



# 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.

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# 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.](#)

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## 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.](#)

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## 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.](#)

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## 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.](#)

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## 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.](#)

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



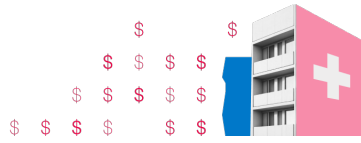
All registered voters in California can sign up for an online tool to track the status of their mail-in ballots for the November general election. "Where's My Ballot?" provides automated notifications via email, text or phone when your county elections offices have mailed out your ballot – and when your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

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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## Positions on Key Issues ?

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

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**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.

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### 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?

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**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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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## 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 1



## Why does this race matter?

Two candidates are vying to replace Supervisor Erin Hannigan, who is retiring this year after serving three terms representing the Vallejo area. The race comes as a billionaire-backed group aims to convince Solano voters to approve the development of a new city on a vast stretch of county farmland.

## 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.

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## Candidates



**Cassandra James**  
Community Development Specialist, San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development



**Michael Wilson**  
Current District Representative, Supervisor Erin Hannigan

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## Key Supporters ?

### For James

- Mia Bonta, state Assembly member
- Solano County Democratic Party
- Wanda Williams, supervisor, Solano County
- Mina Loera-Diaz, vice mayor, Vallejo
- Malia Cohen, state controller

### For Wilson

- Erin Hannigan, supervisor, Solano County
- Bill Dodd, state senator
- Mitch Mashburn, supervisor, Solano County
- Mike Thompson, U.S. representative
- Solano County Deputy Sheriff's Association

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## Positions on Key Issues

### A billionaire-backed group called California Forever is buying a huge swath of land in Solano County in the hopes of building a new city. What is your position on the project and how do you plan to advocate for the interests of existing residents?



**James** says she doesn't believe Solano County needs a new city. "One of my priorities is to protect open space and prioritize investments in existing cities," specifically Vallejo, she says. Revitalizing the county's existing cities means standing up to the project's planners who want to "paint over our fragile habitats and also silence our family farmers."

**Wilson** says, "We need housing and we need job opportunities. And I appreciate people who look at Solano County as a great place for families and workers." But he adds that he wouldn't support a project that would have adverse impacts on the county's seven cities, and says protecting Travis Air Force Base is a top priority.

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### How do you plan to make sure Vallejo and the rest of the county build enough affordable housing units to meet the state's requirements?



**James** says a proposed regional housing bond measure could bring necessary funds to the county. She points to her current work with the San Francisco's Mayor's Office. "I manage a portfolio, ensuring that federal, state and local dollars keep their most vulnerable residents not only housed, but having access, quality and affordable housing," she says.

**Wilson** says, "Housing on all levels is very important, and Vallejo has a good amount of low-income housing." He believes there are opportunities for more housing on Mare Island, East Vallejo and the Solano County Fairgrounds, and says all of the county's cities are equipped to provide the necessary balance of housing options.

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### Homelessness is a persistent issue throughout the Bay Area. What is your approach to getting and keeping people off the streets?




**James** says addressing homelessness begins with prevention. She believes the county is understaffed, preventing local governments from adequately providing services. As supervisor, she would push for investments in nonprofit partnerships, eviction prevention, voucher and guaranteed-income programs and transitional housing. She would also draw on her experience working in a San Francisco navigation center, where she helped connect unhoused residents to various local agencies and services.

**Wilson** says homelessness needs to be addressed on multiple fronts. That includes overnight shelters, mental health and addiction treatment, and housing. "We need to match these housing options for the homeless with opportunities for them to return to society and have work opportunities," he says. As a district representative for Supervisor Hannigan, he says he helped Vallejo open Blue Oak Landing, an apartment community for previously unhoused people.

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### Vallejo recently committed to a set of police reforms after the state found that the department engaged in a pattern of unreasonable force. How would you ensure the city institutes those reforms while also addressing public safety concerns?



**James** says she would work with Vallejo leaders and the state Attorney General's Office to make sure reforms are properly implemented and long-lasting. She would also aim to keep the public informed throughout the process, and says she hopes to learn from successful strategies in other Bay Area cities, including Oakland's Ceasefire program and San Francisco's Community Ambassador patrols.

**Wilson** says, "What I do not like to see is [when] people don't feel safe calling the police department." He says he supports the reform work the city is doing to comply with the state's mandates. But he also believes the police department is understaffed, to the detriment of public safety.

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# Benicia, Measure A

## Should the city of Benicia increase the transient occupancy tax at hotels and vacation rentals from 9% to 13%?



Measure A would raise the transient occupancy tax at Benicia hotels and vacation rentals, from 9% to 13%. The estimated \$250,000 in additional annual revenue would be used to maintain essential city services, including 911 response times, police resources, local parks and libraries, and economic development programs. The measure would sunset in 12 years and be subject to annual audits and an independent citizens' oversight committee. Passes with a majority vote.

### Yes Argument

Measure A would protect and maintain the services that matter most to Benicia residents without costing them a dime. The city is struggling with an ongoing structural budget deficit, and without this additional revenue, funding for crucial services could be cut. The measure also has strict accountability provisions to ensure that every cent is used as promised.

### No Argument

Increasing the cost of hotels and vacation rentals would discourage tourism and hurt the local businesses that rely on it. While Measure A may seem like a quick fix to the city's financial woes, it would have long-term negative impacts on the local economy. The City Council should consider alternative funding options that do not place undue burden on residents and businesses.

## Key Supporters

### In Support

- Mark Hughes, former City Council member, Benicia
- Norma Morales, chair, Benicia Economic Development Board
- Andre J. Stewart, insurance executive
- Jamie Blomdal, former trustee, Benicia School Board
- Lindsay Wray, chair, Benicia's Community Sustainability Commission

### In Opposition

- Michael Nolan, president, Solano County Taxpayers Association

# Benicia, Measure B

## Should the city of Benicia adopt a three-quarter percent increase of its sales tax to generate additional revenue for general government purposes?



The measure would raise the sales tax rate from 8.375% to 9.125%, generating an estimated \$5.4 million annually. The increase would go to the city's general fund, and could be used for everything from maintaining police services and 911 response times to funding local parks, library services and infrastructure projects. The measure would require accountability provisions, including public disclosure of spending, annual financial audits and a citizens' oversight committee. It would sunset in 12 years. Passes with a majority vote.

### 👍 Yes Argument

Measure B is necessary to safeguard Benicia's public safety and essential city services. Benicia's population is stagnant, so the economy can't support the level of city services that make it a safe, vibrant community. City leaders have already cut programs and staff to save money, threatening the quality of those services. This new tax would cost the average resident \$10 a month.

### 👎 No Argument

The measure doesn't guarantee the money raised would be used for public safety. There's other unnecessary spending in the city's budget that should be cut before raising taxes. High salaries, pension and retirement health benefits are the biggest drain on the budget. Higher sales taxes will hurt local businesses.

## Key Supporters ?

### 👍 In Support

- Steve Young, mayor and City Council member, Benicia
- John Garamendi, U.S. Representative
- Bill Dodd, state senator
- Lori Wilson, state Assembly member
- Benicia Police Officers' Association
- Benicia Firefighters — Local 1186
- Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

### 👎 In Opposition

- Solano County Taxpayers Association

# State Senate, District 3



## Why does this race matter?

The district stretches from Sonoma and Napa wine country, through cities like Vallejo and Concord, to the farmland of Yolo County and the Delta. Whoever succeeds termed-out state Sen. Bill Dodd will face challenges around wildfire, water, housing — and a plan by tech billionaires for a brand new city in Solano County.

## 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 ?



**Thom Bogue**  
City Council Member,  
Dixon  
Republican



**Christopher Cabaldon**  
Former Mayor, West  
Sacramento  
Democrat



**Jackie Elward**  
City Council Member,  
Rohnert Park  
Democrat



**Rozzana Verder-Aliga**  
City Council Member,  
Vallejo  
Democrat

## Key Supporters ?

### For Bogue

- N/A

### For Cabaldon

- Darrell Steinberg, mayor, Sacramento
- Lois Wolk, former state senator
- California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
- Planned Parenthood Northern California Action Fund
- Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce PAC



#### For Elward

- Jared Huffman, U.S. representative
- Eleni Kounalakis, lieutenant governor, California
- California Federation of Teachers
- California Labor Federation
- California Legislative Black Caucus

#### For Verder-Aliga

- Bill Dodd, state senator
- John Garamendi, U.S. representative
- API Legislative Caucus
- California Labor Federation
- Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

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## Positions on Key Issues

### A group of billionaires aims to build a city on 60,000 acres of Solano County farmland. Should they get an exception to the voter-approved policy favoring city-centered growth and farmland protection?

**Bogue** says an exception should not be made for the California Forever developers. He says California agricultural land is some of the best in the nation, and helps power the state's economy. "Urban sprawl is already consuming many, many acres of some of our best growing agricultural land," says Bogue. "We really need to rethink just how we expand — to slow, if not eliminate, urban sprawl."

**Elward** calls the project an "existential threat" to other communities, which will have to compete for resources. And she's uncomfortable with "the secretive nature" of the land acquisition. "If billionaires want to invest in Solano County, I wish they'd invest in the revitalization of our existing communities," she says. "We have downtowns that ... need all the support they can get [and] there is so much potential in the proud communities that already exist."

**Cabaldon** recently testified before the state Senate about the risks this development poses. He says freeways are already clogged, water is too scarce, and infrastructure funds for other cities are at stake. But Cabaldon says, "We can build affordable housing and protect working landscapes at the same time. I know because I've done it."

**Verder-Aliga** says she's worried the development has so far been planned without input from local residents, who'll have to live with the result — which will occupy more than one-tenth of the county's acreage. "It feels a bit unfair and definitely undemocratic," she says, and thinks an up-or-down vote doesn't give voters enough say. "I would prefer that growth occur under the publicly debated and formulated plans our local governments have gone through the process of creating."

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### In recent years massive wildfires have ravaged the district. What should the state Senate be doing to prevent such destruction and how would you ensure the insurance market continues to serve residents in fire-prone areas?

**Bogue** says the state is already clearing underbrush using livestock and fire crews. "It will take time for these efforts to become effective," he says. As to insurance companies: "They collect billions of dollars annually in premiums and when something catastrophically occurs, also like PG&E, the first thing they do is look for ways out to not pay." Bogue says he will research the best way for lawmakers to hold companies accountable.

**Elward** says fire mitigation is a top priority. She supports managing forests to remove combustible undergrowth and establishing firmer urban limit lines to prevent sprawl into high-risk areas. With the cost of covering catastrophic fire damage mounting, and private insurers leaving the market, she says, "state government is going to have to get more intensely involved." Elward would work to make the FAIR Plan insurance pool more affordable and available.

**Cabaldon** supports voter-approved policies like Napa's agricultural preserve and Solano's orderly growth ordinance to deter future housing in the fire-prone wildlands interface. He would protect CalFire funding. And he says, "Too many families can't get or renew home insurance policies because outdated regulations haven't been updated to account for the disastrous impact of climate change." With most Californians living with wildfire, flood or earthquake risk, he says, he'll fight to fix the insurance market.

**Verder-Aliga** says she would continue the work of Sen. Bill Dodd, advocating for regulating utilities to ensure they don't spark fires, and investing in fire breaks and other defenses to keep neighborhoods safe. She says she wants to see property insurance reforms that include "a reconfiguring of this market that protects homeowners, keeps premium increases to a minimum, and strengthens the marketplace to keep insurers writing policies in California."

## In an era of climate change, how would you protect agriculture and the natural environment of the district? What's your position on the Delta tunnel?



**Bogue** says it's tough to balance the needs of Delta farmers and the demand for water from growers in other parts of the state. "I can see both sides of the equation," he says. He believes conservation measures could help with water supply. And he adds, "Instead of destroying dams we should be developing more water-retention facilities and desalination projects, along with expanding distribution canals to rural farmers from what we currently have."

**Elward** says agriculture is core to the district's economy and must be shielded from suburban sprawl. She says she helped lead the campaign to pass Rohnert Park's Measure B, establishing an urban limit and protecting open space and agriculture. She also opposes the Delta tunnel and the proposed Sites Reservoir in Colusa County. "[I] see most new surface water storage as at best a Band-Aid to our state's long-term water needs," she says.

**Cabaldon** served as Delta Protection Commissioner and a governor's appointee on the state water board, so "I know how fragile the ecosystem, agricultural economy, and hydrology of the Delta can be." He opposes the Delta tunnel, which would divert water to southern California, because it will endanger fish, area water supplies and Delta agriculture. "Family farmers cultivate not only the food we eat but also our natural environment," he says.

**Verder-Aliga** says she will advocate for greater investment in the California agriculture department's State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program and Healthy Soils Program. She also wants to improve water storage, efficiency, and reuse. If elected, she says, "I will work to improve water storage and advance partnerships for groundwater recharge with farmers." She believes killing the Delta Tunnel plan is the best thing for the environment in the region, while protecting agriculture.

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## Recent high-profile retail thefts have led some to call for repeal of Proposition 47, which reduced sentences for some nonviolent offenses. Do you support that? And, with Vallejo's police department under state oversight for bias and excessive use of force, how would you ensure police accountability?



**Bogue** says he's opposed Prop. 47 since it was written, and believes it has contributed to rampant crime. He supports repealing it. As to police oversight, he says the state has a role in protecting citizens' constitutional rights. "I believe most officers pursued a career in law enforcement with an honest belief they could make a difference ... and safeguard our communities," he says. But, he believes, officers who violate the law need to be held accountable.

**Elward** says voters are understandably concerned about public safety, but a recent uptick in crime is about pandemic pressures, not Prop. 47. And, she emphasized, crime has decreased overall since the mid-1990s. She would invest in regional task forces to crack down on theft rings, early youth intervention and civilian mental health crisis response. Elward supports the oversight in Vallejo; as an immigrant Black woman, she says police misconduct and racism hit close to home.

**Cabaldon** says Vallejo is a "textbook example" of why the state must ensure accountability when a city council can't. "Too many residents live in fear, and the police department can't recruit the officers the community deserves," he says, adding that police also need tools to equitably keep communities safe. Prop. 47 shouldn't be repealed; it helped address severe overcrowding in state prisons, Cabaldon says. But he does favor serious consequences for organized, repeated smash-and-grab robberies.

**Verder-Aliga** believes that while some criminal justice reforms have paid off, Verder-Aliga says Prop. 47 has not, leaving residents feeling unsafe: "We must remedy the situation." As a member of the Vallejo City Council, she says she is working with state officials on reforms, including a police oversight commission, de-escalation training, and body cameras. "The quality and training of the people we hire is the most important factor for upgrading our force," she adds.

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## Housing affordability is a crisis across the Bay Area and beyond, and homelessness remains intractable. What is your plan to increase housing and expand affordability for renters and would-be homeowners?



**Bogue** says even though Gov. Newsom recently approved 56 bills to streamline housing construction, protect tenants and tackle homelessness — and has invested \$30 billion toward developing affordable housing — he has yet to see results. "We see little actual action," he says. "My plan is to hold legislators accountable for all this approval and push for action, not just talk — something we have grown accustomed to, particularly during election years."

**Cabaldon** says residents of the district are getting squeezed out by sky-high rents and home prices. He says he worked to avoid displacement in West Sacramento by producing record amounts of workforce housing, something he calls urgent — and possible. "Like I've done locally, in the Senate I'll meet the crisis by fixing antiquated zoning laws, expanding transit, modernizing financing tools, streamlining construction, and deploying more diverse housing models," he says.

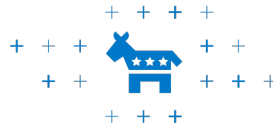
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## Additional Candidates



**Jimih Jones**  
**Automotive Parts**  
**Advisor**

Republican. Jones previously ran for Congress in this area in 2022, finishing sixth out of seven candidates.



# 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.

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## Key Candidates ?



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



**Dean Phillips**  
U.S. Representative  
Democrat



**Marianne Williamson**  
Author  
Democrat

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## Key Supporters ?

### For Biden

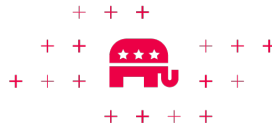
- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- Alex Padilla, U.S. senator
- Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative

### 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.

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## Key Candidates ?



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



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

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## 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