



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?

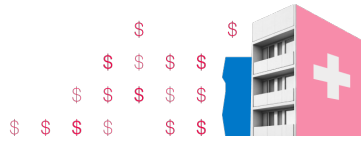


All registered voters in California can sign up for an online tool to track the status of their mail-in ballots for the November general election. "Where's My Ballot?" provides automated notifications via email, text or phone when your county elections offices have mailed out your ballot – and when your 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.

Supervisor, District 5



Why does this race matter?

For the first time since 2000, the seat to represent eastern Contra Costa County on the board will be up for grabs when Supervisor Federal Glover retires at the end of his sixth term, in December 2024. The district includes Pittsburg, Martinez, Hercules and Rodeo, portions of Antioch and Pinole, and about a dozen 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. Otherwise, the top two candidates face off in the November general election.

Candidates



Shanelle Scales-Preston
Mayor, Pittsburg



Mike Barbanica
City Council Member, Antioch



Jelani Killings
Vice Mayor, Pittsburg and Ethics Analyst, Oakland



Iztaccuauhtli “White Eagle” Hector M. Gonzalez
Pittsburg-Based Realtor

Key Supporters ?

For Scales-Preston

- Mark DeSaulnier, U.S. representative
- John Garamendi, U.S. representative
- Federal Glover, supervisor, Contra Costa County
- Diane Burgis, supervisor, Contra Costa County
- Contra Costa Labor Council
- AFL-CIO

For Barbanica

- David Livingston, sheriff, Contra Costa County
- Martinez Police Officers Association
- Concord Police Officers Association
- Pittsburg Police Officers Association

Positions on Key Issues ?

How do you plan to reduce homelessness in the district?

Scales-Preston says the county needs to build more affordable housing and increase the amount of long-term transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness. She supports initiatives that partner with communities to provide on-site, wraparound services to “stabilize the unhoused and equip them with the tools needed to move into permanent housing.”

Killings says despite spending over \$172 million on homelessness services between 2019 and 2023, Contra Costa County’s homeless population still increased by 4%. He says reducing homelessness will require a “strong coordinated effort to properly assess the needs of individuals and provide them with the appropriate support to get them to self-sufficiency.” He says he will also support programs and services for people experiencing homelessness who have untreated substance use disorders or mental illnesses.

Barbanica says he currently takes a hands-on approach to tackling homelessness in Antioch by helping steer encampments to temporary, safe locations, and away from residential neighborhoods, schools and parks. He opposed a proposal to buy a hotel for the unhoused because he was against using a “taxpayer-purchased hotel room to solve the bigger problem,” he said on his campaign website. “Unhoused residents need all-encompassing services to support their desire for a fuller life.”

Gonzalez says city and county governments must collaborate with community-based organizations to establish and maintain a comprehensive database of the unhoused population in order to meet their unique needs. He would also meet with local developers to explore ways the county can create more affordable housing in the district, such as changing local regulations.

How would you improve public safety and restore the public’s trust in law enforcement in light of the texting scandal that rocked the Antioch Police Department and the federal corruption case against current and former Antioch and Pittsburg officers?

Scales-Preston says holding police officers and sheriff’s deputies accountable is the first step in restoring trust and improving public safety. “Facilitating dialogue between police and residents is also necessary to restore and keep the public trust and ultimately improve neighborhood safety,” she says. She also touts her role on Pittsburg’s public safety subcommittee in helping to provide police with the necessary tools and training to effectively fight crime.

Killings says that while the county doesn’t oversee local police departments, it can champion accountable policing within the sheriff’s department. He says he would work to ensure that the department has the tools, resources and policies in place to increase transparency. He would also request a quarterly report from the sheriff on all use-of-force incidents and internal affairs investigations to ensure that information is available to the public.

Barbanica touts his work on the Antioch City Council, where he advocated for placing body cameras on police officers, and dash cameras on all police vehicles, to ensure accountability. When he worked as a police administrator, he says, he was involved in the prosecution of eight officers. “I do not and have never condoned irresponsible, bad behavior from the officers I managed,” he writes on his campaign website.

Gonzalez says he supports an extensive hiring process for officers and more and “constant ongoing” training. He says he supports equipping officers with working body cameras to boost accountability. When a law enforcement officer breaks their oath to protect, defend and follow the U.S. constitution, he says, “they should no longer be an officer for our county.”

How would you ensure that county tax dollars and resources are equitably distributed to the most vulnerable residents in this district?



Scales-Preston says she would prioritize increasing public engagement in the budgeting process so residents can understand how their tax dollars are distributed and for what purposes. “I will be looking at the budget with an eye toward ensuring fairness and equitable distribution of funding across the county,” she says.

Killings says many communities in District 5 are blighted and lack services that their neighboring cities receive. He says he would advocate for increased services and improvements and ensure his office is “accessible and responsive” to constituents’ needs. He says he would also boost the county’s efforts to generate more funding from major foundations and charitable organizations to support vulnerable communities in the district.

Barbanica did not respond to KQED’s request to answer this question.

Gonzalez says that if elected, he would “always fight for all members of our community, especially paying attention to our most vulnerable residents.” He says he would actively reach out to constituents and make it easier for them to access information about the county’s budgeting and spending decisions so that they can weigh in on how to “better spend our tax dollars.”

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.

State Assembly, District 15



Why does this race matter?

Three main candidates are competing for an open seat currently held by longtime Assemblymember Tim Grayson, who is running for state Senate. The district encompasses a wide portion of Contra Costa County, including the cities of Antioch, Concord, Martinez, Pittsburg and part of Walnut Creek.

What does a state Assembly member do?

State Assembly members represent communities at the California Legislature in Sacramento. The 80 members of the state Assembly 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 two-year term.

Key Candidates ?



AnaMarie Avila Farias
Trustee, Contra Costa
County Board of
Education
Democrat



Karen Mitchoff
Former Supervisor,
Contra Costa County
Democrat



Monica Wilson
City Council Member,
Antioch
Democrat

Key Supporters ?

For Farias

- California Federation of Teachers
- California Professional Firefighters
- California Teachers Association
- Ana Caballero, state senator
- National Union of Healthcare Workers
- Esmeralda Soria, state Assembly member

For Mitchoff

- Bill Dodd, state senator
- George Miller, retired U.S. representative
- Candace Andersen, supervisor, Contra Costa County
- Diane Burgis, supervisor, Contra Costa County
- John Gioia, supervisor, Contra Costa County
- Brianne Zorn, mayor, Martinez

For Wilson

- Malia M. Cohen, state controller
- Diana Becton, district attorney, Contra Costa County
- Lamar Thorpe, mayor, Antioch
- Christine Pelosi, strategist, Democratic Party
- California Labor Federation
- California Nurses Association
- California Legislative Black Caucus

Positions on Key Issues

Has the state gone too far in pushing cities to approve more housing, or not far enough? Where is new housing most needed in your district? And how would you reduce homelessness?

Farias touts her role on the board of the state’s Housing Finance Agency, where she has worked to facilitate home-ownership and affordable-housing opportunities. She would combat California’s housing crisis by supporting policies that would, among other objectives, implement a “housing developer-focused renters’ tax credit,” reverse restrictive local zoning practices and strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program. “We need housing options for all income levels, including low- and middle-income adults and families,” she says.

Wilson says she supports the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which she says has restricted the ability of local governments to enact meaningful rent-control policies. She would advocate for expanding transitional housing and enhancing mental health programs. To build more affordable housing, she believes in “collaborating with private developers and nonprofit organizations and pursuing state and federal funding sources dedicated to affordable housing development, such as low-income housing tax credits and grants.”

Mitchoff says she would push for high-density housing around transportation hubs and supports reducing environmental barriers to affordable housing development. She also says maintaining a “robust business environment” is key to ensuring a good quality of life so that residents are “not on the road forever and a day, and that the jobs are here in Contra Costa County, so that you don’t have to travel to San Francisco.”

How do you plan to ensure that residents feel safe? Do you support changes to the state's criminal justice reform laws, such as Proposition 47, which reduced punishments for certain property crimes?



Farias says she supported Prop. 47, and “will always advocate funding for preventive measures and investing in schools to stop the school-to-prison pipeline.” She says holding law enforcement accountable requires creating systems that allow for the tracking of use-of-force information. She also thinks police departments struggling with recruitment should take advantage of a 2022 law that allows noncitizens, like DACA recipients, to become officers.

Mitchoff says her experience of losing a sibling to gun violence motivates her to crack down on automatic weapons, and would work with law enforcement to keep them off the streets. “We have laws against automatic weapons, but for some reason, they’re still proliferating in this state,” she says. “And I believe we need stricter and stronger punishments for people.” Mitchoff also thinks the state needs to “revisit” some of its criminal justice reform laws.

Wilson says she welcomes the state’s civil rights investigation of the Antioch Police Department. While she supports changes to state criminal justice reform laws, she says, “We must also look at the root cause of why people feel the need to commit crimes and work to address them. We also must address the deep-seated issue of race in our public institutions head-on so we can pave the way for healing to begin.”

What would you do to hold oil and gas companies with refineries in this district accountable, and to ensure the safety of residents who live near them?



Farias says the health and safety of residents in her district will always be her top priority. “I would support investing in the development of innovative technologies that further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use fewer resources, minimize environmental waste, and improve environmental performance,” she says. She would also ensure that oil and gas companies are following the law, and would also prioritize the health and safety of refinery employees and surrounding communities.

Mitchoff says refineries need to communicate with surrounding communities about incidents as soon as they occur. “There needs to be greater transparency and immediate communication to let the public know they’re safe — or if there is a problem, what they need to do,” she says. She also believes the people who work at refineries need to be considered in the effort to transition away from fossil fuels. “Leaving people without jobs just creates another problem,” she says.

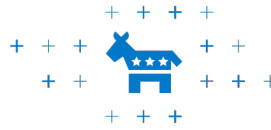
Wilson points to her track record of keeping oil and gas companies accountable in Antioch and says she would continue that work in the Assembly. “The state and municipalities must work together to ensure environment, health and safety guidelines and protections are being met and followed to keep our communities safe,” she says, “including our BIPOC and low-income communities who are many times the most affected.”

Additional Candidates



Sonia Ledo
Real Estate Agent

Republican. Ledo describes herself as “a bilingual self-employed real estate professional with a degree in legal studies.”



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

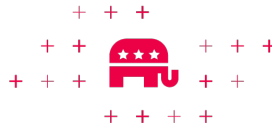
- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- Alex Padilla, U.S. senator
- Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative

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