



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?

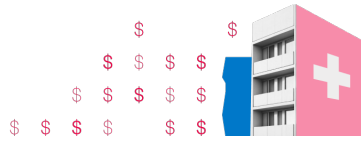


All registered voters in California can sign up for an online tool to track the status of their mail-in ballots for the November general election. "Where's My Ballot?" provides automated notifications via email, text or phone when your county elections offices have mailed out your ballot – and when your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

Sonoma, Measure H

Should Sonoma County enact a sales tax to fund fire protection and emergency response?



Measure H would create a half-cent sales tax that would generate \$60 million annually. Passes with a majority vote.

Yes Argument

Sonoma County has faced major fire and winter storm disasters in recent years and faces more in the future. The Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association has crafted Measure H to fill gaps in emergency services, increase staffing, reduce response times and accelerate fire prevention work, such as vegetation management. The tax would stay local and be overseen by a mandatory oversight committee to make sure the money is spent appropriately.

No Argument

Citizens of Sonoma County pay enough taxes between existing sales taxes and parcel taxes for local fire protection districts. This proposed tax is regressive and will hurt small businesses.

Key Supporters

In Support

- Mike Thompson, U.S. representative
- Professional Fire Fighters of Sonoma County
- Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association

In Opposition

- Michael Hilber, county resident

Supervisor, District 3



Why does this race matter?

Sonoma County's 3rd District encompasses central Santa Rosa and most of Rohnert Park. Its population is the youngest of the county's five districts, and has the lowest median household income. Former Santa Rosa Mayor Coursey was elected to the office in 2020.

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



Chris Coursey
Supervisor, Sonoma
County



Omar Medina
President, Santa Rosa
City Schools Board

Key Supporters ?

For Coursey

- Bill Dodd, state senator
- Jared Huffman, U.S. representative
- Natalie Rogers, mayor, Santa Rosa
- Eddie Alvarez, City Council member, Santa Rosa
- North Bay Labor Council

For Medina

- Latino PAC of Sonoma County
- Eddie Alvarez, City Council member, Santa Rosa
- Mariana Martinez, SRJC Trustee

Positions on Key Issues

Sonoma County has a homeless problem that's more visible than ever — on underpasses, in RV and tent encampments, and in public trails and parks. How can we meaningfully help the unhoused population, rather than just sweeping them out of public view?

Coursey says that while “the problem appears to be much greater than it used to be,” he cites counts showing that homeless population numbers are down “significantly” since he became supervisor. Serving on the county’s Continuum of Care board, he has helped set policy and manage funding for homeless services, pointing to the county’s mental health contributions to the recently opened Caritas Village drop-in center, operated by Catholic Charities.

Medina wants to think beyond a model of collaborating with nonprofits, and reexamine the effectiveness of current spending on “services to maintain the existing homeless population, versus housing solutions that are not these big developer projects.” He says mental health services are needed, and believes a county-run facility with individual living units could be more successful and cost-effective than group shelters.

Rent protections enacted after the 2017 fires have expired, and the median income of the district lags well behind its median rent. How would you promote more affordable housing so that the lower-wage workers who keep the district running can continue to live here?

Coursey says affordable housing has been his “top priority” since being elected to Santa Rosa’s city council, where he supported a rent control ordinance ultimately overturned by voters. He recently introduced a just cause eviction ordinance to the Board of Supervisors, which during his term has strengthened rent control for mobile homes. Coursey touted the Roseland Village project, which includes 75 affordable units in the largely Latino region of the 3rd District.

Medina says that most affordable housing isn’t affordable to the average worker. He says it’s common for multiple families to share a house, and, on the school board, he’s seen its detriments to young people’s mental health. He would promote a county-run program, possibly administered by the Community Development Commission, in which “a portion of [one’s] rent is going into some sort of savings account for them to later be able to move on to homeownership.”

Over 30% of the district's population is Hispanic, and growing every year. How will you ensure inclusion and a seat at the table for the district's Hispanic and Latino residents?

Coursey points to his appointments to county boards and commissions, saying that “the group of people that I’ve appointed has a high proportion of Latinos and people of color, and more than 50% are women.” Coursey says, “I don’t think that you have to speak Spanish to do this job.” Bilingual members of his staff from Roseland, he says, “help me navigate that divide.”

Medina is the son of immigrants, and grew up in the district’s predominantly Latino neighborhood, attending Lawrence Cook Junior High (now Lawrence Cook Middle School) and Elsie Allen High School. “Me being bilingual, and bicultural — that doesn’t exist on the board at the moment,” he says. Someone from the area and culture, like himself, “would be able to go to the community as a supervisor to connect and to listen, in a way that feels much more connected and engaging.”

What meaningful action can be taken to address the climate crisis at the county level?

Coursey, an avid cyclist, says that the county needs to deal with its “number of tailpipes.” He points to his work on the SMART Sonoma–Marin Area Rail Transit district as an example of his commitment to reduce the county’s greenhouse gasses. As supervisor, he has helped approve free bus rides for youth and seniors, and worked to make large buildings such as the Santa Rosa Veterans Building more energy efficient.

Medina says that there are not enough bus routes, and that public transportation needs to be strengthened and better promoted, especially to young people. Talking to parents as a school board member, he says, “there’s a lot of fear right now about having your children ride public transportation.” He adds that equipping more homes with solar panels and other efficiency upgrades “could really decrease these bills that a lot of people are facing now.”

Where do you stand on police accountability and funding?



Coursey says, “I believe in robust oversight of law enforcement.” He supported Measure P, which strengthened IOLERO, the county’s oversight program, and says that methods for repairing eroded trust in law enforcement must be “not just a public relations repair, but actual transparency and trust.” In the time since joining the board, which approves the sheriff’s annual budget, he says the board has “not had conversations about reducing the sheriff’s budget.”

Medina has been a school board member during a spate of campus violence, including a fatal stabbing in the district which resulted in calls to reinstate police presence at schools. He voted against it: “In general I’m not supportive of having officers in our schools,” he says, adding that it harms students of color in particular. He is “a strong advocate of police accountability programs.”

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

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."

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.

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.

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."

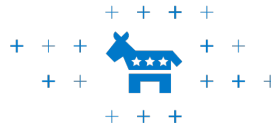
Cabaldon says residents of the district are getting squeezed out by sky-high rents and home prices. He says he worked to avoid displacement in West Sacramento by producing record amounts of workforce housing, something he calls urgent — and possible. "Like I've done locally, in the Senate I'll meet the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

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.

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

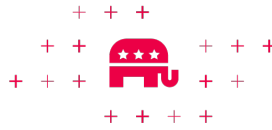
- Gavin Newsom, governor, California
- Alex Padilla, U.S. senator
- Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative

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