



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?

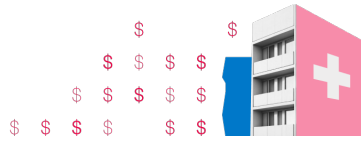


All registered voters in California can sign up for an online tool to track the status of their mail-in ballots for the November general election. "Where's My Ballot?" provides automated notifications via email, text or phone when your county elections offices have mailed out your ballot – and when your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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Proposition A

Should San Francisco voters allow the city to issue \$300 million in bonds to build and maintain affordable housing?



The funds would go toward affordable housing construction for San Franciscans with low-income, including new senior and workforce housing. The city would also rehab units to preserve existing affordable housing and prioritize low-income housing for households experiencing street, domestic or sexual violence. It requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Yes Argument

It would provide essential housing for working families, seniors on fixed incomes and people who want to live and work in the city. It would also help the city meet its state-mandated requirement to build more than 46,000 affordable housing units by 2031. Funding oversight is included, with annual independent audits and spending reviews to ensure funds are spent as promised. The measure would likely not include a property tax hike.

No Argument

Proposition A would change the character of every neighborhood and bulldoze the West Side. For a decade, taxpayers have poured billions of dollars into affordable housing bonds with little result. In 2022, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development ended the year with \$537 million in excess funds. It doesn't need the money. Proposition A is giving in to the state's demand for more housing. It could mean a property tax hike for homeowners.

Key Supporters

In Support

- London Breed, mayor, San Francisco
- San Francisco Labor Council
- Council of Community Housing Organizations
- SPUR
- Senior and Disability Action

In Opposition

- Larry S. Marso, delegate, San Francisco Republican County Central Committee

Proposition E

Should San Francisco voters approve changes to San Francisco Police Department policies that would allow more public surveillance and reduce officer reporting requirements for use of force, while also expanding vehicle pursuits?



Changes to policy would weaken the authority of citizen police oversight bodies. It would also allow SFPD to deploy new surveillance technology for a year without Board of Supervisors approval, allow public surveillance cameras and drones with facial recognition technology, loosen restrictions on vehicle chases, and exempt officers from filing paperwork after using force on a suspect if there are no injuries, or if an officer draws his gun. Passes with a simple majority.

👉 Yes Argument

This measure would free SFPD of oversight that can delay implementing surveillance, and that officers are overly burdened with documenting using force on suspects. Reduced paperwork would free up time for officers to patrol streets, and more surveillance cameras may reduce commercial burglaries. It's time to take power away from the citizen-led police commission, which has become an "activist organization."

👉 No Argument

This measure weakens citizen oversight of SFPD, giving too much power to the chief. The SFPD has a history of racially disparate enforcement, including use-of-force against the Black community, which strengthens the need to maintain independent oversight. Cyclists, pedestrians and other bystanders are endangered by allowing more police chases. And by easing reporting requirements, it would be more difficult to discover police misconduct.

Key Supporters ?

👉 In Support

- Stop Crime Action
- SF Police Officers Association
- Anni Chung, president and CEO, Self-Help for the Elderly
- Golden Gate Restaurant Association
- San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

👉 In Opposition

- ACLU of Northern California
- Cindy Elias, president, San Francisco Police Commission
- The Bar Association of San Francisco
- The Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Angela Chan, former police commissioner

Proposition F

Should San Francisco voters approve an ordinance requiring people receiving cash assistance from the city who are suspected of using illegal drugs to undergo screening and mandatory treatment?



Proposition F would allow the city to require welfare recipients to be drug tested and enter treatment programs if they're suspected of using illegal drugs. About 5,700 people used city welfare last year. If someone declined treatment they would no longer get cash and could be evicted from city housing. Mayor London Breed says she introduced the measure to address the city's drug overdose crisis.

Passes with a simple majority.

Yes Argument

The city needs more tools to compel drug users into treatment, and that many refuse treatment when it is offered on a voluntary basis. The measure offers a balance between “compassion and accountability,” they say. This ordinance would send a message that San Francisco is “closed” to those who want to freely use drugs on city streets.

No Argument

Public health research shows the measure would increase street homelessness by cutting people off from services, and would have “deadly results.” The way to curb street drug use is for the city to offer more housing because research shows having a stable living situation makes it easier for people to treat addiction. Resources should go toward expanding drug treatment capacity.

Key Supporters

In Support

- London Breed, mayor, San Francisco
- Filipino American Democratic Club
- San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations
- Golden Gate Restaurant Association
- Sister's Circle Women's Support Network

In Opposition

- San Francisco Democratic Party
- San Francisco Human Services Network
- Roma Guy, former public health commissioner
- Diane Jones, registered nurse
- San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness

Superior Court Judge, Seat 1



Why does this race matter?

Superior Court judicial seats are rarely contested. But recently, some politicians and city residents have called for judges to hand down harsher sentences for fentanyl drug dealing and other crimes such as burglary and theft, spurring a challenge for two seats.

What does a Superior Court judge do?

Superior Court judges oversee criminal and civil trials in their county. Judges hear evidence and render verdicts and sentences, or preside over jury trials. Judges are required to have passed the bar or served as a judge for ten years before the election. The winner of this election will serve a six-year term.

Candidates



Michael Begert
Superior Court Judge



Albert "Chip" Zecher
Former City Council
Member, city of Napa

Key Supporters ?

For Begert

- Scott Wiener, state senator
- Paul Miyamoto, sheriff, San Francisco
- Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
- The San Francisco Democratic Party
- Art Agnos, former mayor, San Francisco

For Zecher

- Stop Crime Action
- Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club
- Greg Suhr, former police chief
- Matt Dorsey, supervisor, San Francisco
- Edwin M. Lee Asian Pacific Democratic Club

Positions on Key Issues ?

What are your strongest qualifications to serve as an SF Superior Court Judge?

Begert highlights his 13 years as a Superior Court judge and his work as an attorney for 21 years in what he calls the "highest level of legal practice." He says working with groups like the Asian Law Caucus and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights taught him "every person you're talking to has issues that are important to them, you need to respect that and you need to treat people with dignity."

Zecher believes judges should "not have any biases on the bench." He points to an adage, "It's better that 1,000 guilty people go free than one innocent person go to jail." He says, "I take that task very seriously." Being a gay man shapes his experience of equity. "I've hit glass ceilings in my career," he says. "It heightens one's sensibilities."



Judges are tasked with applying the law, and they utilize their discretion in specific situations like sentencing. What should a judge's thought processes be when using discretion in a criminal court?



Begert says his approach is to contribute to a safer community, and believes punishment for its own sake is wrong. "If you want to have a system that's draconian and just based on dispensing revenge, then you don't really care about what the ultimate outcome is." Begert is among the judges rolling out the state's CARE courts, where people with mental health issues can be compelled into treatment. By design, "I don't send anybody to jail."

Zecher says he's limited in discussing how he'd exercise discretion due to ethics rules that bar judicial candidates from discussing how they'd rule to avoid bias. "I have to be very careful." A judge does have to "assure that that defendant is not a risk to public safety or the victim's safety. So that's when you can use your discretion."

Should judges' courtroom decisions reflect public opinion? Please explain your reasoning.



Begert says "we're part of a community, that's why you have human beings doing this job." At the same time, a "big principle" in the judiciary is operating under the rule of law. While what the public wants matters, because a judge is a public servant, ultimately, it is the legislative and executive branches that should respond to public opinion by passing new laws, or adjusting old ones, for judges to enforce.

Zecher says judges would not be successful or effective "if they were always raising their finger and understanding where the prevailing wind is coming" to decide how they rule. The role of a judge is to follow the law, "not legislate from the bench." However, the public can make their voice heard on the judicial process by voting on a judge every six years, he says.

San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins is among the people who have accused judges of inappropriately releasing people, particularly alleged fentanyl dealers, after their arrests. Do you share the view that fentanyl dealers have been inappropriately released by Superior Court judges? Please explain your reasoning.



Begert says "my role is to follow the law." He points to [flyers in the Mission District, that allege he granted the release of a fentanyl user](#). Begert says the district attorney asked to dismiss the case for a lack of evidence. The idea that he let this person free "was a complete falsehood."

Zecher praises Jenkins, and calls her a "phenomenal" person "working hard to make San Francisco safe." Zecher says his mother, a former Santa Clara County judge, taught him that judges are "guardians of public safety." So when he heard Jenkins' statement, he asked "how is it possible we have judges who are not in the same vein that I understood judges should be?" He says this race is largely about "answering that call."

Superior Court Judge, Seat 13



Why does this race matter?

Superior Court judicial seats are rarely contested. But recently, some politicians and city residents have called for judges to hand down harsher sentences for fentanyl drug dealing and other crimes such as burglary and theft, spurring a challenge for two seats.

What does a Superior Court judge do?

Superior Court judges oversee criminal and civil trials in their county. Judges hear evidence and render verdicts and sentences, or preside over jury trials. Judges are required to have passed the bar or served as a judge for ten years before the election. The winner of this election will serve a six-year term.

Candidates



Jean Myungjin Roland
Assistant District
Attorney



Patrick Thompson
Superior Court Judge

Key Supporters ?

For Roland

- Ed Lee Democratic Club
- Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club
- Stop Crime Action
- United Democratic Club
- Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club

For Thompson

- Willie Brown, former mayor, San Francisco
- Scott Wiener, state senator
- The San Francisco Democratic Party
- The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
- The San Francisco Women's Political Committee

Positions on Key Issues ?

What are your strongest qualifications to serve as an SF Superior Court Judge?

Roland touts her 22 years of experience as a veteran prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. Her background includes prosecuting misdemeanor, domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault cases. She's currently the head of the DA's General Felony Trial Unit, where she oversees "the majority of felony crimes coming through San Francisco."

Thompson points to the three decades he's worked in civil litigation "at top law firms." He's served on various boards, including the California Pacific Medical Center, Grace Cathedral, and American Conservatory Theater. In 2022, Thompson was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court, a process he notes included interviews with hundreds of colleagues to vet his character and knowledge. He calls himself a "by-the-book judge."



People of color have long been disproportionately harmed by the criminal justice system. How would you — or do you — address social equity in your work on the court?



Roland says to address inequities, “It’s important that as a victim of crime, that their voices are heard.” When she was in college, Roland recalls how her grandparents were burglarized in their Sunset District home. Though they survived, Roland says her grandparents could not communicate with police as monolingual Korean speakers. Roland translated, and counts it as a transformative moment sparking her need to pursue criminal justice.

Thompson says judges are not legislators who craft laws to protect certain classes of people. “I can’t define policy.” But he does bring perspective as a Black American growing up in a family that integrated their neighborhood, he says. “I bring sensibility to these issues, whether they are a victim of a crime, or whether it is a Black man who is accused as a criminal defendant. It’s treating those people with respect and dignity.”

Judges are tasked with applying the law, and they utilize their discretion in specific situations like sentencing. What should a judge’s thought process be when using discretion in a criminal court?



Roland says judges need to look at “the least restrictive measures” in order to consider custody of a suspect during an arraignment phase, usually a suspect’s first appearance in court. Also, “public safety is something that they should be looking at when making those decisions,” she says, including whether or not a defendant is a flight risk.

Thompson believes judges’ discretion can range from sentencing to how you run a courtroom. “I don’t want to coddle defense lawyers or prosecutors, I don’t want to coddle defendants.” Even when attorneys come to a deal over the future of a defendant, “It’s my job independently to test whether that deal is really good for the public and public safety, and whether it’s fair to the victim and whether it’s also fair to the defendant.”

Should judges’ courtroom decisions reflect public opinion? Please explain your reasoning.



Roland says a judge’s role is to follow the law. “I do not think that public opinion should be a factor or a consideration by a judge.” However, she believes public sentiment demanding more public safety in San Francisco is not opinion, as “public safety is universal.” Roland says, “Public safety is something that judges should be looking at every time they’re making decisions, because their decisions are impacting every single person in this community.”

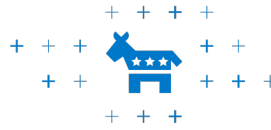
Thompson says judges’ decisions should be guided by the law. He believes judges strayed from that ideal in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision that maintained racist Jim Crow laws under the idea of “separate but equal.” Those judges “substituted their views based on quelling concerns” from the public. “That was not corrected for almost 100 years.” He says the idea that judges should respond to a political atmosphere “is concerning.”

San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins is among the people who have accused judges of inappropriately releasing people, particularly alleged fentanyl dealers, after their arrests. Do you share the view that fentanyl dealers have been inappropriately released by Superior Court judges? Please explain your reasoning.



Roland says she could not directly answer this question due to state ethics rules that limit what judicial candidates can say about how they’d rule from the bench, for fear of tainting the process. Roland says, “In general when we have fentanyl dealers who are repeatedly being released, then we need to take a look at what we’re doing. And perhaps that means taking a different tactic.”

Thompson says while he understands fentanyl is a “scourge of the city,” it’s not separated into another legal category for harsher punishments, like murder. “I understand that it’s a genuine public safety issue. I understand that it’s also much more serious in terms of the impact on users than other opiates,” but he is bound to enforce existing law. If voters want harsher penalties, he says, they need to change the law.



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

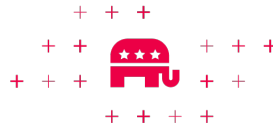
- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- Alex Padilla, U.S. senator
- Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative

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