



California Voter Guide

Get informed in minutes with our Voter Guide for California's March 5 primary election. Unpack ballot measures and compare candidates in the most important races on Bay Area ballots and learn the easiest ways to cast your vote.

- [U.S. Senate primary](#) and [Proposition 1](#)
- [Bay Area races and measures](#)
- [Democratic](#) and [Republican](#) presidential primary
- [Voting tips](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 5

Voting begins.

March 5

Election Day: Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Results will be available starting 8 p.m.

Feb. 20

[Online voter registration](#) deadline.

April 4

Last day for county elections officials to certify election results.

TOP ELECTION NEWS



Find Your Early Voting Site or Ballot Drop-Off Location for the 2024 California Primary Election



How Do I Vote in California's Presidential Primary Election as a 'No Party Preference' Voter?

[More Election News Coverage](#)

Shape California's Future

Important choices are in your hands this primary election. You can decide on a once-in-a-generation U.S. Senate race, and a proposition to overhaul California's mental health funding, along with contests for state Legislature, and a slew of regional and local races and measures.

Voting FAQ

Do I have to request a mail-in ballot?



No – every registered voter in California will automatically receive a ballot in the mail. You can use that ballot to cast your vote (see below for where to return it when you're done) or you can forget that ballot and request a fresh one at a voting location. The one that arrived in the mail will be canceled. [Read more about finding a voting location near you.](#)

I'm registered as a No Party Preference voter. Can I still vote in the March presidential primary?



Yes – but the No Party Preference ballot you'll automatically receive in early February will not include the presidential contest, [so you'll need to request a new one.](#) If you want to vote for a presidential candidate in the American Independent Party, the Democratic Party or the Libertarian Party, you can [request a cross-over ballot](#) from your county elections office, or in person when you vote. If you want to vote for a presidential candidate in the Green Party, the Peace and Freedom Party or the Republican Party, you will need to [re-register online](#) as a member of that party – and if you don't do this before Feb. 20, you can do it at your county elections office or when you vote in person. [Read more about voting in the presidential primary as a No Party Preference voter.](#)

How do I return my ballot?



Ballots can be returned through the Postal Service (the return postage is already paid) or dropped off at a voting location or in a ballot drop box. Keep in mind that the Postal Service must postmark your ballot envelope by the end of Election Day for your vote to count – and the last collection at many mailboxes is 5 p.m. If it's getting late in the day on March 5, you might consider using a county drop box instead of a USPS mailbox. [Read more about returning your ballot.](#)

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?



Some counties will provide written instructions on how to correct a mistake on your ballot, such as voting for a candidate you didn't intend to. But if you clearly mark your intended choice – say, by x-ing out your mistake – your vote can still be counted. [Read more about correcting a mistake on your ballot.](#)

What if I made a mistake with my ballot signature?



Your ballot will not be counted if the envelope is unsigned or if the signature doesn't match the signature in your voter registration file. Typically, the signature on file is the same as the signature pictured on the front of your driver's license or state ID. County election officials can reach out to you to correct a missing or mismatched signature in order to count your ballot, even after election day. [Read more about common signature mistakes.](#)

How do I track my ballot once I've returned it?

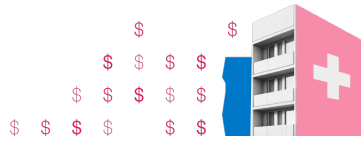


All registered voters in California can sign up for an online tool to track the status of their mail-in ballots for the November general election. "Where's My Ballot?" provides automated notifications via email, text or phone when your county elections offices have mailed out your ballot – and when your completed ballot has been received and processed. [Read more about tracking your ballot.](#)

Can I still vote in-person?



Yes. In Contra Costa, San Francisco and Solano counties, you will be assigned to a specific polling place for in-person voting, though some voting locations will be open to all voters. In Alameda, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma counties, you can cast your ballot at any vote center in the county. [Read more about where you can vote in person.](#)



Proposition 1

Should California issue bonds and change spending rules in order to build more housing for residents with behavioral health challenges?



Proposition 1 would issue \$6.38 billion in bonds to build supportive housing and residential treatment facilities. It would also amend the Mental Health Services Act (a 1% tax on personal income over \$1 million), allowing funds to also be used to help residents with substance abuse, not just those with mental illness. And it would set aside 30% of revenue generated from that tax to help house people — particularly veterans — with behavioral health conditions.

👍 Yes Argument

California should focus its resources on supporting residents who have severe mental health and substance abuse issues and keep them from living on the streets. Proposition 1 will provide a reliable funding source to build treatment facilities and it will dedicate over \$1 billion toward supportive housing for veterans with behavioral health challenges. The current rules of the Mental Health Services Act are too restrictive and should be changed to help people struggling with serious substance abuse issues.

👎 No Argument

Proposition 1 pulls revenue from the Mental Health Services Act in too many new directions. If you are increasing the amount of MHSA money going toward housing and residents with substance abuse issues, there will be less left for existing mental health services. Additionally, the bond money can be used to build locked facilities, which are a threat to civil liberties and will take California back to the era of involuntary treatment for severe mental illness.

Key Supporters ?

👍 In Support

- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- California Hospital Association
- California Medical Association
- National Alliance on Mental Illness California

👎 In Opposition

- Disability Rights California
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- League of Women Voters of California
- Mental Health America of California

U.S. Senator



Why does this race matter?

A crowded field of candidates is running to fill the U.S. Senate seat held by the late Senator Dianne Feinstein for more than 30 years. It's a rare opportunity to represent the most populous state in the nation in the Senate. The March vote could decide a likely winner in November: If a Republican advances to the general election along with a Democrat, the Democrat would be favored to win the seat.

Why am I voting in this race twice?

When longtime California Sen. Dianne Feinstein died in September, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Laphonza Butler to serve the remainder of her term. Voters are now being asked to pick a senator to serve the short window from when the election is certified to when the term ends on Jan. 3, 2025, and also to pick a senator for the next full term, from January 2025 through January 2031.

Key Candidates ?



Steve Garvey
Former Professional
Baseball Player
Republican



Barbara Lee
U.S. Representative
Democrat



Katie Porter
U.S. Representative
Democrat



Adam Schiff
U.S. Representative
Democrat

Top Priorities

Steve Garvey:

- Tackling homelessness by addressing the mental health and substance abuse crises.
- Improving public schools.
- Holding criminals accountable and better fund police departments.

Barbara Lee:

- Providing health care for all through a single-payer system.
- Taking climate action, particularly in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color.
- Protecting reproductive rights.

Katie Porter:

- Tackling corruption at corporations and in government, including by barring federal lobbyists from making campaign contributions.
- “Unrigging” the economy by investing in public services, climate action and health care and limiting corporate consolidation.
- Empowering workers through a higher minimum wage and making it easier to organize labor unions.

Adam Schiff:

- Expanding voting rights and eliminating the electoral college.
- Reforming campaign finance and ethics laws to make government more accountable.
- Reforming the Supreme Court by expanding it and imposing term limits.

Positions on Key Issues ?

Do you support a national abortion ban, national abortion limit or federal legislation codifying abortion access across the U.S.?



Garvey says he would not support a federal abortion ban or a federal law codifying abortion access, but wants to leave it up to the states as set out by the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision. He says he’s personally opposed to abortion but wants to “honor” Californians’ overwhelming vote to maintain legal access to abortion.

Lee wants to end the filibuster in the Senate and codify Roe v. Wade’s protections into federal law. She speaks openly about risking her life to get a “back-alley abortion” when it was illegal and is co-chair of the Pro-Choice Caucus. She is coauthor of proposed federal legislation that would let people on government-sponsored health plans access abortion care, and wrote California’s Violence Against Women Act as a state Assembly member.

Porter supports federal legislation to guarantee abortion access in all states, including the Women’s Health Protection Act. She’s voted for legislation to strengthen protections for patients who travel across state lines to access abortion care and says she’s posed questions to companies like FedEx asking how they will ensure Americans can access medication abortion through the mail.

Schiff says he would “strongly and vigorously” oppose a national abortion ban or any other federal limitations and supports codifying Roe v. Wade’s protections into federal law. He says he will support the Women’s Health Protection Act, work to reform the Supreme Court in part by expanding its size and imposing term limits, and support a change in law so people on government-sponsored health plans access abortion care.

Do you support a cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas and do you want to see any conditions placed on U.S. aid to Israel? Do you support continuing financial and military aid to Ukraine?



Garvey says he does not support a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas and also opposes placing any conditions on aid to Israel, saying the U.S. should “unequivocally stand by Israel’s right to defend itself from terrorists.” He says the U.S. cannot fund the war in Ukraine forever and that future aid should be based on “some metric of success.”

Lee was the only member of Congress to vote against authorizing the wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11. Lee supports an “unequivocal cease-fire,” and has since fall; she also believes that further assistance to Israel must be dependent on a “fundamental shift in its military strategy” and abide by U.S. and international law. She says the U.S. must continue to support Ukraine and its democracy against Russia.

Porter supports a “lasting bilateral cease-fire” contingent on “release of all hostages, durable security for Israel, and an end to Hamas’ control of Gaza.” She does not believe the U.S. should pledge unconditional military aid to Israel. She says any U.S. aid should be used to work toward a lasting two-state solution, and “must come with respect for U.S. and international law.” She supports continuing financial and military aid to Ukraine.

Schiff does not support a permanent cease-fire, saying it will perpetuate Hamas control over Gaza and that a two-state solution is not possible while Hamas controls the territory. He also opposes conditioning U.S. aid to Israel. He “strongly” supports additional financial and military support for Ukraine but opposes providing cluster munitions.

Would you use Community Project Funding requests (also known as earmarks) to steer funds toward California projects?



Garvey calls the current earmark system “flawed” and says it needs to be reformed to make sure projects are funded on their merits. He blames earmarks for inflation and the national debt, but says he would use it to deliver resources to California.

Lee supports earmarks as a “critical tool” to deliver results to constituents, particularly people of color and those who have low income. She touts millions of dollars in federal funding she has secured as a member of Congress for things like commercial revitalization, apprenticeship programs and mental health services.

Porter has long opposed earmarks and says she would continue to shun them as a Senator. She’s calling for reform to eliminate them entirely, saying they hurt people in low-income communities and communities of color. She believes federal spending should be decided by neutral policy experts and not be dependent on the connections of an individual politician.

Schiff supports earmarks and says elected leaders must fight for dollars to flow back to California, noting the state already sends more money to Washington, D.C., than it gets back. He says as a congressman he has brought back millions of dollars to combat homelessness and the housing crisis, strengthened wildfire prevention efforts and invested in mental health treatment for first responders.

Would you support changes to the asylum system or other immigration reform?



Garvey says the U.S.’s first priority should be strengthening the southern border but that he wants to “reward those who are seeking citizenship legally, including asylum seekers.” He is calling for an end to “chaos” at the border and for a streamlining of the immigration process.

Lee wants to abolish recent policies that have upended long-standing asylum protocols. She voted against the creation of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, and is calling for a 50% cut to Customs and Border Patrol funding. She supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the U.S. as well as more investments in Central and South American countries from which many immigrants in the U.S. originate.

Porter says the U.S. needs to streamline its asylum process to make it easier for those fleeing political, economic and religious persecution to legally seek refuge in America. She calls our immigration system a “mess” and blames Republicans for blocking reform.

Schiff is calling for investing more resources into the immigration court system in order to address the backlog and speed up how long it takes to adjudicate asylum petitions. He wants to see comprehensive immigration reform and supports the U.S. Citizenship Act to create a pathway to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants already in the U.S.

Key Supporters

For Garvey

- N/A

For Porter

- Elizabeth Warren, U.S. senator
- California Labor Federation
- California School Employees Association

For Lee

- California Labor Federation
- Congressional Black Caucus PAC
- Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice)

For Schiff

- Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative
- California Labor Federation
- United Farm Workers

Additional Candidates



Eric Early **Attorney**

Republican. Early has previously run for Congress and Attorney General. He told KQED that he would vote for a national 15-week limit on abortions and opposes continuing financial and military aid to Ukraine.

U.S. Senator FAQ

What does a U.S. senator do?

California's two U.S. senators represent the interests of the state in the upper chamber of Congress. They write and vote on bills, pursue funding for projects and programs in the state, and decide on nominations for U.S. Supreme Court justices, federal judges, cabinet members and other federal officials.

What are the qualifications to be a senator?

Senators must be at least 30 years old, and have been U.S. citizens for at least nine years. They must also be residents of the state they're running to represent at the time of the election.

How many years do we elect a U.S. senator for?

U.S. senators are elected for six-year terms.

Alameda, Measure B

Should Alameda County adopt the state's recall rules?



Measure B would replace the county's recall rules with those of the state. The change would raise the number of signatures needed to put a recall on the ballot, give the registrar more time to schedule recall elections, and make it so only elected officials — but not appointed officials — can be recalled. Passes with a majority vote.

Yes Argument

Approving this measure is good government housekeeping. Alameda County hasn't held a recall election in decades and county attorneys say the current rules are sorely outdated and likely in violation of state and federal law, exposing the county to costly lawsuits. This change is long overdue, they argue, and would facilitate smoother elections and save the county money.

No Argument

Removing the right to recall appointed officials limits voter power. It would also give the county Board of Supervisors, rather than voters, the authority to appoint temporary replacements. Finally, changing recall rules amid the current effort to recall Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price is unfair to proponents of that effort who have planned their campaign strategy according to current rules.

Key Supporters

In Support

- League of Women Voters
- Alameda County Council
- Elisa Márquez, supervisor, Alameda County
- Lena Tam, supervisor, Alameda County
- Keith Carson, supervisor, Alameda County
- Rebecca Perata, board vice-chair, Alameda Chamber of Commerce

In Opposition

- Dan Haubert, supervisor, Alameda County
- Nate Miley, supervisor, Alameda County
- Saving Alameda for Everyone (campaign to recall Price)
- Alameda County Taxpayers Association

Supervisor, District 4



Why does this race matter?

This race features a progressive outsider, Jennifer Esteen, who is challenging a six-term incumbent, Nate Miley. The seat represents a racially and economically diverse district that includes much of East Oakland and the Oakland Hills, as well as the cities of Pleasanton and Castro Valley, and several unincorporated communities.

What does a county supervisor do?

Supervisors govern county programs and departments and approve the county budget. Their largest area of spending is traditionally health care and human services. Supervisors are also responsible for local jails and elections, and they make decisions on law enforcement and housing in unincorporated areas of the county. If a supervisor candidate receives over 50% of the vote in the primary, they take office for a four-year term.

Candidates



Nate Miley
Supervisor, Alameda
County



Jennifer Esteen
Registered Nurse

Key Supporters ?

For Miley

- Rob Bonta, attorney general, California
- Yesenia Sanchez, sheriff, Alameda County
- Alameda County Labor Council
- California Nurses Association
- Sierra Club California

For Esteen

- Center for Biological Diversity
- Castro Valley Democratic Club
- California Working Families Party
- Oakland Rising Action
- Equality California

Positions on Key Issues ?

Public safety Parts of District 4 have some of the highest crime rates. If elected, what steps would you take first to address that situation? ^

Miley says Prop. 47, Prop. 57 and AB 109 — which reclassified many nonviolent felonies as misdemeanors, reduced sentences and pushed offenders into local jails — have spurred a surge in property crime and should be modified. He says a sound public-safety approach includes "prevention, intervention and enforcement," and emphasizes the need for professional, constitutional policing. "It is not effective public policy to diminish the worth of any one part of this public-safety equation," he says.

Esteen says, "Too many of us don't feel safe." As a registered nurse trained in psychiatric care, she says she would ensure people with appropriate training respond to housing and mental health issues, allowing police to focus on violent crime. "I'll fund community-based outpatient care and develop robust support systems for people on the margins," she says, arguing that preventative care can help break the crime cycle, reduce recidivism, foster rehabilitation and create safer communities.

The impacts of the Bay Area's housing shortage are felt throughout this district in high rents and home prices and, in some communities, spikes in the number of unhoused residents. What specific, concrete actions can the board take to address housing affordability and homelessness? ^

Miley says the state's prison realignment policy, which pushed many offenders into local jails, has fueled the growth of street encampments. The solution, he says, "requires institutional capacity for substance abuse and mental health services." On housing affordability, Miley says there is "no panacea," but advocates for steps that include accelerating affordable housing development through new public funding, instituting market regulations like a county vacancy tax, and placing limits on short-term rentals.

Esteen says the county needs stronger tenant protections, permanent supportive housing and more housing for working families. She supports funding housing subsidies and starting a first-time home-buyer program so residents can live close to work and work close to home. Programs like that, she says, would help private and public employers recruit and retain workers. "We don't have to settle for residents being priced out," she says.

Alameda County's public health system is a crucial safety net for many of the county's more than 1.6 million residents. What investments are needed to allow the health system to continue to serve this vital role? ^

Miley says Alameda County needs a wide range of health care investments, including funding for the new Office of Violence Prevention, which addresses violence as a public health issue. He says state programs, like mental health care courts and an expanded conservatorship law, will require identifying resources to house and treat the mentally ill. "Initiatives I've championed, including Measure A (2004) and Measure W (2020), will help provide funds to meet these challenges," he says.

Esteen says residents in need of health services are waiting six to eight months to be enrolled as outpatients because the county is short-staffed by 3,000 workers, including many primary care, mental health, and community health workers. "My proposed housing subsidies for working families will allow us to recruit more health care providers and will help to end the brain drain that's happening because the cost of living is too high here," she says.

This is a diverse district in every way — by education, wealth and race, among other factors. What do you see as the single most urgent issue for all the district's voters? ^

Miley says constituents across his district fear retail theft, home invasions, car break-ins, muggings, sideshows, gun violence, assaults on school campuses, "and wanton disregard of the law." In addition to emphasizing crime prevention and enforcement, he says the county must address contributing factors like housing affordability and education issues. "Public safety is government's most basic responsibility," he says. "Without it, our society will devolve into chaos and the law of the jungle."

Esteen says the most urgent districtwide issues are housing, health care, jobs and safety. She advocates for more affordable housing for working families and improved community-based health care — particularly behavioral care — focusing on prevention. She says county agencies must pay competitive salaries to fill vacant positions and provide vital services. "When we address these issues, we'll stop relying on our criminal justice system as a catchall, and police can focus on crime," she says.

Supervisor, District 5



Why does this race matter?

Supervisor Keith Carson's decision to step down from his District 5 seat after eight terms has launched one of the most contested elections in the Bay Area this year — at least, in terms of the [number of candidates](#) running. Eight are vying for the seat that represents all of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Piedmont and part of Oakland.

What does a county supervisor do?

Supervisors govern county programs and departments and approve the county budget. Their largest area of spending is traditionally health care and human services. Supervisors are also responsible for local jails and elections, and they make decisions on law enforcement and housing in unincorporated areas of the county. If a supervisor candidate receives over 50% of the vote in the primary, they take office for a four-year term. Otherwise, the top two candidates face off in the November general election.

Key Candidates ?



Ben Bartlett
City Council Member,
Berkeley



Nikki Fortunato Bas
City Council President,
Oakland



John Bauters
City Council Member,
Emeryville



Ken Berrick
Trustee, Alameda
County Board of
Education



Gregory Hodge
Strategic Consultant



Chris Moore
Retired Business
Executive

Key Supporters ?

For Bartlett

- Jesse Arreguín, mayor, Berkeley
- Elihu Harris, former Oakland mayor and state Assembly member
- Leslie Katz, former supervisor, Alameda County
- Ian Calderon, former state Assembly majority leader
- Kevin Jenkins, City Council member, Oakland

For Fortunato Bas

- Nancy Skinner, state senator
- Sheng Thao, mayor, Oakland
- Liz Ortega-Toro, state Assembly member
- Hank Levy, treasurer, Alameda County
- Alameda Labor Council
- AFL-CIO

For Bauters

- Mia Bonta, state Assembly member
- Buffy Wicks, state Assembly member
- Scott Wiener, state senator
- Alameda County Firefighters — Local 55
- Housing Action Coalition

For Hodge

- Surlene Grant, former City Council member, San Leandro
- Arnold Perkins, former director, Alameda Public Health Department
- Robert Phillips, CEO, West Oakland Health Center
- Selena Wilson, executive director, East Oakland Youth Development Center
- Rev. Lisa Rankow, founder, One Life Institute

For Berrick

- Alysse Castro, superintendent, Alameda County Office of Education
- Libby Schaaf, former mayor, Oakland
- Len Edwards, retired judge
- Will Lightbourne, former director, state Department of Health Care Services
- Dion Aroner, former state Assembly member

For Moore

- N/A

Positions on Key Issues

What is your plan to address the state of emergency on homelessness in Alameda County?

Bartlett says his plan “involves building upon our successes in Berkeley by leading a multifaceted approach, including expanding affordable housing, increasing mental health and substance abuse services, and providing job training and employment opportunities.” He says he also supports rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing efforts, and “investing in community-based solutions that address the root causes of homelessness. Key to this is the creation of a strong health district with finance and policy powers.”

Bauters says that during his many years working with the unhoused populations, he’s found that offering services at shelters is an effective way of “quickly connecting people to state and federal resources.” While permanency is the goal, “We need to recognize that leaving people on the streets renders their treatment plan ineffective,” he says, noting that his priority is “optimizing our current service delivery system,” especially to aid individuals with severe mental health issues.

Hodge says, “As a 40-year resident of West Oakland, I understand the urgency of addressing the homelessness crisis in Alameda County, given its particularly acute impact on the Black residents in my community.” He says his strategy “rests on five core pillars”: prioritize prevention, rapidly increase shelter and temporary housing capacity, invest in permanent supportive housing, address the root causes of homelessness, and foster community collaboration.

Fortunato Bas says the county “has the resources through the health care system and housing system to have the biggest impact, and our solutions must be grounded in advancing racial equity.” She says she has “led the charge for stronger tenant protections,” including authoring and passing California’s strongest city-level COVID-19 eviction moratorium in March 2020 and co-authoring Oakland’s Fair Chance Housing ordinance.

Berrick says the county and its cities “should immediately partner to build as many shelter beds and housing units as possible,” with mental health services and other resources provided through those venues. He also says he’d push to develop supportive long-term housing sites throughout the county, as opposed to centralized transitional housing programs. “This is critical,” he adds. “Unhoused residents deserve stability in their housing.”

Moore says that street encampments are not safe for the people living in them, or for the community members around them. “These inhumane conditions of our unhoused are unacceptable and have become a magnet for open-air drug dealing, human trafficking, vandalism, and theft,” he says. He also wants to “get aggressive” about opening shelters throughout the county that offer 24/7 wraparound social services “to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the care they need.”

How would you help increase the amount of affordable housing in the county?



Bartlett says he would advocate for “leveraging public-private partnerships, revising zoning laws to facilitate more affordable housing developments, and utilizing public land for affordable housing projects, driving more public funding sources.” Additionally, policies that incentivize developers to include affordable units in new developments is “crucial,” he says, touting the success of such policies in Berkeley during his time on the city council.

Bauters says that while on the Emeryville City Council, he championed a 2018 ballot measure for a \$50 million affordable housing bond that leverages state funding to produce and preserve local affordable housing. “Coupled with the tenant protection and just cause eviction ordinances Emeryville adopted, we have created an environment where affordable housing production flourishes, making our community socio-economically diverse and accessible,” he says.

Hodge says as a homeowner in West Oakland for more than 30 years, “I understand intimately the housing crisis gripping our community, especially the Black community. This issue is not just about finding a place to live, it’s about building a foundation for generational stability, wealth creation, and a sense of belonging.” His “two-stage approach” would focus on stabilization and development, “with a particular emphasis on stabilizing the well-being of the Black and brown community.”

Fortunato Bas says that while serving on the Oakland City Council, she worked to create a \$14 million fund to help housing-insecure tenants purchase their homes, “making these homes permanently affordable and taking them off the speculative market.” She adds that on the board of the Association of Bay Area Governments, she is currently working on a regional bond measure to raise up to \$20 billion for 80,000 affordable homes.

Berrick says the county is not the primary government body tasked with developing affordable housing in Alameda County, and that it should support cities with their housing development initiatives, while also promoting housing development in unincorporated regions. “The county should provide logistical and financial support to ensure projects [take] advantage of our ability to connect state and federal sources of funding to local developers and nonprofit organizations,” he says.

Moore says he would advocate for a full inventory of options to be researched and brought to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. That includes continuing to increase “minimum zoning” near transit, speeding up the housing approval process, expediting approvals and financial incentives for affordable and workforce housing. He says he would also push to unlock public land for affordable housing and grow and stabilize the “construction labor force.”

How would you address what many consider another emergency in the county: fatal drug overdoses?



Bartlett says that the fatal drug overdose crisis requires a comprehensive public health approach. “This includes expanding access to treatment and recovery services, increasing the availability of overdose-reversal drugs like naloxone, and implementing harm reduction strategies,” he says. “It’s also important to collaborate with health care providers, law enforcement, and community organizations to create a coordinated response to this crisis.”

Bauters says success involves better coordination between health departments at the federal, state, county and local levels. He would also push the county to acquire and distribute more naloxone and launch a targeted outreach campaign utilizing wastewater testing to identify areas with the most prevalent fentanyl use. He also advocates for a dedicated team of wraparound service providers who can also address the needs of children and families impacted by drug overdoses.

Hodge says he’s witnessed the devastating impact of the overdose crisis firsthand. “We need to move beyond the outdated ‘War on Drugs’ rhetoric and embrace harm reduction as a cornerstone,” which means expanding access to naloxone, scaling up syringe-exchange programs, and investing in medication-assisted treatment, he says. “People who hope for a better future are less likely to turn to drugs. We need to invest in initiatives that create pathways out of poverty.”

Fortunato Bas says she co-authored an Oakland [resolution that would allow the city to create overdose prevention programs](#) proven to work elsewhere. She says she also supports programs the county is already pursuing, including clean-syringe services, naloxone distribution and training, fentanyl testing, and peer support programs. She adds that “Alameda County has an opportunity to expand programs and innovate solutions with the anticipated \$40 million from settlement of opioid lawsuits.”

Berrick says he wants to focus on “data-driven, compassionate solutions.” That includes community-based mobile response teams stocked with Narcan, as an alternative to police interaction. “There needs to be a significant expansion in mental health and substance-use programs and services,” he says. Community health and intervention workers should be equipped with these resources, he adds, “and the state’s progress on establishing hotlines to act as supports show promise.”

Moore says that more resources need to be allocated for prevention and education about “how deadly the new street drugs are.” He adds, “We must learn from those who have [done] the hard work to rid their lives of addiction and have the real life experience,” and emphasize that without mandatory treatment “they would not be here to support and provide help to those who are currently experiencing this crisis.”

What would you do to address the county's rising crime rates, and where do you stand on the related effort to recall District Attorney Pamela Price and hire a new Oakland police chief?



Bartlett says he would focus on the underlying issues contributing to rising crime rates rather than on individual leadership changes. That includes addressing systemic factors such as economic disparities and mental health issues, as well as “a concerted effort to bolster law enforcement response capabilities.” As for Oakland’s police chief search, Bartlett says, “The new chief should have a strong record of reducing crime while respecting civil liberties and building trust within the community.”

Bauters says he’s “committed to restoring safety and security to our community’s retail spaces.” He would push to provide law enforcement with advanced technologies and improve coordination with local businesses. He says the lack of “decisive action” in hiring a new police chief has disrupted law enforcement efforts and stoked public anxiety. He adds that, “Effective leadership is judicious, recognizing the need to address systemic inequities while maintaining a fact-based evaluation of each case.”

Hodge says that although he may not agree with some of Price’s decisions, he believes she is committed to criminal justice reform and working with the community to make the county safer. “Recalling her would only disrupt progress and further politicize a critical issue,” he says. Instead, he urges voters to demand comprehensive public safety solutions and for all branches of government to collectively “build a safer Alameda County for everyone, not just through recalls.”

Fortunato Bas says, “Relitigating a recent election through a costly special election recall, while blaming the incumbent for issues that pre-date her recent tenure, is not something I support.” Rather, she says, she would champion prevention and support programs with proven track records, like Operation Ceasefire and the mobile crisis response unit. “I will focus on prevention, crisis response, community policing and addressing the root causes of poverty and violence.”

Berrick says it’s crucial to address the root problems that incite crime, including poverty and institutionalized racism. On Price, he says that although she was elected “on a groundswell of public support around a more progressive approach,” he also thinks that the “animosity” between her and her staff has weakened public trust in the district attorney’s office. “Alameda County residents have the right to a second referendum,” he says.

Moore says he supports the effort to recall Price. “I came to this very difficult decision after meeting families of victims that felt that they were suffering another crime with the DA office,” he says. He also says Oakland urgently needs a competent police chief to fill the leadership vacuum. “In particular, not having a police chief in a moment of unprecedented crime in Oakland for over a year is unacceptable.”

What do you feel should happen next with the Oakland Coliseum and the 155 acres it sits on?



Bartlett says the site “represents a significant opportunity for development.” His vision for it includes a mixed-use development that can provide affordable housing, commercial space and recreational facilities. “It’s important that any development plan involves community input and provides tangible benefits to the residents of Alameda County,” he says.

Bauters says a comprehensive plan for the site should “include a commitment to dense, sustainable and affordable housing that is thoughtfully integrated into regional transportation systems.” He says there is also an opportunity for Oakland to attract an innovative company or industry “that will diversify the region’s economy while introducing green industries.” The site should also provide space for “prospective sports franchises, concerts, nightlife and cultural events that are unique to Oakland.”

Hodge says he envisions “not the top-down impositions of the past,” but rather a Community Land Trust as “the beating heart of this ecosystem” to ensure “Black voices shape every step of the way.” He would push for the site to have ample affordable housing that “rises like beacons of hope, offering families a secure haven to build their dreams.” The site should also host new health care facilities and schools, he says.

Fortunato Bas says that as a transportation hub and an “opportunity zone,” the site can be a model of “equitable economic development and regional pride.” She notes that she has worked closely with the parties involved on this project and supports developing the city’s portion of the site with facilities that accommodate sports, entertainment, retail, housing and education. Doing so “would create a path for economic equity for the Black community,” she says.

Berrick says that developing a transit-oriented development around the BART and Amtrak Stations, and with airport access, “holds the potential for thousands of new units of housing and thousands of jobs.” He also supports a proposal to establish a “City Hall East” at the site, and is keen to see the county work to draw in or maintain sports teams like the Oakland Roots, Oakland Soul, or a WNBA team.

Moore says the Coliseum should be rebuilt as “an efficient state-of-the-art facility.” Any new site development, he says, should directly benefit the residents who live there, and who for decades have been neglected. “I would be in favor of new development of affordable housing, but it also needs retail and other services that will provide the much needed jobs and revenue,” he says.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 12



Why does this race matter?

Barbara Lee's bid for the U.S. Senate leaves her House seat open for the first time in 26 years, drawing a slew of candidates to replace her. The seat represents a large swath of the East Bay, including the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany, Piedmont, San Leandro and Alameda.

What does a U.S. representative do?

Representatives are your local community's voice in the U.S. House of Representatives. Members of congress write and vote on bills, including the federal budget. The top-two finishers in this primary election, regardless of party, will face off in the November election. The winner will serve a two-year term.

Key Candidates ?



Tony Daysog
Vice Mayor, city of
Alameda
Democrat



Glenn Kaplan
Oakland Bar Owner
Democrat



Abdur Sikder
Computer Science
Professor, SFSU
Democrat



Lateefah Simon
Board Director, BART
Democrat



Stephen Slauson
Electrical Engineer
Republican



Jennifer Tran
Ethnic Studies
Professor, Cal State
East Bay
Democrat

Key Supporters ?

For Daysog

- Steven Okazaki, media producer
- Marshall Goldberg, marketing executive

For Sikder

- Sheikh Rahman, state senator, Georgia

For Slauson

- N/A

For Kaplan

- N/A

For Simon

- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- Barbara Lee, U.S. representative
- Rob Bonta, attorney general, California
- Emily's List
- California Working Families Party
- Reproductive Freedom for All (*Formerly NARAL*)

For Tran

- Asian American & Pacific Islanders Rising and Empowering
- LPAC
- Long Bui, professor, UC Irvine
- Phuc Tran, insurance broker
- Kim Tran, real estate broker

Positions on Key Issues ?

Housing affordability has been a challenge for East Bay residents for decades. What would you push for in Congress to address the region's housing crisis?

Daysog says he believes the federal government should focus on making the current housing stock more accessible to lower-income residents. He would expand eligibility for the government's low-income housing voucher program — known as Section 8 — so people renting rooms in houses, as opposed to those renting whole units, could also benefit from it. He says doing so would encourage “empty-nest housing-rich elderly homeowners” to rent unused rooms to people in need.

Sikder says he would push for a national “special housing fund” to build sufficient housing for all families experiencing homelessness. “All Americans deserve housing, it should be a right not a privilege,” he says.

Slauson says he believes there is enough affordable housing already available throughout the Bay Area. If elected, he would encourage the federal government to continue to provide housing vouchers to help subsidize rent for lower-income residents, and require all cities to provide land that is zoned for trailer-park accommodations.

Kaplan says he believes the federal government must tackle income inequality in order to address the housing crisis. He would push to create a federal universal basic income program and advocate for a 99% tax on all annual income over \$5 million dollars. When the government doesn't strongly tax the ultra rich, Kaplan says, “the nation allows white-collar crime to thrive along with the glorification of environmentally damaging consumerism.”

Simon says that as a BART board director, she oversaw housing development on BART land, and believes the federal government should similarly invest in building new housing on its land to alleviate the region's housing crisis. She would seek to increase funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development — which provides grants to affordable housing developers — and plans to help streamline the bureaucratic review process.

Tran says the federal government must address mental illness, drug addiction and poverty to solve homelessness. She says she would push to better fund state hospitals and care courts for people with serious mental illness and drug addiction, and promote housing voucher programs that include mandatory job placements. To encourage housing development, she would work to expand the Department of Housing and Urban Development's budget and require that cities adopt permitting processes that encourage affordable housing construction.



Amid the recent uptick in crime in a number of East Bay cities, what kind of national policies would you advocate for to increase public safety?



Daysog says he believes the federal government should provide funds to local police departments to hire new officers. He envisions hiring these officers for two years of desk duty only, to “free-up veteran police officers from desk duty so they can be out on the street instead.”

Sikder says the federal government needs to pass stricter gun laws. He advocates for “community policing initiatives” and “data-driven policing,” and says law enforcement must work closely with the communities they serve. He also says he is committed to addressing underlying causes of crime including “poverty, lack of educational opportunities, and limited access to mental health services.”

Slauson says “the cop on the beat” is the theme of his campaign. He believes all cities should increase the size of their police forces, and would advocate for the federal government to require cities to do so. He believes harsher punishments prevent crime. He opposes Prop. 47, and would push to eliminate no-cost bail nationwide and for the “mandatory incarceration of repeat criminals.”

Kaplan says he would call on Gov. Gavin Newsom to send the National Guard to the Bay Area to “quell the massive crime wave.” As a small-business owner in Oakland, he says he lives in constant fear and the “repercussions of unaccountable felons.”

Simon says crime often occurs across county and state lines. If elected, she would facilitate collaboration between federal and local law enforcement agencies. She would also help prevent crime by pushing Congress to “close loopholes in federal gun laws,” as well as “increase mental health and drug addiction treatment, lower barriers to access to existing programs, and provide resources to expand programs geared to prevent recidivism.”

Tran says she will work to create a “federal standard ratio” for the number of police required per 1,000 residents. If cities can’t afford to meet those staffing levels, she would push the federal government to provide funding. She would also support a requirement that every police car be staffed with one armed officer and one uniformed social worker to improve how law enforcement responds to people experiencing mental health crises.

What actions would you take in Congress to help the region better respond to climate change-related impacts like sea-level rise?



Daysog says that as an elected official serving a city on an island in the Bay, he is acutely aware of the risks presented by rising sea levels. In Congress, he would push for funding for “natural responses over hardscape responses.” To reduce the deadly impact of wildfires, he would advocate for federal agencies to build fire breaks in vulnerable communities, underground power lines and plant “vegetation that is less flammable.”

Sikder says he would “propose a bill to protect our shoreline from sea-level rise.”

Slauson says he does not believe climate change is causing sea-level rise. Instead, he says the federal government should focus on severe storms that have caused extensive damage to coastal towns, and advocates for long-term federal disaster recovery funds for impacted communities.

Kaplan says he believes climate change is an existential threat and says the U.S. “needs to be a leader in its elimination.” If elected, he would end government subsidies for fossil fuel companies, ban single-use plastic water bottles, and “impose severe taxes on greenhouse-emitting companies.” He would also propose subsidies for electric cars and solar tax credits that never expire.

Simon says she believes public transportation is central to combating climate change. She would push for Green New Deal legislation, including major boosts in federal funding for transit and biodiversity protections, and seek to ban federal land leases for fossil-fuel extraction. She would also push for funding to update water and sewage infrastructure to better handle increases in storm runoff and microplastics.

Tran says she believes it is too late to invest in a “long-term plan for transitioning from fossil fuels to clean electric.” Instead, she would advocate for the federal government to invest heavily in “innovative technologies that can capture greenhouse gasses.” She says, “That is literally our only hope of reversing this trajectory we’re on.”

If elected, would you advocate for changes to the immigration system to help undocumented residents gain legal status? If so, what would those changes look like?



Daysog says he would work to pass the DREAM Act if elected to Congress.

Sikder says he would vote for “comprehensive immigration reform,” and propose legislation to create additional pathways to citizenship for undocumented residents who have no criminal record within the last 10 years. “The U.S. needs more workers,” he says. “Why not keep good people to contribute to our economy?”

Slauson says the U.S. should deport anyone “who refuses to get a work permit or a green card or register for immigration status.” He would encourage the strict enforcement of current immigration laws and push for the federal government to withhold funding to any cities with sanctuary policies, which restrict local agencies from cooperating with immigration authorities.

Kaplan says he would advocate for a path to citizenship for undocumented residents who arrived in the United States as children, also known as “Dreamers.” “We are a nation of immigrants. Our ethnic makeup is constantly changing as it has for hundreds of years and is indeed our greatest strength, not a liability,” he says.

Simon says she supports creating a clear pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented residents who she says “are already a vital part of our nation.” In response to what she calls a “humanitarian crisis” at the southern border, Simon would pursue legislation to improve conditions at immigration-detention facilities, reduce wait times for visa and asylum applications, protect whistleblowers and guarantee legal representation to people in immigration proceedings.

Tran says new immigrants create an opportunity to massively expand local tax bases if they are given access to aboveboard jobs. If elected, she would advocate to “expand entry opportunities and paths to visa programs.” She envisions an expansion of the immigration system that would allow for “the processing of immigration applications at six to seven times the current capacity,” which she says “would resemble more of the EU Eurozone system.”

Would you advocate for a cease-fire in Gaza, and would you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel?



Daysog says he opposes pending House Resolution 786, which calls for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. He says any resolution he would support “must recognize the two-state solution,” renounce terrorism, recognize Palestinian self-rule, and include significant Israeli contributions to infrastructure in Palestinian territories.

Sikder says he would follow in Barbara Lee’s footsteps and call for an immediate cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. He says inflation has put working class Americans in a hard place over the last year and would urge Congress to think twice before committing resources to foreign conflicts. “It is important to help our allies but we need to put Americans’ interest first before any other,” he says.

Slauson does not say whether he would support a cease-fire, but says he would call on the government to stop supplying military aid to Israel. “It’s not OK for Israel to kill innocent women and children by bombing them,” he says, adding that it’s also not okay for Hamas to do so. “It’s time to part company with Israel,” he says. “There is no benefit to America maintaining a presence in the Middle East.”

Kaplan does not say whether he would support a cease-fire. Instead, he says, “regardless of one’s position on the current conflict in Israel, there is no place for Islamophobia or anti-Semitism in the public sphere.” He condemns some of the public comments made in support of Oakland’s cease-fire resolution in November, which he says were anti-Semitic and “a stain and embarrassment on our community.”

Simon says she would push for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. “I believe that we must focus on a lasting and peaceful two-state solution,” she says. She also supports the U.S. continuing to provide “bilateral assistance, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic leadership” in the region, including to Israel, which she recognizes as a key ally. But, if elected, she would “want to see a significant reduction in global military spending.”

Tran doesn’t say whether she would support a cease-fire, but points to her experience working as mediator. “Instead of war for geopolitical empire-building, U.S. foreign policies on intervention should be anchored in negotiations and compromise at all costs,” she says. “We need to treat all foreign entities — even Russia, China, Iran, North Korea — with enough respect to listen to their grievances and try to help them solve them.”

Additional Candidates



Andre Todd
**Navy Veteran and
Former Investor**

Democrat. Todd served in the Navy for decades and retired in 2023 at the rank of lieutenant commander.



Eric Wilson
NGO Employee

Democrat. Wilson ran for this seat in 2022, finishing fourth out of five candidates in the primary.



Ned Nuerge
**Retired Driving
Instructor**

Republican. Nuerge ran for this seat in 2022, finishing fifth out of five candidates in the primary.

State Senate, District 7



Why does this race matter?

The winner of this hotly contested race will replace termed-out state Sen. Nancy Skinner, whose progressive record on criminal justice and the environment made her a local favorite in this deeply progressive East Bay district. Housing development, public safety, and climate change are key issues for local voters.

What does a state senator do?

State senators represent communities at the California Legislature in Sacramento. The 40 members of the state Senate write and vote on state bills, serve on policy committees and vote on the annual state budget. The top two finishers in this primary election, regardless of party, will face off in the November election. The winner will serve a four-year term.

Key Candidates ?



Jesse Arreguín
Mayor, Berkeley
Democrat



Dan Kalb
City Council Member,
Oakland
Democrat



Kathryn Lybarger
President, California
Labor Federation
Democrat



Jovanka Beckles
Board of Directors, AC
Transit
Democrat



Sandré Swanson
Former Assembly
Member
Democrat

Key Supporters ?

For Arreguín

- State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, AFL-CIO
- YIMBY Action
- California Young Democrats
- Buffy Wicks, state Assembly member
- Yesenia Sanchez, sheriff, Alameda County

For Kalb

- California Environmental Voters
- California Legislative Jewish Caucus
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 595
- Sheng Thao, mayor, Oakland
- Tessa Rudnick, mayor pro tem, El Cerrito

For Lybarger

- California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
- American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, Local 3299
- Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action
- California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus
- California Federation of Teachers

For Beckles

- California Conference Board Amalgamated Transit Union
- East Bay Democratic Socialists of America
- Richmond Progressive Alliance
- Pamela Price, district attorney, Alameda County
- California Democratic Renters Council

For Swanson

- California Legislative Black Caucus
- Peace Officers Research Association of California PAC
- Jim Levine, CEO, Montezuma Wetlands LLC
- California Association of Highway Patrolmen PAC
- Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce

Positions on Key Issues ?

If elected, what policies would you push for in the state Senate to make housing more affordable for East Bay residents?



Arreguín says he would focus on making it easier and faster to build new housing. He points to his track record as Berkeley's mayor during the city's biggest housing boom in decades. He says he supports developing more government-owned housing to create affordable options for residents. And he vows to fight for stronger rent control and eviction protections, noting he is the only renter running for this seat.

Lybarger says she would make housing more accessible by raising wages, increasing access to well-paying unionized jobs and bumping up enforcement of labor laws. She wants the state to stop investing in market-rate housing and instead invest in housing owned and managed by the government.

Swanson says he would push to rebuild redevelopment funds. He says it was a mistake for the state to get rid of the 400-plus local redevelopment agencies in 2011. The agencies' urban renewal programs have been criticized for their role in displacing communities of color in the Bay Area, but Swanson says those agencies also gave cities the resources to build housing for seniors, people experiencing homelessness and other lower-income residents.

Kalb says that as an Oakland City Council member, he helped establish one of the country's longest COVID-related eviction moratoriums. In the state Senate, he says he would continue working to prevent tenant displacement, and would seek reforms to state laws that limit tenant protections. He believes building more housing is essential to ending the state housing crisis.

Beckles says she believes the state is investing too heavily in market-rate housing and should instead build more affordable housing. She thinks it's unrealistic to rely on private developers to take this on, and would instead propose a "multibillion-dollar housing bond" to fund it. Beckles also touts her work on Richmond's strong tenants protection law, and vows to continue to be a vocal tenant advocate.

Amid growing concern over retail and property theft, do you think Proposition 47, which lowers penalties for some types of non-violent crimes, should be reformed? What other steps would you push for to reduce property crime in the East Bay?



Arreguín says he supports Newsom’s plan to alter the language of Prop. 47 to allow harsher penalties for ‘professional thieves’ who resell stolen goods. “By pursuing targeted laws and strategies we can address the growing problem of retail theft, without throwing out needed reforms to reduce our prison population and promote rehabilitation,” he says.

Lybarger says the growing push to change Prop. 47 isn’t based on “real data,” and points to other states with similar laws that haven’t experienced the same uptick in retail theft. She says, “the cost of housing, mental health conditions, and the number of people without a home in California” are the more likely culprits. She notes that Prop. 47 also includes funding for anti-recidivism programs that would be lost if the measure was scrapped.

Swanson says he believes the “provisions in Prop. 47 are feeding our crime wave,” and would work to overturn the law. He says harsh penalties are a deterrent to crime, and argues that when the state passes laws “reducing its penalties or consequences of arrest, criminals use it for the recruitment of the young.

Kalb says he would not push for major changes to Prop. 47. Instead, he would invest more in community-focused policing including theft prevention and intervention. He emphasizes the need to fund expanded diversion and rehabilitation programs for people caught stealing, which he says the state has overpromised on and under-delivered. He also supports improving local law enforcement’s ability to catch people who commit these crimes — including asking for investigative assistance from the FBI.

Beckles says she supports Prop. 47 as is and is “not interested in contributing to right-wing fearmongering about the Bay Area or racialized panics about retail and business closures.” She says she would push for crime-reduction policies focused on root causes of crime. She says that includes increasing social services, raising wages, expanding rent control and reducing employment barriers for people leaving prison.

What actions would you take in the Senate to help the East Bay better respond to the increasing risk of flooding, fires and other climate change-related impacts?



Arreguín says he would push the state to update zoning laws, provide grants to homeowners to encourage “home hardening,” and work with insurers to underwrite policies in fire zones. He also says he would advocate for the state to pursue more effective stormwater management strategies in flood zones. He notes that under his leadership, Berkeley adopted home hardening standards to reduce damage caused by potential wildfires.

Lybarger says she would push the state to create green union jobs and “grow the public sector’s workforce to be able to capably respond to disasters.” She supports the idea of investing in “resilience hubs” — community centers designed to coordinate how resources are distributed before, during and after increasingly common hazardous events like poor air quality or flooding. She says that should go hand in hand with continued efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Swanson says tackling climate change requires a global move away from fossil fuels, while being mindful of employment impacts. He notes that, while in the Assembly, he pushed the state to create more green jobs and training opportunities. To mitigate flood risk in the Bay Area, he would push for the “building of coastal defenses, restoring natural coastal ecosystems, and implementing land-use planning to reduce vulnerability to rising sea levels.”

Kalb says cities should not be developing new buildings along the shoreline at, or below, sea level. He says he would advocate for more nature-based solutions, like the redevelopment of Bay Area wetlands, as an effective way to combat sea-level rise. He would also require California cities to create specific plans for how to address equity in their climate-change response strategies.

Beckles says her political life “has been focused in large part around preventing and reversing policies of environmental racism,” and notes her experience facing off with the Chevron refinery in Richmond. She would push the state to better support fossil fuel workers and work closely with unions as more industries transition to renewable energy.

We've seen a dramatic increase in labor strikes in industries like health care and education. What would you do to ensure workers in these essential sectors receive the pay and support they need to be able to live in the East Bay?



Arreguín says he would work to raise the state minimum wage, expand worker protections and increase funding for public education and public sector employees. He notes that when he was on Berkeley City Council, he helped raise Berkeley's minimum wage to one of the highest in the state (\$18.07/hour). He argues the cost of housing in the district is out of reach for most working-class families and says he would push to produce more permanently affordable housing units.

Lybarger says she will fight to raise essential workers' pay to meet the cost of living, and touts her current efforts to secure a \$25/hour minimum wage for all University of California employees. She would push for the development of government housing for public employees and work to expand first-time homeownership opportunities for low-wage workers.

Swanson touts his legislative track record protecting working families. As the former chair of the Assembly's Labor and Employment Committee, he says he pushed to protect state pensions and supported workers' collective bargaining rights, and later sponsored a bill to crack down on wage theft. If elected, he would continue to advocate for stronger labor protections.

Kalb says he would push to reform Prop. 13's restrictions on taxing commercial properties — which he calls essential to increasing public school funding, including raising teacher salaries. He also would seek to build more affordable housing for teachers in high-cost districts. He also supports a statewide single-payer health care system, and says, "We must pay our health care workers decent wages and provide good working conditions."

Beckles says she believes strong unions are essential to improving the pay and working conditions of the state's essential workers. She's currently a rank-and-file member of the Teamsters Local Union 856 and says she will continue the push to force businesses to provide pay to striking workers, remove strike prohibitions in work contracts and make union organizing easier.

Last June, a state task force released a historic statewide plan to provide reparations to the Black descendants of enslaved Americans living in California. Where do you stand on that proposal?



Arreguín says he strongly "supports reparations and believes that monetary payments cannot be the only restitution." He would support the repeal of Prop. 209, which bans the consideration of race in government decisions, push to amend the state constitution to end involuntary servitude in the prison system and eliminate Article 34, which makes it harder to approve the construction of low-income housing.

Lybarger says figuring out some of the trickier details, "like who should pay for direct cash payments," means it will take a while to implement reparations. In the meantime, she would focus on ending ongoing harms by banning involuntary servitude in prison, giving Black residents first access to affordable housing in communities where displacement has occurred, and offering free treatment for sickle cell anemia — a disease that disproportionately affects Black Americans.

Swanson says he is a descendant of enslaved Americans. He is still making his way through the task force's recommendations, but says he would push to make the proposal available in audio formats so it is more accessible for the visually impaired. He says he has "no major objections" to recommendations and is particularly interested in programs that support homeownership and access to health care in California's Black communities.

Kalb says he would likely "support virtually all of the task force recommendations over time." First and most importantly, he says, the state should do more to educate Californians about the history of racism in this state. He notes that some of the report's suggestions come with a hefty price tag, and says he would "support identifying those funds (present and future) over the next two to five years."

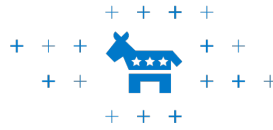
Beckles says she participated in two focus groups run by the task force, in which she shared her perspective as a Black immigrant (born in Panama City, Panama). She says she has read and supports every element of the proposal, and would push the state to first offer a formal apology to the descendants of enslaved Americans. She thinks the task force's calculation of reparations payments is likely low and would "support a plan to revise it upwards."

Additional Candidates



Jeanne Solnordal
Real Estate Investor

Republican. Solnordal previously ran for state Assembly in the 15th District, finishing third out of three candidates in the 2020 primary.



Democratic Presidential Primary



How does the presidential primary work?

California will send 496 delegates to the Democratic National Convention, of which 277 delegates will be allocated by congressional district to each candidate who finishes with at least 15% of the vote in each district; 147 delegates will be divided among each candidate who finishes with at least 15% of the statewide vote; and 72 delegates will be state and party officials not pledged to a candidate through the primary vote.

Who can vote in this primary?

Voters registered as Democrats, along with voters registered as No Party Preference. No Party Preference voters will need to request a crossover ballot from their county elections office to vote in this primary.

Key Candidates ?



Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President, United States of America
Democrat



Dean Phillips
U.S. Representative
Democrat



Marianne Williamson
Author
Democrat

Key Supporters ?

For Biden

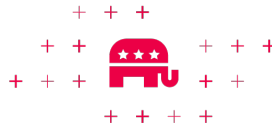
- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- Alex Padilla, U.S. senator
- Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative

For Williamson

- Maebe A. Girl, neighborhood councilor, Silver Lake

For Phillips

- N/A



Republican Presidential Primary



How does the GOP presidential primary work in California?

Last year, the state Republican Party changed its rules for selecting delegates. Under the new rules, if a candidate gets more than 50% of the statewide total of Republican votes cast, they get all of California's 169 Republican delegates. If no candidate manages to get a majority of the votes, delegates will be awarded in proportion to the share of the statewide vote that each candidate receives.

Who can vote in this primary?

The California Republican Party holds a "closed primary," meaning only voters registered as Republican can vote to choose the party's nominee. If you wish to vote in this primary and are not a registered Republican, you can re-register [here](#). After Feb. 20, you can change party registration, up until election day, in person at your local polling place, a vote center or your county elections office.

Key Candidates ?



Nikki Haley
Former Governor,
South Carolina/Former
Ambassador, United
Nations
Republican



Donald J. Trump
Former President,
United States of
America
Republican

Key Supporters ?

For Haley

- Lanhee Chen, fellow, Hoover Institution
- Tim Draper, Silicon Valley venture capitalist
- Jeff Gorell, supervisor, Ventura County
- Suzette Martinez Valladares, former state Assembly member

For Trump

- Shannon Grove, state senator
- Darrell Issa, U.S. representative
- Kevin McCarthy, former House speaker
- Michelle Steel, U.S. representative