
39	Voter ID	Oppose	Support
40	Billionaire tax	Support	No position listed
41	Audit new tax spending	Oppose	No position listed
42	Prohibit new personal property and retroactive taxes	Oppose	No position listed
43	Higher threshold for local special taxes	Oppose	Yes
44	Community clinic spending	Oppose	No position listed
45	Expedited environmental review (CEQA)	Oppose	No position listed

Measure by measure

Proposition 1: Affordable housing bond

Type: Legislative bond

What it does: Prop. 1 would allow the state to sell \$11.25 billion in bonds to fund various affordable housing programs. Of that total amount, \$1.25 billion would go toward veteran housing, while the rest would fund rental homes, homeownership programs, farmworker housing, affordable student housing, tribal housing and more. The bond is expected to help fund up to 40,000 multifamily rental units, while also helping another 40,000 households buy a home.

Supporters: Gov. Newsom, Democratic state lawmakers, California Apartment Association, AFL-CIO California

- California needs more money for housing in order to help the state's more than 180,000 homeless residents, as well as those who pay more than they can afford in rent and those who can't afford to purchase a home.

Opponents: Republican state lawmakers

- Some Republican legislators criticized the bill for using veterans to drum up support while actually doing little to serve them. They also questioned the wisdom of borrowing more money to pay for housing without addressing the underlying reasons it's so expensive to build.

Proposition 2: Rainy day fund

Type: Legislative constitutional amendment

What it does: This constitutional amendment would allow the state to deposit up to 20% of its general fund tax revenue in the state's reserves, up from the current ceiling of 10%. The deposits would not count toward the voter-approved Gann Limit, which caps the amount state lawmakers can spend each year and requires excess funds to be returned to the people. It also authorizes spending some tax revenue to pay down California's \$20 billion federal unemployment insurance debt.

Supporters: Gov. Newsom, legislative Democrats

- California's tax revenue is volatile and relies heavily on the stock market. Supporters say raising the ceiling would allow the state to save more when the economy is booming, building a stronger reserve for economic downturns.

Opponents: Legislative Republicans, Reform California

- Opponents say the state's reserves can be used by politicians as a "slush fund," and argue the measure would allow lawmakers to withhold more tax revenue without triggering the spending limit so as to avoid refunds to taxpayers.

Proposition 3: Make high-earner income tax permanent

Type: Initiative constitutional amendment

What it does: The tax, first enacted in 2012, is set to expire in 2031. Under the measure, income taxes for top earners range from 10.3% (for individual income over \$360,000) to 12.3% (for individual income over \$721,000), with graduated rates in between. Eighty-nine percent of the money goes to K-12 public schools and 11% goes to community colleges, with any excess going to public healthcare. The tax typically raises \$5 billion to \$15 billion a year.

Supporters: California Teachers Association, California School Employees Association, California State PTA, California Medical Association

- The tax has been a vital source of revenue for schools. Supporters say if Prop. 3 fails, the loss of up to \$15 billion a year for schools will likely lead to layoffs, program cuts and other reductions.

Opponents: California Taxpayers Association, Reform California

- Opponents point out that California already has some of the highest income taxes in the country. They say the measure may spur wealthy Californians to leave for lower-tax states, taking jobs and revenue with them.

Proposition 4: Public campaign financing

Type: Legislative statute

What it does: This would authorize California's state and local governments to establish public campaign funds for candidates if they choose to. It would reverse a 1988 ban on such systems for the state and most local governments. Currently, only five California cities have public financing for local offices, including Berkeley and San Francisco.

Supporters: California Common Cause, California Clean Money Campaign, League of Women Voters

- Advocates say public campaign financing helps curb the influence of private money in politics. They argue that public financing encourages candidates without significant financial backing to run and empowers small donors.

Opponents: California Taxpayers Association, Reform California

- Opponents say the measure would force taxpayers to subsidize political candidates they may not want to support and could direct funding to fraudulent candidates. They argue that it is also expensive for state and local governments to establish the system.

Proposition 5: Recall election reform

Type: Legislative constitutional amendment

What it does: Under current law, after choosing whether to recall an elected official, voters are asked who should replace them. This constitutional amendment, placed on the ballot by state lawmakers, would delay the election of a successor until a separate election. The recalled officer would be allowed to run in that election. If the governor is recalled, the lieutenant governor would take over their duties until a new governor is elected.

Supporters: League of Women Voters, California Common Cause, Indivisible CA: StateStrong

- Proposition 5 is a constitutional amendment born out of a proposal from the secretary of state's office following the unsuccessful recall of Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2021. Secretary of State Shirley Weber told lawmakers her office felt a recall election should focus on whether the elected official should be recalled, not whether other potential candidates would be better in the role. Democrat Josh Newman, who was successfully recalled from his state Senate seat in 2018, authored the measure, saying it would reduce the "political gamesmanship" that elevates candidates who otherwise wouldn't receive a majority of votes.

Opponents: Election Integrity Project California, Reform California

- Opponents including the California Republican Party and Election Integrity Project, which advocates for voter ID requirements and restrictions on mail-in voting, argue that allowing the lieutenant governor to assume the governor's position if the governor were recalled would dissuade people from participating in a recall election. Almost all legislative Republicans also opposed it, arguing that it would dilute the power of voters while protecting incumbents. The current recall process is how former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, was elected in 2006.

Proposition 37: \$25 billion homebuying loan program

Type: Initiative

What it does: California's Housing Finance Agency would be able (but not required) to borrow up to \$25 billion to help would-be homebuyers purchase newly constructed houses and condos. These loans could provide up to 17% of a home's purchase price, leaving buyers with a cash down payment of 3% if paired with a typical mortgage — \$24,000 for an \$800,000 home. Homebuyers would repay the loan in monthly installments to private lenders. Anyone earning up to twice the area's median income would be eligible. Private lenders, not taxpayers, would be on the hook if homebuyers' default.

Supporters: Xavier Becerra, California Association of Realtors, California Conference of Carpenters

- House hunters can expect to face a down payment equal to 20% of the value of a home. In California, where \$700,000 for a fixer-upper is considered a steal in much of the state, that's not feasible for most people. This loan program will put the dream of homeownership within reach of the middle class without costing taxpayers a dime.

Opponents: Reform California, League of Women Voters

- Some opponents argue that state government should not be involved in the mortgage lending market and note that the measure won't do much to address the underlying reasons that housing in California is so expensive. Others note that while it would help more people buy homes, it would only do so by allowing them to go into even deeper debt.

Proposition 38: Immunology research bond

Type: Initiative bond

What it does: Proposition 38 would create an \$8.4 billion bond largely to fund research into fighting cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's, plus other diseases that can be treated through immunotherapies. Half the money would go to a research institute affiliated with the University of California. The other half would be distributed to select public universities and nonprofits. Drugs created through this research would have to be discounted at 20% for Californians and 10% of any revenue from the drugs would go back to the state general fund.

Supporters: Philanthropists Gary Michelson and Meyer Luskin, ALS Association, Alzheimer's Association, Blood Cancer United, American Association of Immunologists

- Supporters say the potential for cures through immunotherapies is huge because most diseases involve the immune system. They say the funding is needed because the Trump administration has tried to cut funding for federal health science research.

Opponents: Robert Kaplan (senior scholar at Stanford), League of Women Voters, Orange County Register Editorial Board

- Critics fault the measure for focusing on just one subset of biomedical research rather than a wider array of health research. They also question whether the research that might emerge from this fund can produce commercial drugs, given how hard it is to get a drug approved and bring it to market. They also question why just one nonprofit stands to receive half the money and note that it will add \$500 million to \$600 million a year in debt payments for 20 years.

Proposition 39: Voter ID

Type: Initiative constitutional amendment

What it does: This initiative would require voters to show government-issued identification at the polls and order election officials to verify that all registered voters are U.S. citizens. Voters who cast a mail-in ballot would need to give the last four digits of a government ID, such as a driver's license number. California currently requires residents to provide an identification card and Social Security number to register to vote, but does not request it at polling places.

Supporters: Reform California, Californians for Voter ID, U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert (R), Uline CEO Richard Uihlein

- Supporters argue that ID requirements at voting sites will strengthen voters' trust in California's election process, and that most states require voters to show some form of identification to vote.

Opponents: League of Women Voters, ACLU California Action, California Donor Table, American Civil Liberties Union, Common Cause

- Opponents say requiring ID will make it harder for eligible voters who don't have a driver's license or other supporting documents to vote. They say this will disproportionately affect those with disabilities, who are low-income or have recently moved.

Proposition 40: Billionaire tax

Type: Initiative

What it does: Proposition 40 would require the estimated 200 Californians whose net worth exceeded \$1 billion at the start of this year to pay a one-time 5% tax. Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West, the group sponsoring the measure, projects that it would raise roughly \$100 billion over five years. That money would be earmarked primarily for healthcare, with some reserved for food assistance and education. If [propositions 41](#) or [42](#) earn more votes than Proposition 40, this measure would be nullified.

Supporters: SEIU United Healthcare Workers West, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Teamsters California, AFSCME California

- Supporters argue that the people who would pay the tax are the ones who benefited the most financially from recent federal tax reforms. Congress also cut tens of billions from Medicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California, which provides health insurance to low-income people. SEIU-UHW argues those cuts will cause hospitals and clinics to close, costing thousands of jobs and worsening access for all patients.

Opponents: Gov. Newsom, Sergey Brin, Chris Larsen, California Teachers Association, California Primary Care Association, California Medical Association, Xavier Becerra, Steve Hilton, Planned Parenthood, California Professional Firefighters, State Building and Construction Trades

- Opponents include Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, business interests, and some health and labor organizations. They say the proposal will backfire, causing billionaires to leave California and decreasing tax revenue in the long run. Health groups say they weren't consulted in designing the measure and that it does not solve the long-term fiscal challenges of funding healthcare. The same groups backed propositions 41 and 42, competing measures that would place limits on new special taxes.

Proposition 41: Audit new tax spending

Type: Initiative

What it does: This proposition would make it harder to pass new special taxes by requiring the state auditor to review any special tax proposal before it goes to voters. The auditor would assess whether the program that would receive funding could cut spending by at least 10% annually. Any new special tax approved by voters would count toward California's spending limit, potentially triggering automatic refunds that reduce funding for other state programs. If this proposition receives more votes than [Proposition 40](#) (a wealth tax on billionaires), Proposition 40 is nullified, even if Proposition 40 also passes.

Supporters: Building a Better California (funded largely by Sergey Brin, John Doerr and Michael Moritz), Reform California, California Chamber of Commerce

- Supporters say key social programs are not getting enough funding despite California's high taxes. They argue the state auditor should assess whether the programs that would benefit from special taxes are spending money wisely. Supporters also want these special taxes to count toward the state spending limit, making tax rebates to Californians more likely.

Opponents: SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West

- The chief opponent is SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West, the sponsor of Proposition 40. The union argues that Prop. 41 is designed to trick voters into unknowingly blocking a wealth tax on billionaires. Prop. 41 isn't about auditing waste in public programs, the union says; instead, it's a way for billionaires to avoid paying taxes once on their huge wealth.

Proposition 42: Prohibit new personal property and retroactive taxes

Type: Initiative constitutional amendment

What it does: Proposition 42 is meant to make it much harder to create a wealth tax in California by prohibiting new taxes on the mere ownership of assets such as investment accounts, business interests and personal property — assets that are typically only taxed when they are sold or generate income. Like [Proposition 41](#), which also attempts to block [Proposition 40](#) (a wealth tax on billionaires), Proposition 42 would nullify Proposition 40 if it receives more votes, even if the billionaire tax also passes.

Supporters: Building a Better California, Reform California, State Building and Construction Trades Council, California Chamber of Commerce, California Professional Firefighters

- The measure’s ultra-wealthy backers say California should not tax people for merely owning or controlling retirement accounts, financial portfolios, or valuable personal possessions like art. They want to prevent taxes on unrealized gains — paper wealth that hasn’t been sold or generated taxable revenue — warning that pensions and retirement accounts could one day be taxed on their future value.

Opponents: SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West

- The chief opponent is SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West, which is the sponsor of Prop. 40. The union argues that Prop. 42 is designed to trick voters into making it impossible to apply a wealth tax to billionaires. Prop. 42 isn’t about preventing new taxes on everyday people, the union says; instead, it’s a way for billionaires to avoid paying a one-time tax on their huge wealth.

Proposition 43: Higher threshold for local special taxes

Type: Legislative constitutional amendment

What it does: This would make it harder to impose or increase local taxes by raising the threshold for local citizen-driven special tax ballot initiatives to pass from a simple majority to two-thirds. The two-thirds threshold already applies to taxes proposed by local governments but not by individuals. The measure reflects a deal between state lawmakers and the anti-tax Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association to keep a more restrictive tax proposal off the ballot.

Supporters: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Reform California

- Anti-tax advocates have championed similar policies for years, arguing that special interest groups have exploited the simple majority threshold during low-turnout elections to pass special taxes.

Opponents: SEIU Local 1000

- Opponents argue the measure would limit the ability to raise needed revenue for local services and make it easier for moneyed interests to block tax initiatives that the majority of voters support.

Proposition 44: Community clinic spending

Type: Initiative

What it does: Proposition 44 would require community clinics that serve low-income patients to spend 90% of their annual revenue on patient care. The measure directs the attorney general to publish guidance on what spending qualifies and allows the state to fine clinics that don’t spend the full 90%. The labor union SEIU-UHW pushed a similar bill last year, but it failed. Clinics failed to keep the measure off the ballot with a lawsuit earlier this year.

Supporters: SEIU United Healthcare Workers West

- Supporters, led by the health workers union SEIU-UHW, argue that clinics should spend more on direct patient care and less on executive pay and overhead. With federal cuts under H.R. 1 — which is expected to leave many more uninsured — looming, supporters say it is especially critical for clinics to prioritize patient care now.

Opponents: California Primary Care Association, California Medical Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, California Teachers Association, California Hospital Association

- Opponents say the measure is unnecessary because community clinics are already heavily regulated by the state and federal governments. They say it would cost clinics more than \$1.7 billion in noncompliance fees in the first year, ultimately forcing clinics to significantly reduce services or close.

Proposition 45: Expedited environmental review (CEQA)

Type: Initiative

What it does: Proposition 45 would overhaul the state’s landmark environmental review law, the California Environmental Quality Act. Sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce, the measure aims to help developers advance projects they designate as “essential” more quickly and easily. It would impose a 365-day limit on environmental reviews for those projects, including infrastructure like roads and bridges, housing, schools, broadband and wildfire mitigation. It would also require courts to rule within 270 days on lawsuits related to the environmental review law.

Supporters: California Chamber of Commerce, California Hospital Association, California Children’s Hospital Association, California Primary Care Association, California Hydrogen Coalition, Building a Better California, California Building Industry Association, PG&E, Southern California Edison

- The California Chamber of Commerce says the state’s environmental review law is outdated and allows for too much expensive bureaucracy and frivolous litigation that slows development. It argues that the delays ultimately increase costs that are passed down to taxpayers and consumers. The group argues the measure will speed up development while keeping essential environmental protections in place.

Opponents: Communities for a Better Environment, Western Center on Law & Poverty, Californians Against Waste, Sierra Club California, Clean Air Coalition, Clean Water Action

- Opponents say the state’s environmental review law exists to protect people and the environment from potentially harmful developments. Weakening environmental review requirements, they say, would strip agencies of the tools they have to protect communities, increase costly litigation and practically eliminate their ability to enforce the law. They argue the long-term costs of poor planning will be passed onto agencies and taxpayers.

The CalMatters voter guide has a quiz and full arguments for each measure at calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2026/propositions. The official Voter Information Guide with fiscal analysis from the Legislative Analyst arrives in mailboxes in late September and is posted at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

State Senate

Senators serve four-year terms with half the chamber elected every two years. The 20 even-numbered districts are on the ballot. Democrats hold 30 of 40 seats; Republicans would need to flip at least four seats to break the two-thirds supermajority that lets Democrats raise taxes and place constitutional amendments on the ballot without any Republican votes. CalMatters identifies Districts 14, 16, 38 and 40 as the seats that will decide that question.

Key races

Senate District 14: Competitive

Where: Central Valley south of Highway 99: Merced, Madera, Chowchilla, Fresno, Mendota.

Registration: D – 41.4%, R – 26.5%, NPP – 23.9%

Once a Democratic stronghold, this district has trended right in recent cycles. This is an open seat as Anna Caballero terms out this year. Democratic Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria faces Republican Darin DuPont, a Merced city councilmember and water attorney. CalMatters calls it a must-win for Republicans hoping to end the Senate Democratic supermajority. Soria led the field in the primary with 45.8% of the vote, DuPont took the second spot with 40.4%, and Hurtado was a distant third with 13.8%.

Key endorsements

- **Esmeralda Soria (D):** California Democratic Party, SEIU California, AFSCME
- **Darin DuPont (R):** Reform California, California Republican Assembly

Senate District 16: Competitive

Where: Central Valley: parts of Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties, including much of east Bakersfield.

Registration: D - 38.9%, R – 29.7%, NPP - 23.3%

Incumbent Democrat Melissa Hurtado won this seat by 13 votes in 2022 even as Gov. Newsom lost the district by more than 10 points, and she is the only Democrat representing a state Senate district that Trump carried in 2024. She faces Guillermo Gonzalez, a small business owner and former aide to Rep. David Valadao. As the only Republican on the ballot, Gonzalez paced the field at 45.2% (48,434). Hurtado placed second with 35.6%, and Kaur finished third with 19.1%.

Key endorsements

- **Melissa Hurtado (D, incumbent):** California Democratic Party, SEIU California, Equality California
- **Guillermo Gonzalez (R):** California Republican Party, California Republican Assembly, California Hispanic Legislative Caucus

Senate District 24: Safe Democratic

Where: Coastal Los Angeles County: Malibu, Santa Monica, Torrance. Home to many residents displaced by the 2025 fires.

Registration: D – 49.3%, R – 20.8%, NPP – 23.1%

Sen. Ben Allen is terming out to run for insurance commissioner. West Hollywood Councilmember John Erickson was the top primary vote-getter despite spending only about \$518,000, while entrepreneur Brian Goldsmith, a former senior adviser to Democratic Majority for Israel, spent nearly \$2.5 million and retains a cash advantage.

Key endorsements

- **John Erickson (D):** California Teachers Association, California Working Families Party, California YIMBY
- **Brian Goldsmith (D):** Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, Blue Wave Democratic Club

Senate District 26: Safe Democratic

Where: Downtown Los Angeles.

Registration: D – 59.8%, R – 10.8%, NPP – 23.1%

Sen. Maria Elena Durazo is leaving to run for the LA County Board of Supervisors. Community college trustee Sara Hernandez is the frontrunner with broad support from elected Democrats, including sitting state senators. Sarah Rascón is an East LA planning commissioner. Hernandez took the top spot in the primary with 31.2%. Rascón, a progressive who had [few endorsers](#) prior to the primary and was an afterthought in the IE spending, had one key advantage--the recommendation in the DSA-LA voter guide, which may have proved decisive to propel her to an upset second-place finish ahead of better known and more well-funded candidates, winning 19.4%.

Key endorsements

- **Sara Hernandez (D):** California Teachers Association, Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, California YIMBY
- **Sarah Rascón (D):** Pilipino American Los Angeles Democrats, Senator Marie Elena Durazo, former Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo

Senate District 38: Leans Democratic

Where: Coastal north San Diego County into south Orange County: Mission Viejo, Carlsbad, Encinitas, La Jolla.

Registration: D - 37%, R - 32%, NPP - 23%

Moderate Sen. Catherine Blakespear flipped this seat in 2022 and is seeking a second term against Republican small business owner Laura Bassett. The seat was historically a toss-up but has trended Democratic as the San Diego portion grows. Outside of the even-numbered Central Valley State Senate districts, Republicans have a limited number of potential targets in 2026 to round out the 4 seats they would need to break the Democratic supermajority, and this is one of three districts (along with SD18 and SD22) that voted for Kamala Harris by under 15%. Blakespear outpolled Bassett by a closer than expected 54.7%/45.3% in the primary.

Key endorsements

- **Catherine Blakespear (D, incumbent):** California Democratic Party, SEIU California, California Professional Firefighters
- **Laura Bassett (R):** California Republican Party, Reform California, California Republican Assembly

Senate District 40: Competitive

Where: Inland San Diego County north and east of the city, including Escondido.

Registration: D 35%, R 34%, NPP 24%

Open seat as Senate GOP Leader Brian Jones terms out. This is a competitive district in inland San Diego County that has been trending Democratic but still retains a slight Republican lean. Joe Biden won the district by 6.6% in 2020, Kamala Harris carried it by 3.8% in 2024, and Steve Garvey narrowly won the district by 0.5%. This is expected to be a top Democratic target in 2026. Former San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott is the Democrat. Republican primary voters chose Kristie Bruce-Lane, backed by Assemblymember Carl DeMaio's Reform California, over Jones's preferred candidate. The efforts to block Bruce-Lane from the runoff failed. Elliott took the top spot as the only Democrat on the ballot with 47.9%. Bruce-Lane edged out Musgrove 27.7% to 24.3% for the second spot. This is a top Democratic pickup target.

Key endorsements

- **Mara Elliott (D):** California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association, SEIU California
- **Kristie Bruce-Lane (R):** Reform California, California College Republicans

All 20 Senate races

Ballot designations are shown in italics exactly as certified by the Secretary of State. Voting records for every incumbent are searchable at calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org.

Dist.	Candidate	Candidate	Endorsements	Rating / Notes
2	Damon Connolly Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Tief Gibbs Republican <i>Small Businesswoman</i>	Dem Party: Connolly CRA: Gibbs	Open seat (Sen. Mike McGuire is running for Congress).
4	Jaron Brandon Democratic <i>County Supervisor</i>	Alexandra Duarte Republican <i>Mother/Farmer</i>	Dem Party: Brandon CRA: None listed	Open seat. Brandon, the sole Democrat on the ballot, led the field with 41.3% of the vote. Duarte placed second with 32.1%, and Alvarado-Gil placed third with 26.6%, becoming a rare incumbent to fail to advance out of the top two.
6	Sean Frame Democratic <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Roger Niello <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>California State Senator</i>	Dem Party: Frame CRA: Niello	
8	Angelique Ashby <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>California State Senator</i>	Susan A. Mason Republican <i>Retired Nurse</i>	Dem Party: Ashby CRA: Mason	
10	Scott Sakakihara Democratic <i>Councilmember/Navy Officer</i>	Linda R. Price Republican <i>Businesswoman</i>	Dem Party: Sakakihara CRA: None listed	Open seat (Sen. Aisha Wahab has been inducted to Congress).
12	Nathan Magsig Republican <i>County Supervisor/Businessman</i>	William Brown Jr. Libertarian <i>Social Worker/Businessman</i>	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Magsig	Open seat (Sen. Shannon Grove is running for Board of Equalization). No Democrat on the ballot.
14	Esmeralda Soria Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Darin S. DuPont Republican <i>Councilman/Water Attorney</i>	Dem Party: Soria CRA: DuPont	CalMatters: Competitive Open seat. GOP must-win to break the supermajority.
16	Melissa Hurtado <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Senator</i>	Guillermo Asuncion Gonzalez Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Hurtado CRA: Gonzalez CAGOP: Gonzalez	CalMatters: Competitive Hurtado won by 13 votes in 2022; only Democrat holding a Trump-won Senate district.
18	Steve Padilla <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>California State Senator</i>	Art Hodges Republican <i>CEO/Educator/Pastor</i>	Dem Party: Padilla CRA: None listed	
20	Caroline Menjivar <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Senator</i>	Tony Rodriguez Republican <i>No ballot designation</i>	Dem Party: Menjivar CRA: Rodriguez	

Dist.	Candidate	Candidate	Endorsements	Rating / Notes
22	Susan Rubio <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Senator/Teacher</i>	Mike Netter Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Rubio CRA: Netter	
24	John M. Erickson Democratic <i>Councilmember</i>	Brian Goldsmith Democratic <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: No consensus CRA: None listed	CalMatters: Safe Democratic Open seat (Sen. Ben Allen is running for insurance commissioner). Two Democrats.
26	Sara Hernandez Democratic <i>Affordable Housing Advocate</i>	Sarah Rascón Democratic <i>Environmental Protection Director</i>	Dem Party: No consensus CRA: None listed	CalMatters: Safe Democratic Open seat (Sen. Maria Elena Durazo is running for LA County supervisor). Two Democrats.
28	Lola Smallwood-Cuevas <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Senator</i>	Joe Lisuzzo Republican <i>LA Neighborhood Councilmember</i>	Dem Party: Smallwood-Cuevas CRA: Lisuzzo	
30	Bob J. Archuleta <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Senator</i>	Araceli Martinez Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Archuleta CRA: Martinez	
32	Tiffanie Tate Democratic <i>Doctor/Educator/Author</i>	Kelly Seyarto <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>State Senator</i>	Dem Party: Tate CRA: Seyarto	
34	Avelino Valencia Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Rhonda Shader Republican <i>Local Small Businesswoman</i>	Dem Party: Valencia CRA: Shader	Open seat (Sen. Tom Umberg is running for Board of Equalization).
36	Chris Duncan Democratic <i>Anti-Tariff Attorney</i>	Tony Strickland <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>State Senator/Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Duncan CRA: Strickland	
38	Catherine S. Blakespear <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>California State Senator</i>	Laura Bassett Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Blakespear CRA: Bassett CAGOP: Bassett	CalMatters: Leans Democratic Blakespear flipped this seat in 2022; GOP target.
40	Mara Elliott Democratic <i>Ethics Attorney</i>	Kristie Bruce-Lane Republican <i>Businesswoman/Victims Advocate</i>	Dem Party: Elliott CRA: None listed	CalMatters: Competitive Open seat (GOP Leader Brian Jones terming out). Top Democratic pickup target.

State Assembly

All 80 Assembly seats are up every two years. Democrats hold a two-thirds supermajority. Both parties are defending seats they flipped in 2024 and competing for open districts, with the Central Valley, Inland Empire and south Orange County as the main battlegrounds. CalMatters identifies Districts 7, 27, 36, 47, 58 and 74 as the competitive general-election contests, plus a heavily funded Democrat-versus-Democrat race in District 12.

Key races

Assembly District 7: Competitive

Where: Northeast Sacramento County: Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova.

Registration: D - 37%, R - 33%, NPP - 21%

Republican incumbent Josh Hoover, who unseated Democrat Ken Cooley in 2022 after redistricting, faces retired teacher and superintendent Amy Slavensky. The district voted for Harris in 2024 but re-elected Hoover by seven points. Hoover won a bare majority in the primary, outpolling his two opponents to receive 50.9% of the vote. Slavensky placed second with 47.2%, with Motamedi trailing a distant third at 2%.

Key endorsements

- **Josh Hoover (R, incumbent):** California Republican Party, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California Correctional Peace Officers Association, California Republican Assembly
- **Amy Slavensky (D):** California Teachers Association, SEIU California, California Labor Federation, California Democratic Party

Assembly District 12: Safe Democratic

Where: All of Marin County and about two-thirds of Sonoma County.

Registration: D - 59%, R - 15%, NPP - 19%

Two Democrats compete to replace Damon Connolly as Connolly is running for SD 2. Rohnert Park Councilmember Jackie Elward is the more progressive candidate with wider union support; Marin Supervisor Eric Lucan is the business-friendly pick. Grow California, a PAC funded by crypto executives Chris Larsen and Tim Draper, spent more than \$1 million in the primary attacking Elward and supporting Lucan. Lucan took the top spot in the primary with 28.3%. Elward, who clawed her way back from 3rd place in the late-arriving ballots, took the second spot with 22.6%, followed by Cervantes in third with 19.4%.

Key endorsements

- **Jackie Elward (D):** California Teachers Association, SEIU, California Working Families Party
- **Eric Lucan (D):** California YIMBY, Peace Officers Research Association of California, New California Coalition

Assembly District 27: Leans Democratic

Where: Parts of Merced, Madera and Fresno counties.

Registration: D - 40%, R - 29%, NPP - 24%

Open seat vacated by Esmeralda Soria. This Latino-majority district has shifted right and voted for Trump in 2024. Fresno County Supervisor Brian Pacheco is the Democrat; former Merced Mayor Mike Murphy, an attorney, is the Republican. As the lone Republican on the ballot, Murphy paced the field at 43.4%, with Pacheco a close second with 40.3%. Murphy has yet to receive any financial help from the CA GOP, though a number of legislators have directed money to his committee. The CA Democratic Party, in contrast, has already provided over \$343,000

worth of assistance to Pacheco's campaign. Republicans face an uphill climb, but the seat nonetheless should remain competitive in November.

Key endorsements

- **Brian Pacheco (D):** California Democratic Party, California Federation of Labor Unions, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
- **Mike Murphy (R):** California Professional Firefighters, Cal Fire Local 2881, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, California Republican Assembly

Assembly District 36: Leans Democratic

Where: Imperial County, much of eastern Riverside County and the eastern Coachella Valley: Indio, Calexico.

Registration: D - 41%, R - 29%, NPP - 23%

Republican Jeff Gonzalez flipped this traditionally Democratic, Latino-majority seat in 2024 after it narrowly voted for Trump. Democrat Ida Obeso-Martinez, an Imperial County mayor and cardiovascular nurse practitioner, raised only about a fifth of Gonzalez's total heading into the general. Gonzalez came out on top as the lone Republican on the ballot, though his 44.6% showing will doubtless raise alarms at the CA GOP. Obeso-Martinez eked out a win over the more progressive Ortiz, outpolling him by a close 1,667 votes, winning 24.1% to his 22%.

Key endorsements

- **Jeff Gonzalez (R, incumbent):** California Republican Party, California Farm Bureau
- **Ida Obeso-Martinez (D):** California Democratic Party, Close the Gap California, Smart Justice California

Assembly District 47: Competitive

Where: Parts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties, from Redlands-area suburbs to Palm Springs and Cathedral City.

Registration: D - 39%, R - 34%, NPP - 19%

Republican Greg Wallis won this seat by 85 votes in 2022 and defended it in 2024. He faces Democrat Leila Namvar, a former local labor leader and city planner. Mid-year reports showed Wallis raising \$1.3 million for the cycle, including \$143,000 from the CA GOP, ending with \$673,543 on hand at the end of June. Namvar raised \$273,409, the CA Democratic Party contributing \$53,800 in assistance after the primary in July, and had \$23,095 at the end of June. Wallis topped the field with 48.1%, though his sub-50% showing as the only Republican on the ballot all but guarantees Democrats will target him in November. Namvar took the second spot with 32.3%.

Key endorsements

- **Greg Wallis (R, incumbent):** California Correctional Peace Officers Association, California Police Chiefs Association, PORAC
- **Leila Namvar (D):** California Labor Federation, SEIU California, California Faculty Association, California Democratic Party

Assembly District 58: Competitive

Where: Latino-majority Inland Empire district in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including parts of Riverside.

Registration: D - 42%, R - 28%, NPP - 23%

A rematch. Republican Leticia Castillo flipped the seat in 2024 by 596 votes over Riverside Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes. Cervantes led the June primary 55% to 45%, but seeing how close the votes are, this will be a top target for both sides in November.

Key endorsements

- **Leticia Castillo (R, incumbent):** California Republican Party, California Professional Firefighters, California Republican Assembly
- **Clarissa Cervantes (D):** California Democratic Party, SEIU California, California Labor Federation

Assembly District 74: Competitive

Where: South Orange County and coastal north San Diego County.

Registration: D - 35%, R - 35%, NPP - 22%

Republican Laurie Davies seeks a third term after a narrow 2024 win. She faces Democrat Sergio Farias, a San Juan Capistrano councilmember and former mayor. Expected to be one of the California Democratic Party's top targets. Davies outpolled Farias by a close 52.3%/47.7% margin in the primary, signaling that this will once again be a competitive race. While this is expected to be one of the Democratic Party's top targets once again, as of the beginning of August, no Farias has not yet logged any help from the CA Democratic Party or Democratic legislators, with the bulk of his funding courtesy of labor groups and assorted unions. The CA GOP has directed \$143,000 to Davies' committee, and multiple Republican elected officials have also cut checks.

Key endorsements

- **Laurie Davies (R, incumbent):** California Republican Party, PORAC, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- **Sergio Farias (D):** California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association, SEIU California

All 80 Assembly races

Ten races feature two candidates from the same party (Districts 3, 6, 12, 18, 38, 51, 55, 66, 68 and 69). Four candidates are unopposed (Districts 4, 8, 22 and 32). Voting records for every incumbent are searchable at calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org.

Dist.	Candidate	Candidate	Endorsements	Rating / Notes
1	Dianna Margaret James Democratic <i>Community Organizer</i>	Heather Hadwick (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Farmer/Assemblywoman</i>	Dem Party: James CRA: None listed	
2	Chris Rogers (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Michael Greer Republican <i>Retired Teacher</i>	Dem Party: Rogers CRA: None listed	
3	Dom Belza Republican <i>Agricultural Businessman/Father</i>	James "Jamie" Johansson Republican <i>Farmer</i>	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Belza	Open seat as James Gallaher replaced Doug LaMalfa in Congress. Two Republicans.
4	Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	(<i>no second candidate</i>)	Dem Party: Aguiar-Curry CRA: None listed	Unopposed.
5	Neva Parker Democratic <i>Community Advocate</i>	Joe Patterson (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Member of State Assembly, 5th District</i>	Dem Party: Parker CRA: None listed	
6	Maggy Krell (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Constitutional Attorney/Assemblywoman</i>	Jagtar Singh Democratic <i>Caregiver/Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Krell CRA: None listed	Two Democrats.

Dist.	Candidate	Candidate	Endorsements	Rating / Notes
7	Amy L. Slavensky Democratic <i>Public School Educator</i>	Josh Hoover <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>Member of the State Assembly, 7th District</i>	Dem Party: Slavensky CRA: Hoover CAGOP: Hoover	CalMatters: Competitive District voted for Harris in 2024 but re-elected Hoover by 7 points.
8	David Tangipa <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>State Assemblymember</i>	<i>(no second candidate)</i>	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Tangipa	Unopposed.
9	Matthew Adams Democratic <i>Teacher</i>	Heath Flora <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>Father/Farmer/Assemblyman</i>	Dem Party: Adams CRA: None listed	
10	Stephanie Nguyen <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Vinaya Singh Republican <i>Retired Application Developer</i>	Dem Party: Nguyen CRA: None listed	
11	Lori D. Wilson <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember, 11th District</i>	Jenny Leilani Callison No Party Preference <i>Legislative Consultant</i>	Dem Party: Wilson CRA: None listed	
12	Jackie Elward Democratic <i>Councilwoman/Educator</i>	Eric Lucan Democratic <i>County Supervisor/Father</i>	Dem Party: No consensus CRA: None listed	CalMatters: Safe Democratic Open seat (Damon Connolly running for Senate). Two Democrats; heavy outside spending.
13	Rhodesia Ransom <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Tom Patti Republican <i>Businessman/Father</i>	Dem Party: Ransom CRA: None listed	
14	Buffy Wicks <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember/Mom</i>	Mark Rendon Green <i>Teacher</i>	Dem Party: Wicks CRA: None listed	
15	Anamarie Avila Farias <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Member of the State Assembly, District 15</i>	Arthur Webb No Party Preference <i>Retired Technology Manager</i>	Dem Party: Avila Farias CRA: None listed	
16	Rebecca Bauer-Kahan <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember/Mother</i>	Joseph A. Rubay Republican <i>Businessman/Father</i>	Dem Party: Bauer-Kahan CRA: None listed	
17	Matt Haney <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Manuel Noris-Barrera Republican <i>No ballot designation</i>	Dem Party: Haney CRA: None listed	
18	Mia Bonta <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember, District 18</i>	Andre Sandford Democratic <i>Housing Program Director</i>	Dem Party: Bonta CRA: None listed	Two Democrats.
19	Catherine Stefani <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Philip Louis Wing Republican <i>Retired Financial Advisor</i>	Dem Party: Stefani CRA: None listed	

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20	Liz Ortega (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Patricia Muga Republican <i>Real Estate Appraiser</i>	Dem Party: Ortega CRA: None listed	

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21	Diane Papan (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Jabra J. Muhawieh Republican <i>Enrolled Agent/Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Papan CRA: None listed	
22	Juan Alanis (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Assemblyman</i>	(<i>no second candidate</i>)	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Alanis	Unopposed.
23	Marc Berman (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	David G. Johnson Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Berman CRA: None listed	
24	Alex Lee (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Max Hsia Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Lee CRA: None listed	
25	Ash Kalra (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Himat Singh Bainiwal Republican <i>Attorney</i>	Dem Party: Kalra CRA: None listed	
26	Patrick Ahrens (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Tim Gorsulowsky Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Ahrens CRA: None listed	
27	Brian Pacheco Democratic <i>County Supervisor/Farmer</i>	Mike Murphy Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Pacheco CRA: Murphy	CalMatters: Leans Democratic Open seat (Esmeralda Soria running for Senate). Latino-majority district that voted for Trump in 2024; GOP target.
28	Gail Pellerin (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Carol Pefley Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Pellerin CRA: None listed	
29	Robert Rivas (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California Assembly Speaker</i>	Dennis P. Sanchez Republican <i>Small Businessman/Father</i>	Dem Party: Rivas CRA: None listed	Rivas is the Assembly Speaker.
30	Dawn Addis (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember/Teacher</i>	Shannon Kessler Republican <i>Children's Advocate/Businesswoman</i>	Dem Party: Addis CRA: Kessler	
31	Annalisa Perea Democratic <i>City Councilmember/Mother</i>	Jim Polsgrove Republican <i>Retired Engineering Technician</i>	Dem Party: Perea CRA: Polsgrove	Open seat as Joaquin Arambula terms out this year.
32	David Couch Republican <i>Kern County Supervisor</i>	(<i>no second candidate</i>)	Dem Party: None listed CRA: None listed	Open seat as Stan Ellis decided to not re-run. Unopposed.

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33	Hipolito Angel Cerros Democratic <i>Public Policy Fellow</i>	Alexandra (Ali) Macedo <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>Cattlewoman/Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Macedo	No Democratic Party endorsement listed.
34	Randall Putz Democratic <i>Mayor/Business Owner</i>	Charles Frederick Hughes Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Putz CRA: Hughes	Open seat as Tom Lackey terms out this year.
35	Andrae Gonzales Democratic <i>Councilmember/Nonprofit Director</i>	Saul Ayon Republican <i>Mayor/Teacher</i>	Dem Party: Gonzales CRA: None listed	Open seat as Jasmeet Bains vacated her seat to run for Congress, but placed 3 rd in the primary.
36	Ida S. Obeso-Martinez Democratic <i>Mayor/Nurse</i>	Jeff Gonzalez <i>(incumbent)</i> Republican <i>Assemblymember/Father</i>	Dem Party: Obeso-Martinez CRA: None listed CAGOP: Gonzalez	CalMatters: Leans Democratic Gonzalez flipped this seat in 2024. Obeso-Martinez raised about a fifth of Gonzalez's total entering the general.
37	Gregg Hart <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Sari Domingues Republican <i>Retired Business Analyst</i>	Dem Party: Hart CRA: None listed	
38	Steve Bennett <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Member of the Assembly, 38th District</i>	Michael MacDonald Democratic <i>City Clerk</i>	Dem Party: Bennett CRA: None listed	Two Democrats.
39	Juan Carrillo <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Paul Andre Marsh Republican <i>Community Services Liaison</i>	Dem Party: Carrillo CRA: None listed	
40	Pilar Schiavo <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Rickey Tracy Hayes II Republican <i>Lineman/Entrepreneur/Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Schiavo CRA: None listed	

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41	John Harabedian <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Adam Christopher Vena Republican <i>Father/Sanitation Employee</i>	Dem Party: Harabedian CRA: Vena	
42	Deborah Klein Lopez Democratic <i>City Councilmember</i>	Ted Nordblum Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Klein Lopez CRA: Nordblum	Open seat (Jacqui Irwin running for Congress).
43	Celeste Rodriguez <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Ricardo Benitez Republican <i>Plumber/Electrical Contractor</i>	Dem Party: Rodriguez CRA: Benitez	
44	Nicholas "Nick" Schultz <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Carolyn Daniels Republican <i>Independent Contractor/Mother</i>	Dem Party: Schultz CRA: None listed	
45	James C. Ramos <i>(incumbent)</i> Democratic <i>Assemblymember/Business Owner</i>	Greg Abdouch Republican <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Ramos CRA: None listed	

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46	Jesse Gabriel (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Member of the State Assembly, 46th District</i>	Tracey Schroeder Republican <i>Teacher</i>	Dem Party: Gabriel CRA: Schroeder	
47	Leila Namvar Democratic <i>Civil Servant/Mom</i>	Greg Wallis (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Member of the State Assembly</i>	Dem Party: Namvar CRA: None listed	CalMatters: Competitive Wallis won the seat by 85 votes in 2022 and held it in 2024.
48	Blanca Rubio (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember/Teacher</i>	Dan T. Tran Republican <i>Real Estate Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Rubio CRA: None listed	
49	Mike Fong (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Long David Liu Republican <i>Attorney/Father</i>	Dem Party: Fong CRA: None listed	
50	Robert Garcia (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember/Educator</i>	Victoria Viveros Mageno Republican <i>Cucamonga School District Board Member</i>	Dem Party: Garcia CRA: None listed	
51	Colin D. Hernandez Democratic <i>Digital Communication Strategist</i>	Rick Chavez Zbur (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California Assemblymember</i>	Dem Party: Zbur CRA: None listed	Two Democrats.
52	Jessica Caloza (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Andrea Lee Anderson Republican <i>No ballot designation</i>	Dem Party: Caloza CRA: Anderson	
53	Michelle Rodriguez (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Assemblymember/Mom</i>	Rafaela Romero Republican <i>Special Education Aide</i>	Dem Party: Rodriguez CRA: Romero	
54	Mark Gonzalez (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Member of the State Assembly</i>	Alexandra Briseno Republican <i>No ballot designation</i>	Dem Party: Gonzalez CRA: None listed	
55	Ashley M. Brown Democratic <i>School Social Worker</i>	Isaac G. Bryan (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Dem Party: Bryan CRA: None listed	Two Democrats.
56	Lisa Calderon (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Assembly Member/Mom</i>	Jessica Martinez Republican <i>Retired Teacher</i>	Dem Party: Calderon CRA: Martinez	
57	Sade Elhawary (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Constance Jewel Menzies Republican <i>In-Home Care Provider</i>	Dem Party: Elhawary CRA: Menzies	
58	Clarissa Cervantes Democratic <i>Councilmember/Businesswoman/Mother</i>	Leticia Castillo (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Assemblywoman/Licensed Psychotherapist</i>	Dem Party: Cervantes CRA: Castillo CAGOP: Castillo	CalMatters: Competitive Rematch. Castillo won by 596 votes in 2024; Cervantes led the June primary 55% to 45%.
59	Phillip Chen (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Assemblyman/Business Owner</i>	Victor Hernandez Green <i>Account Sales Manager</i>	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Chen	No Democrat on the ballot.

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60	Corey A. Jackson (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assembly Member</i>	Ed Delgado Republican <i>City Council Member</i>	Dem Party: Jackson CRA: Delgado	

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61	Tina Simone McKinnor (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>State Assemblymember</i>	Brian Lockwood Republican <i>No ballot designation</i>	Dem Party: McKinnor CRA: None listed	
62	José Luis Solache (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Paul Irving Jones Republican <i>Retired Combat Marine</i>	Dem Party: Solache CRA: None listed	
63	Natasha Johnson (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Assemblywoman/Business Owner</i>	Kevin Akin Peace and Freedom <i>No ballot designation</i>	Dem Party: None listed CRA: Johnson	No Democrat on the ballot.
64	Blanca Pacheco (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Assemblywoman</i>	Raul Ortiz Jr. Republican <i>Pest Control Manager</i>	Dem Party: Pacheco CRA: Ortiz	
65	Ayanna Davis Democratic <i>Educator/School Boardmember</i>	Lydia A. Gutiérrez Republican <i>Public School Teacher</i>	Dem Party: Davis CRA: Gutiérrez	Open seat (Mike Gipson running for Board of Equalization).
66	Sara Deen Democratic <i>School Boardmember/Businesswoman</i>	Paul Seo Democratic <i>Mayor/Corruption Prosecutor</i>	Dem Party: Seo CRA: None listed	Open seat as Al Muratsuchi terms out this year. Two Democrats.
67	Mark Pulido Democratic <i>City Councilmember</i>	Paulo Morales Republican <i>Law Enforcement Officer</i>	Dem Party: Pulido CRA: None listed	Open seat as Sharon Quirk-Silva terms out this year.
68	Jessie Lopez Democratic <i>City Councilwoman</i>	David Penaloza Democratic <i>Councilmember/Dad/Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Penaloza CRA: None listed	Open seat (Avelino Valencia running for Senate). Two Democrats.
69	Carolyn J. Essex Democratic <i>Legislative Policy Analyst</i>	Josh Lowenthal (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Business Owner/Assemblymember</i>	Dem Party: Lowenthal CRA: None listed	Two Democrats.
70	Paula Swift Democratic <i>Small Business Owner</i>	Tri Ta (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>California Assemblyman/Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Swift CRA: Ta	
71	JJ Galvez Democratic <i>Appointed Director, Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District</i>	Kate Sanchez (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>California State Assemblywoman</i>	Dem Party: Galvez CRA: Sanchez	
72	Chris Kluwe Democratic <i>Businessman/Coach/Father</i>	Gracey Van Der Mark Republican <i>Councilwoman/Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Kluwe CRA: Van Der Mark	Open seat as Diane Dixon is running for Orange County Board of Supervisors.

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73	Cottie Petrie-Norris (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Urson Russell Republican <i>Businessman</i>	Dem Party: Petrie-Norris CRA: Russell	
74	Sergio Farias Democratic <i>City Councilmember/Businessman</i>	Laurie Davies (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Assemblywoman/Business Owner</i>	Dem Party: Farias CRA: None listed CAGOP: Davies	CalMatters: Competitive Registration is tied 35% to 35%. A top California Democratic Party target.
75	Gerald C. Boursiquot Democratic <i>IT Contractor/Father</i>	Carl DeMaio (<i>incumbent</i>) Republican <i>Businessman/State Legislator</i>	Dem Party: Boursiquot CRA: None listed	DeMaio leads the Reform California group active in several GOP primaries.
76	Darshana Patel (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Carrie S. Espinoza Villanueva Republican <i>College Administration Support</i>	Dem Party: Patel CRA: None listed	
77	Tasha Boerner (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>California State Assemblymember</i>	Trinity Hannaway Republican <i>Taxpayer Advocate</i>	Dem Party: Boerner CRA: None listed	
78	Chris Ward (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Member of the State Assembly, 78th District</i>	Payton Galvez Republican <i>Constituent Services Manager</i>	Dem Party: Ward CRA: None listed	
79	LaShae Sharp-Collins (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Incumbent</i>	Andrew Lawson Republican <i>Spring Valley Community Planning Group Member</i>	Dem Party: Sharp-Collins CRA: Lawson	
80	David A. Alvarez (<i>incumbent</i>) Democratic <i>Assemblymember</i>	Alejandro Galicia Republican <i>Business Owner/Commissioner</i>	Dem Party: Alvarez CRA: None listed	