



## It's crazy midterm election season,

and this year is a doozy—especially here in California. This guide tries to make sense of the majority of state-wide races here, which include model/actress tea party members, socialists (real ones), a Columbine victim, career politicians, evil plots by oil companies, and the potential legalization of marijuana.

We've made some recommendations for you in the state propositions, and for the candidates we've tried to provide as much info as we could about how these folks stand on issues like the environment, education, health care, civil rights—the stuff you care about. We trust you to make the decision from there.

Some disclaimers: This guide is a volunteer operation, not produced by GOOD. Due to research fatigue, lame candidate websites, and Murphy's Law, you may spot a mistake or two. Some candidates simply don't provide a lot of info, and our researcher styles varied, so some profiles may differ or seem a bit incomplete.

Also, our crew is mainly based in southern California, so that's what we focused on. And we didn't get to all the races, but tried to cover the most important ones.

The guide was compiled using public sources, including government and candidate websites. Its accuracy is contingent on those sources at the time of publication (October 13, 2010).

Remember, what happens in our backyards matters, and this election has some high stakes, so please email your people and pass this guide along. We hope you find

it informative, helpful, and that it will occasionally make you chuckle.

Happy Voting.

Your Volunteers,

*Alex Richmond, Alex Shorr, Ali S, Alice Gualpa, Anne Stokes, Annie Lainer, Brendan Piper, Chuck Bergman, Emma Campbell Webster, Erika Backberg, Jason McDaniel, Jesse Federman, Jesse White Cinis, Jim Gilliam, Jonathan J, Kabira Stokes Hochberg, Kelly R, Kevin DeGood, Linda Bergman, Marguerite Moreau, Michael Kostyo, Nicholas Stankevich, Rajal Pitroda, Robin Petering, Spencer Schulman, and Stan Oklobdzija*

### TIP:

To save paper, read the guide on your computer, and only print Page 2, which is a handy cheat sheet to take with you when you vote.

You can also read the guide online:

[WWW.GOOD.IS/POST/GOOD-VOTER-GUIDE-TO-CALIFORNIA](http://WWW.GOOD.IS/POST/GOOD-VOTER-GUIDE-TO-CALIFORNIA)

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# POLL BOOTH COMPANION

Thought it over?

Made your decisions?

Print out this page and take it with you to the polls. After you check out the guide, mark up this sheet so you'll know how to vote. We've noted our recommendations for the props, but the final decision is yours.

Happy Voting!

## Propositions

Prop. 19  YES  NO

Prop. 20  YES  NO

Prop. 21  YES  NO

Prop. 22  YES  NO

Prop. 23  YES  NO

Prop. 24  YES  NO

Prop. 25  YES  NO

Prop. 26  YES  NO

Prop. 27  YES  NO

## Elected Positions

Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senators

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney General

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lieutenant Governor

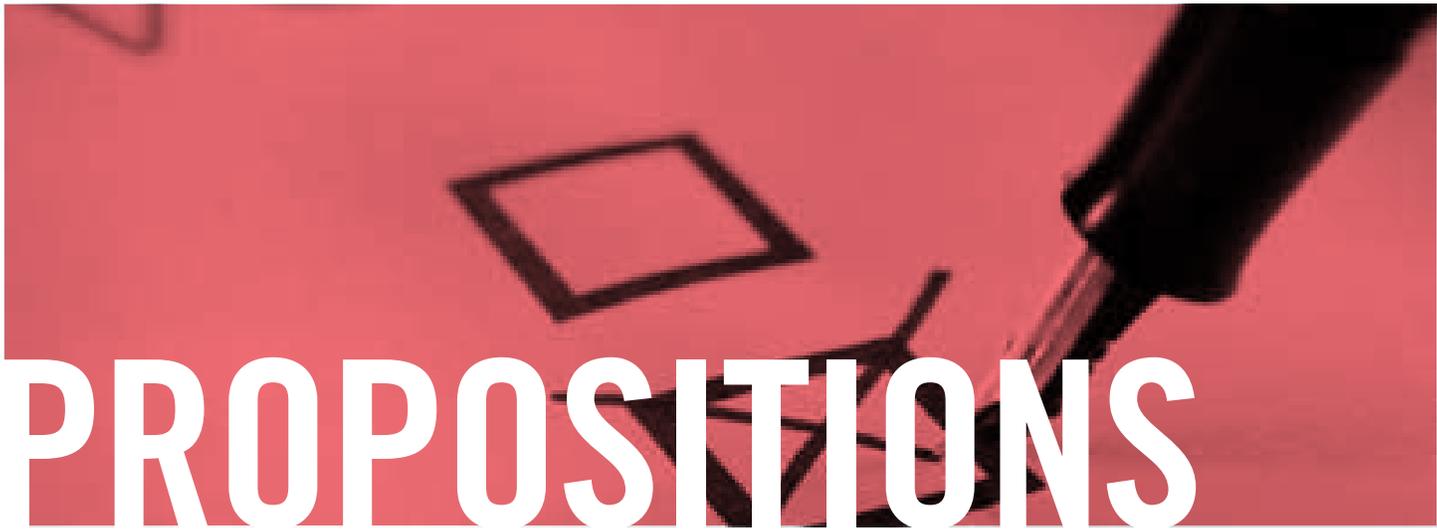
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

\_\_\_\_\_  
House of Representatives

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Controller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Insurance Commissioner



# PROPOSITIONS

*Propositions are amendments to the California State Constitution. If over 50 percent vote “yes,” the Constitution changes.*

## Prop 19: Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act

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WE RECOMMEND: VOTE YES

Summary: Prop 19 makes it legal for adults (age 21 and older) to carry, grow, or transport up to one ounce of marijuana for personal use. It’s not a free-for-all, mind you. Smoking pot in public or driving while under the influence would still be frowned upon (meaning: illegal). But people would be permitted to use marijuana in private residences and certified establishments.

In turn, the regulation and taxing of pot would fall to local government. Estimates vary, but the new taxes and fees that would be attached to the production and sale of marijuana could make for a potentially huge boost to local and state coffers. It’s important to note that Prop 19 would have no effect on federal marijuana laws. However, while federal agents’ stance on pot could be described as “we’re not into it,” they make fewer than 1 percent of all marijuana arrests nationwide.

PRO ARGUMENT: You may have noticed that California’s economy is in a bad way. Possibly when you found yourself living in a hostel again. Well, it’s easy to see how Prop 19 will generate new revenue: The state legislature estimates that new taxes on California-grown marijuana would collect \$1.4 billion annually. But the proposition could also save taxpayers a lot of money.

Here’s why: There are approximately 60,000 marijuana-related arrests in California each year, and 80 percent of the folks behind bars in the state are non-violent drug offenders. By reducing the number of people incarcerated, on probation, or on parole for non-violent pot offenses, the state (and thus, we, the taxpayers) will be off the hook for tens of millions of dollars annually. Hundreds of millions more would be saved by clearing our court dockets of minor marijuana cases. If courtrooms and jail cells become less crowded, law enforcement can go after more serious criminal activity. Prop 19 would also diminish the influence of international drug cartels, who are currently making 60 percent of their revenue by illegally distributing marijuana here in the United States.

WHO SUPPORTS: National Black Police Association, Former California State Senator Tom Hayden, The West Hollywood City Council, CA NAACP, CA Libertarian Party, CA Green Party, CA Young Democrats, Republican Liberty Caucus, ACLU of Southern CA, LA County Democratic Party, Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, Culver City Democratic Club, West Hollywood/Beverly Hills Democratic Club, The LA Gay & Lesbian Center, Latino Voters League, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) of CA and various CA Elected Officials.

CON ARGUMENT: If passed, one of the major holes of Prop 19 might be its failure to define what “under the influence” actually means. California has a hard-and-fast number to determine whether an adult is under the influence of alcohol (a blood-alcohol content of .08). What’s the equivalent

for pot? By not setting specific limits, “No driver over 21, including bus, taxi, light-rail train operators, or everyday commuters can be required to be drug-free while operating a vehicle. Although the initiative says you cannot use marijuana while driving, it is completely permissible to use marijuana just prior to getting behind the wheel.” Another knock on Prop 19 is the looseness, and potential loopholes, built into taxing the plant. There won’t be a set-in-stone state tax, only local taxes that will be voluntarily imposed. And since Federal law still prohibits the sale of marijuana, it’s possible that distributors—who are (1) clever or (2) reading this—could refuse to pay taxes under their Fifth Amendment right not to self-incriminate. Finally, there are already existing health and societal problems that stem from tobacco and alcohol being legal. Some feel, “Why add another to the mix?”

WHO OPPOSES: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Attorney General Jerry Brown and Democratic Candidate for Governor, Republican Candidate for Governor Meg Whitman, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Los Angeles District Attorney and Republican Candidate for Attorney General Steve Cooley, Republican U.S. Senate Candidate Carly Fiorina, the National Black Churches Initiative, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Coalition for a Drug-Free California.

SOURCES: Tax Cannabis; Nip It In the Bud 2010; Ballotpedia; Wikipedia; LAist; No on Proposition 19

# Prop 20: California Congressional Redistricting Initiative

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WE RECOMMEND: VOTE NO

**SUMMARY:** If passed, Prop 20 would remove elected Representatives from the process of drawing congressional district boundaries and hand that authority to a 14-member redistricting commission. This autonomous commission would be comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four independent or minority party voters. Any changes to district lines would require the approval of nine commissioners (three Dems, three Reps, three Indies). In 2008, California voters narrowly approved Prop 11, which took the power of redistricting California State Assembly and Senate lines away from the state legislature. Prop 20 simply expands that principle to redistricting for the U.S. House of Representatives and boundaries would be drawn by the same Citizens Redistricting Commission established by Prop 11. Whether Prop 20 passes or not, the recently completed 2010 Census will be used as the basis for redistricting before the 2012 Election.

**PRO ARGUMENT:** A quick glance at a map of Congressional districts is all you need to see the problem with the way district lines are currently created. The current process results in gerrymandered, odd-shaped districts that divide neighborhoods and protect incumbents and the majority party. Under Prop 20, the Redistricting Commission would only be allowed to draw boundaries in pleasing and/or hilarious symmetrical shapes. Okay, that's not true. But by removing elected officials from the process, races will be more competitive and foster greater debate on important issues. Proponents also argue that Prop 20 would increase minority representation in Congress.

**WHO SUPPORTS:** Charles Munger Jr, The AARP, the National Federation of Independent Business/California, California Common Cause, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, and the California NAACP, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Daily News, Los Angeles Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, CA Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, LA County

Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

**CON ARGUMENT:** Prop 20 will take redistricting away from democratically elected officials and place it in the hands of an unelected, unaccountable group of individuals with no specifically cited qualifications to hold a seat on the commission. In other words, a roomful of possible total wild cards and loose cannons. Or that's the concern anyway. Initial fears surrounding Prop 11 included the notion that the commission would not reflect the socioeconomic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity of California's population, and this still holds true. Plus, there's no guarantee that a panel of commissioners will necessarily shake things up, as there are examples of judges drawing district lines with no impact on the number of incumbents who stick around. Another opponent viewpoint is that while Prop 20 may be well-intentioned, it is premature. California is in the middle of creating the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for State house districts and until it can prove itself to voters the Commission should not be granted expanded responsibility for Congressional districts.

**WHO OPPOSES:** It is difficult to find solid information on who opposes and is funding the opposition to Prop 20. However some names to resurface: UCLA law professor Daniel Lowenstein, the first chairman of the state Fair Political Practices Commission, Mark Murray, the executive director of "Californians Against Waste", Hank Lacayo, president of the "Congress of California Seniors", Aubry L. Stone, president of the California Black Chamber of Commerce, Carl Pope, chairman of the Sierra Club. Additionally, the following members of Congress or Candidates for Congress have Contributed to the Yes on 27 Campaign which would overturn Prop 11 and make Prop 20 moot: Judy Chu (elected in 2009) poured in \$600,000; Mike Eng (elected 2008) \$100,000; Karen Bass (running this year) \$50,000. Bay Area Democrats contributing \$10,000 include Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Reps. Jackie Speie, Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren.

**SOURCES** Yes20no27; Ballotpedia; The Reporter; Ventura County Star; San Francisco Chronicle; The Modesto Bee; Desert Dispatch; La Jolla Light; Forbes; Flash Report

## Prop 21: Vehicle License Fee for Parks Act

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WE RECOMMEND: VOTE YES

**SUMMARY:** Prop 21 adds \$18 annually to the state vehicle license charge and allows surcharged vehicles free daytime admission to all state parks. The revenues generated by this new fee will be deposited into a new, independent trust fund, “to be used solely to operate, maintain and repair the state park system, and to protect wildlife and natural resources.” The money that is currently allocated for state parks—about \$130 million—would go into the California General Fund for other uses.

**PRO ARGUMENT:** The State Parks system is one of the first programs on the chopping block every time the legislature looks to cut costs. In 2008, Assembly members proposed closing 48 parks. Then in 2009, 220 of the 278 California State Parks (80 percent) were proposed to be closed down. Because the parks have no stable source of funding the repair backlog in California State Parks tops \$1 billion, and it’s growing. In these tough economic times, this measure would ensure the funding needed to keep the 1.5 million acres of state parks open, preserve existing jobs, and create new job opportunities. Our state parks are a legacy to be protected and passed on for generations to come. Plus, because of the economy, it’s possible that many of us will have to live in our cars in them real soon. So, there’s that.

**WHO SUPPORTS:** The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, Trust for Public Land, and the Save-the-Redwoods League, CA Assemblymember Mike Feuer, CA Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Boy Scouts of America, California Association of Museums, California Democratic Party, California Federation of Teachers, California Green Party, California League of Conservation Voters, California Nurses Association, California Teachers Association, Clean Air Now, Congressman Brad Sherman, City of Los Angeles Councilmember Ed Reyes, City of Los Angeles Councilmember Perry, City of West Hollywood Councilmember Jeffrey Prang, City of Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz, City of Los Angeles Councilmember Richard

A. Alarcón, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Heal the Bay, Los Angeles County Young Democrats, National Wildlife Federation, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Surfrider Foundation, West LA/Malibu Chapter, The Conservation Fund, TreePeople.

**CON ARGUMENT:** In tough economic times every public program must take a hit. While Prop 21 may be well intentioned, there are numerous other programs that need funding now. If the state is going to raise “fees” (a more palatable word than “taxes”) the money should be going to offset healthcare and education cuts. Prop 21 is an example of ballot box budgeting, tying the hands of legislators who are attempting to balance the budget in the midst of a recession. This would not be the first “walled off,” ballot-box-budgeted program that hampers lawmakers’ efforts and it would encourage other single-interest groups to write their own personal funding requests for voters to pass.

**WHO OPPOSES:** Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

**SOURCES:** yesforstateparks; Ballotpedia; Los Angeles Times; KPCC Southern California Public Radio; PR Newswire; San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco Chronicle

# Prop 22: Ban on State Borrowing from Local Governments

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**WE RECOMMEND: VOTE NO**

**SUMMARY:** If passed, Prop 22 would prohibit the State politicians in Sacramento from borrowing local tax revenues meant to be used for libraries, police, fire, 911 response calls, parks, and transportation.

**PRO ARGUMENT:** Cities across California have been hit as hard as anyone during our recession and it is important to protect their already depleted coffers. City funds provide for some of the most important and frequently used services, like 911 operators and first responders. Yet the State took or borrowed \$5 billion from city revenue in 2009. These raids make it difficult for local politicians to set their own priorities and provide basic services. Gas taxes that drivers pay at the pump, for example, are designated to go toward the safety and maintenance of roads, however the state legislature has been confiscating these funds and using them for non-transportation purposes.

**WHO SUPPORTS:** The League of California Cities, the California Fire Chiefs Association, the California Police Chiefs Association, the California Transit Association, the California Alliance for Jobs, the California Redevelopment Association, and the California Special Districts Association.

**CON ARGUMENT:** Prop 22 endangers many programs in the State budget. If passed, Prop 22 puts health and education services at risk of being underfunded immediately. According to the California Teachers Association, Prop 22 would “create a wall that will prevent borrowing in times of economic crisis and would place an even greater burden of cuts on public education and the backs of our students.” In times of financial crisis, it is irresponsible to take any budgetary option off the table. In fact, if this “table” was real and not figurative, we would probably have to consider selling

it. Ballot box budgeting has already created a mess for the California Legislature, and Prop 22 only limits what lawmakers can do.

**WHO OPPOSES:** Carly Fiorina, Republican candidate for U.S. Senate; The California Teachers Association; the Health Access California; and the California Professional Firefighters, CA Courage Campaign.

**SOURCES:** Save Local Services; Ballotpedia; CA Independent Voter Network; San Jose Mercury News; Los Angeles Times; KGTV San Diego 10 News; The Santa Clarita Valley Signal; Fox and Hounds Daily; Ridgecrest Daily Independent; Morgan Hill Times; Redding

# Prop 23: Initiative to Suspend AB 32, the Global Warming Act of 2006

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WE RECOMMEND: VOTE HELL NO

**SUMMARY:** Prop 23 will suspend the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32, to those in the know), which the California Legislature passed in 2006. AB32 requires greenhouse gas emissions across the state to be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. Prop 23 is an effort to suspend AB32 until the unemployment rate drops to 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive quarters. Prop 23 goes further by requiring California to abandon other comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction programs, increased renewable energy requirements, cleaner fuel standards, and mandatory emission reporting and fee requirements for major polluters.

**PRO ARGUMENT:** Supporters of Prop 23 claim that AB32 is costing California jobs, upwards of 1 million over time. They argue that California only produces 1.4 percent of the world's greenhouse emissions and that now, in the midst of tough economic times (to coin a totally new phrase), is not the moment to make businesses meet strict new standards aimed at curbing "human-caused" global warming. The feeling is a "go-it-alone" approach will be insufficient and we'll simply be forcing businesses to move out of the state. As a combination of letters and numbers, "AB32" sounds sinister and is not to be trusted.

**WHO SUPPORTS:** Charles and David Koch, "the billionaires from Kansas who have played a prominent role in financing the Tea Party movement, donated \$1 million to the campaign to suspend the Global Warming Solutions Act"; Valero; Tesoro Companies; Flint Hills Resources; Adam Smith Foundation; Occidental Petroleum; National Petrochemical and Refiners Association; Tower Energy Group; and World Oil Corp. In other words, Big Oil Companies and some of California's worst polluters.

**CON ARGUMENT:** If Prop 23 passes, meaningful climate change legislation will be delayed for many years. AB32 would

be suspended until state unemployment remains at 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive quarters, a requirement that has only been met three times in the past 40 years, so, pretty much forever. California is a leader in innovation and technology and sets the standard that other states and countries follow. Plus, some requirements of AB32 are already paying off. For instance, 40 percent of new clean energy investment in the U.S. is happening here in California. Part of AB32 requires that 33 percent of California's energy consumption comes from renewable sources like wind and solar, and to meet this demand, businesses in Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana, just to name a few, have already begun building renewable facilities. Suspending AB32, then, will cost jobs in states beyond just California. Generally speaking, to know how and why initiatives are placed on the ballot in the first place one can look at who is funding these efforts. According to opponents of Prop 23, "Seventy-eight percent [of contributions to the California Jobs Initiative Committee] is directly from oil companies." (That's the industry most affected by tougher pollution laws and clean energy advancement.) In actuality, "AB32" is an awesome combination of letters and numbers, and sounds like a cool, friendly, solar-powered robot.

**WHO OPPOSES:** California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the League of Conservation Voters, President Reagan's Secretary of State George Schultz, Candidates for Governor Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman, League of Women Voters of California, AARP, VoteVets.org, California Professional Firefighters, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Congressman Bob Filner, Lieutenant Governor Abel Maldonado, Senate Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, Assembly Speaker John Perez, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Los Angeles Councilmember Ed Reyes, Los Angeles Councilmember Richard Alarcon, Santa Monica Councilmember Kevin McKeown, Santa Monica Councilmember Terry O'Day.

**SOURCES** suspendab32; Stop Dirty Energy Prop; Ballotpedia; The New York Times; Huffington Post; The Atlantic; La Jolla Light; Modesto Bee; Clean Technica; Washington Examiner

# Prop 24: Repeal of Corporate Tax Breaks

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WE RECOMMEND: VOTE YES

**SUMMARY:** If passed, Prop 24 would repeal recently passed legislation allowing businesses to shift operating losses to previous tax years, extend the time they're permitted to make those adjustments, and allow corporations to share tax credits with their affiliated corporations.

**PRO ARGUMENT:** Proposition 24, The Tax Fairness Act, ends \$1.3 billion in special tax loopholes for big corporations that don't require the creation or protection of one single job in California. During the recent state budget disaster, Sacramento politicians and big corporations cut a deal behind closed doors to raise your taxes, and give themselves huge tax breaks. This deal with legislators included \$18 billion in tax hikes for California taxpayers and \$1.3 billion in tax breaks a year for the state's biggest and wealthiest corporations. These same corporations made no guarantees that a single job would be created or saved to get this handout. The corporations would get these tax breaks, but could still send jobs overseas or to other states. Prop 24 will end tax loopholes that unfairly benefit less than 2 percent of California's businesses that are the wealthiest, multi-state corporations. Ninety-eight percent of California's businesses, especially small businesses, get virtually no benefit from the tax breaks. Corporations that are paying to defeat Prop 24 and keep these loopholes are paying their CEOs more than \$8.5 billion, and made more than \$65 billion in profits last year, while at the same time laying off more than 100,000 workers. By voting Yes on Prop 24, we can keep the Legislature from making even deeper cuts in public schools, healthcare, and public safety. During last year's budget disaster, the Legislature made \$30 billion in cuts that resulted in 16,000 teacher layoffs, and put 6,500 prisoners back on the street. But they gave corporations \$1.7 billion in tax breaks. Prop 24 will make big corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.7 billion back into the treasury for our students, classrooms, police and fire services, and health care we really need.

**WHO SUPPORTS:** California Teachers

Association, California Nurses Association, CALPIRG, Consumer Federation of California, Congress of California Seniors, League of Women Voters of California, California Tax Reform Association, Health Access California, California Faculty Association, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Orange County Young Democrats, Ventura County Star.

**CON ARGUMENT:** Known as the Jobs Tax measure, Prop 24 would literally tax new job creation, hit California employers and small businesses with \$1.3 billion in higher taxes each year, and stifle job growth in our most promising industries. The State Franchise Tax Board estimates 120,000 businesses could be impacted. In short: More small businesses closing shop, more employers expanding into other states, fewer jobs, fewer tax revenues, and fewer hugs (maybe). The Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College reports it could cost us 322,000 jobs and \$1.8 billion in lost tax revenues annually and leave California the only state among the 10 largest to be without any of these important job-creating tax policies. If Prop 24 passes, California will stand alone as the only one of the 10 largest states to be without any of these important tax policies. It would also put us at a great disadvantage against other Western states with whom we compete for jobs.

**WHO OPPOSES:** South Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce, California Chamber of Commerce, California Manufacturers and Technology Association, the California Building Industry Association, California Taxpayers Association, Contra Costa Times, Los Angeles Daily News, Oakland Tribune, Orange County Register, Sacramento Bee, California Small Business Alliance, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California Hotel and Lodging Association, The Seniors Coalition, Hewlett Packard, Johnson & Johnson, Walt Disney, San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, Former California Secretary of Education Marian Bergeson, Laguna Hills Mayor Randal Bressette, Newport Beach Mayor Keith Curry

**SOURCES** yesprop24; stopprop24; Ballotpedia; La Jolla Light

# Prop 25: The Majority Vote for the Legislature to Pass the Budget Act

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WE RECOMMEND: VOTE YES PLEASE

**SUMMARY:** “Prop 25 changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget and spending bills related to the budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. It also provides that if the Legislature fails to pass a budget bill by June 15, all members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the day the Legislature passes a budget bill.”

**PRO ARGUMENT:** Prop 25 helps fix California’s broken budget process with common-sense reforms that protect taxpayers, schools, and services, while holding legislators strictly accountable when they fail to pass the budget on time. Prop 25 reforms the system in two ways: Firstly, by holding legislators accountable by preventing them from collecting their pay and benefits for every day the state budget is late, just like 47 other states. (This is money, by the way, they can’t recover later when they do pass the budget.) And secondly, Prop 25 breaks budget deadlock by allowing a simple majority of legislators to approve the budget. The proposition does not lower the two-thirds vote required to raise taxes. California’s chronically late budgets have resulted in the lowest credit rating of any state. Because California is one of only three states that requires a two-thirds vote for the legislature to pass a budget, a handful of politicians can hold the process hostage for their own political purposes. This broken system sets the stage for the worst kind of backroom deals. Last year alone, while teachers, firefighters, and other public safety officers were getting pink slips, a few legislators held the budget hostage to demand billions in new corporate tax giveaways. Without any public hearings or debates, corporations walked away with billions—and Californians are paying the price. This reckless behavior happens year after year without any consequences for the legislators who fail to do their jobs. It’s time for common-sense reform that holds legislators accountable and end the budget games. By allowing a simple majority of legislators to pass the

budget, Prop 25 helps end budget gridlock and move the process forward.

**WHO SUPPORTS:** California Faculty Association, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Orange County Young Democrats, California Federation of Teachers, United Nurses Associations of California, Union of Health Care Professionals, California Alliance for Retired Americans, AFSCME, Associated Students of The University of California, Berkeley, California Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, California Nurses Association, League of Women Votes of California, Sierra Club, California Democratic Party, California Young Democrats, Harvey Milk LGBT Club, California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, State Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, State Assembly Speaker John Perez, State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, State Senator Loni Hancock, Health Access of California, San Francisco Chronicle, Oakland Tribune

**CON ARGUMENT:** The two-thirds vote requirement to approve a budget is an important check and balance because it requires legislators to work together to pass a balanced budget. Instead, Prop 25 will make it easier for the politicians to pass budgets that aren’t really balanced, using all the gimmicks and smoke and mirrors we’ve seen the past several years—which is great for the powerful smoke-and-mirror industries, but bad for everybody else. We shouldn’t be making it easier for politicians to increase spending and debt in these economic times. The politicians would never support something that reduces their pay and cuts their power, which is what makes Prop 25 so suspect on the surface. Hidden in the fine print of the measure is language that would make it even easier for the politicians to double or triple their government-paid expense accounts. The politicians want voters to think they’re cutting their salaries, but under Prop 25 they’ll make that up and much, much more by increasing other taxpayer-funded benefits they receive.

**WHO OPPOSES:** California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayers’ Association, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business California, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California Black Chamber of Commerce, California Grocers Association, Governor Arnold

Schwarzenegger, San Diego Union-Tribune, Los Angeles Daily News, Sacramento Bee

**SOURCES:** End Budget Gridlock; no25yes26; Ballotpedia

# Prop 26: Supermajority Vote to Pass New Taxes and Fees Act

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## WE RECOMMEND: VOTE NO THANKS

**SUMMARY:** “Prop 26 requires that certain state fees be approved by two-thirds vote of Legislature and certain local fees be approved by two-thirds of voters and will increase legislative vote requirement to two-thirds for certain tax measures, including those that do not result in a net increase in revenue, currently subject to majority vote.”

**PRO ARGUMENT:** At the local level, a public vote is required for most tax increases, but fees can be enacted without a public vote. It comes down to a simple trick of language. For years, state and local politicians have been exploiting a loophole in the law whereby they can raise taxes without voter permission by calling them “fees.” By using this terminology, they can circumvent the Constitutional requirements for passing taxes on goods like food, gas, cell phones, and even emergency services. These Hidden Taxes add billions of dollars in higher costs that consumers pay, and we’re powerless to fight them at the ballot. Prop 26 closes this loophole, protecting taxpayers and consumers against efforts by the state legislature and local politicians to increase Hidden Taxes. Prop 26 will stop politicians from using gimmicks to steal more money from California taxpayers and will make politicians abide by a little thing called the Constitution. No longer will they be able to hide new or higher taxes under the name of a “fee” in order to get more taxpayer money. Now, they’ll have to get a two-thirds vote at the state level, or voter approval at the local level, for most increases. Politicians don’t think they can pass taxes legitimately, so they play tricks on voters by resorting to fee increases. The same politicians that have forced California into a \$20-billion budget deficit use these fees to get more money from taxpayers for their slush funds and wasteful spending. Prop 26 provides voters with more control over politicians’ slush-fund spending, sending them the message that it’s time to clean up the waste and inefficiencies in government.

Who Supports: Americans for Tax Reform,

California Taxpayers Association, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and The Wine Institute, California Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Action Committee, Small Business Action Committee, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Register

**CON ARGUMENT:** Prop 26 was placed on the ballot by the oil, tobacco, and alcohol industries to stick ordinary taxpayers with the bill for the environmental, health, and safety hazards they cause. Prop 26 would amend the Constitution, requiring a two-thirds vote, rather than a simple majority, to enact fees on industries that pollute our air, dirty our water, and endanger our health. Companies like Chevron and Phillip Morris don’t want to be held responsible for the harm they cause. Prop 26 would cost the state billions in revenue annually—blowing an immediate \$1 billion hole in next year’s budget—leading to even deeper cuts in education, health services, and public safety. Prop 26 would also weaken environmental, consumer, and health safeguards and starve local government services of badly needed revenue. Chevron, ExxonMobil, Phillip Morris, and others spent more than \$2 million to put Prop 26 on the ballot. They claim it’s about “taxpayer protection,” but Prop 26 isn’t about taxes; it’s about giving corporate polluters a free pass by sticking us with their bill. Given the current political climate for taxes, Prop 26 would make it almost impossible to enact fees that are used for environmental and health-related programs. Specifically, the initiative would limit the ability to enact fees for anything other than a direct charge for a service, so that many current fees would be reclassified as “taxes,” and require a two-thirds vote. According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst’s Office, Prop 26 would result in “decreased state and local government revenues and spending due to the higher approval requirements for new revenues. The amount of the decrease would depend on future decisions by governing bodies and voters, but over time could total up to billions of dollars annually.” Since the funds raised by these fees are used by state and local governments for essential programs like cleaning up environmental disasters or repairing roads damaged by large trucks, these costs would have to be paid for by the taxpayers if the initiative is enacted; or, it could lead to greater burdens on state and local general funds.

**WHO OPPOSES:** California Faculty Association, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Orange County Young Democrats, California Professional Firefighters, California Federation of Teachers, Sierra Club, California Nurses Association, Consumer Federation of California, the California Democratic Party, the California Labor Federation, League of Women Voters, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California NOW, Latino Votes League, Equality California, California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, Sacramento Bee, San Diego Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Daily News, Oakland Tribune

**SOURCES:** no25yes26; Ballotpedia; California Faculty

# Prop 27: Elimination of the Citizen Redistricting Commission

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NO RECOMMENDATION. DO WHAT YOU WILL.

**SUMMARY:** “Prop 27 eliminates 14-member redistricting commission selected from applicant pool picked by government auditors. Consolidates authority for establishing state Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization district boundaries with elected state representatives responsible for drawing congressional districts. Reduces budget, and imposes limit on amount Legislature may spend, for redistricting. Provides that voters will have the authority to reject district boundary maps approved by the Legislature. Requires populations of all districts for the same office to be exactly the same.”

**PRO ARGUMENT:** If the Citizens Redistricting Commission authorized by Proposition 11 is abolished, and legislative redistricting is instead done as it used to be done, by the members of the California State Legislature, this will save “several million dollars every 10 years”, according to a non-partisan analysis conducted by the California Legislative Analyst’s Office. Prop 11 barely passed and is flawed: “In 2008, Schwarzenegger raised and spent 16 million special-interest dollars to barely pass an obtuse bureaucratic Commission to take the power of redistricting from those who are accountable to the people and give it to a faceless group of amateurs.” California is suffering a host of problems that should be tended to prior to paying attention to how state legislative district lines are drawn: “Governor, OUR STATE IS BANKRUPT, UNEMPLOYMENT IS OVER 12%, OUR LUSH BREADBASKET OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY IS WITHOUT WATER, EVERYTHING IS MESSED UP. Yet you still obsess on the political game of reapportionment?” The members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission are not accountable to voters for the state legislative district boundary lines they draw, whereas the members of the California State Legislature are accountable to voters, and therefore the task of drawing their district boundary lines is better trusted to them. “Proposition 27 mandates one person, one vote districts. Current law allows population variations of

as much as 1,000,000 people per district!” Prop 27 allows voters to have the final say if they object to a specific redistricting plan by subjecting that plan to veto referendum. Daniel Lowenstein says that “Under current law, three randomly selected accountants decide who can be one of the 14 unelected commissioners who head a bureaucracy that wields the power to decide who represents us. This reform will ensure that those who make the decisions are accountable to the voters and that all their decisions are subject to approval by the voters.” And that “A group of unelected commissioners, making up to \$1 million a year in cumulative salary, preside over a budget that cannot be cut even when state revenues are shrinking.”

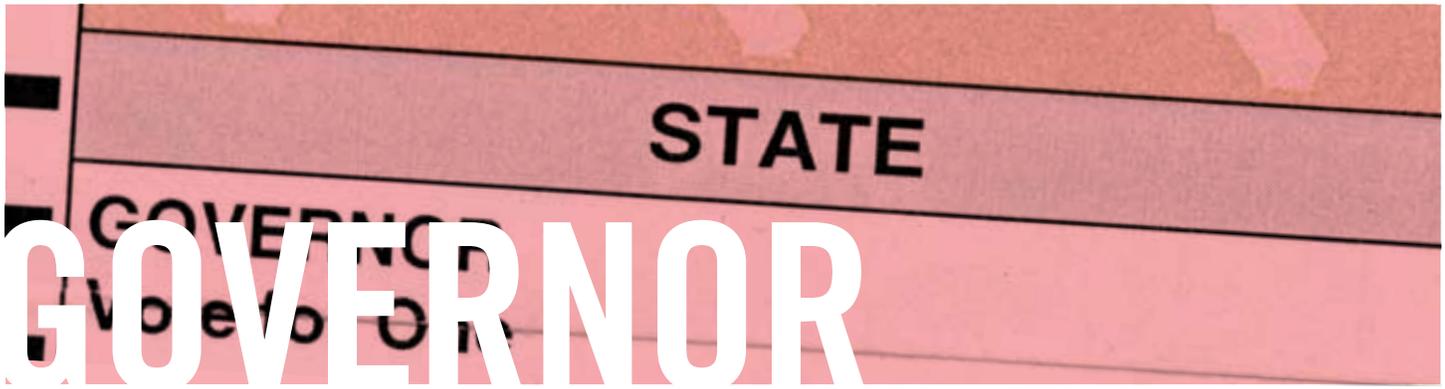
**WHO SUPPORTS:** California Faculty Association, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Orange County Young Democrats, Daniel Lowenstein, Hank Lacayo President of Congress of California Seniors, Mark Murray Executive Director of Californians Against Waste, AFSCME, Democratic State Central Committee of California, George Soros, Haim Saban, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and L.A. Democrat Howard Berman.

**CON ARGUMENT:** In 2008, California voters approved Prop 11 and took the power to draw state legislative and Board of Equalization districts out of the hands of politicians and gave it to an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Before Prop 11, state legislators drew their own districts to ensure their reelection, even if they didn’t do their jobs. Now, politicians are bankrolling Prop 27 so they can overturn the Prop 11 redistricting reforms, disband the voter-approved Citizens Redistricting Commission and go back to having the politicians draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection. Voting No on 27 will preserve voter-approved reforms, let the independent Citizens Redistricting commission draw fair election districts and keep the voters in charge! No on 27 means voters can hold politicians accountable and makes it easier to vote them out of office if they don’t do their jobs. Voting No on Prop 27 will stop the backroom deals that have plagued the state’s redistricting system for years. Clearly, when you see a politician heading into a backroom, nothing good’s about to happen. For example, the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register revealed that in the last redistricting, politicians paid one political consultant to draw districts

to protect their seats – and the consultant made over a million dollars in the process! The politicians behind Prop 27 want to return us to the days when legislators and their paid consultants drew districts behind closed doors to pick their own voters and help guaranteed their reelection even if they don’t do their jobs. Voting No on Prop 27 means districts will be drawn fairly and in a transparent process, with no backroom deals, no payments, and no private meetings allowed.

**WHO OPPOSES:** AARP, National Federation of Independent Business/California, the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, California NAACP, the California Chamber of Commerce, California Common Cause, Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, San Diego Union-Tribune, Sacramento Bee.

**SOURCES:** Ballotpedia; California Faculty Association; LA County Democratic Party; Orange Juice Blog; Forbes



## Carlos Alvarez

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** PEACE AND FREEDOM

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** In essence, Alvarez is for the working people. The overview: Alvarez wants “every person in L.A. to have a job; food; decent housing; access to free, quality health care and education; and a clean environment,” as he believes these to be not privileges, but fundamental human rights. More specifically: predominantly concerned with the rights of workers, he believes that “every worker should have the right to be in a union,” and that “the minimum wage should be \$15 per hour”.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Alvarez is a Los Angeles native. Despite being just 23 years old, he is already a seasoned community activist and has lead many of Los Angeles’s largest rallies, including those against the Iraq war, Prop 8 (Alvarez is openly gay), and the Israel-backed war against the Palestinians. He is a principal leader in the pro-immigrants and LGBT communities, and is a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation (quick review: a socialist believes that the vast amount of wealth in society belongs to those that create it, namely the working people). He is a grocery worker at Vons/Pavillions, and (presumably in connection with this) is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 770, in Los Angeles. In 2009 he ran for mayor of Los Angeles, notably garnering more votes than any socialist candidate since 1957. He is serious about his campaign, and has appeared on many news outlets as well as at events throughout the state.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Alvarez has a history of fighting against police brutality, and wants

a “community run police force”. He calls for electoral reform as he and other third party candidates are being excluded from the debates. He is against the death penalty, stating, “The death penalty—like the U.S. ‘justice’ system has historically been used across the United States as a weapon against the poor, against the working class, and has an overwhelming racist character. No rich man was ever executed, and only a handful of wealthy individuals are even among the 2 million prisoners in the country.” In addition to this, Alvarez is a firm union supporter and says he would support, and stand with, labor unions for both documented and undocumented workers.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Against the way the current system is run, Alvarez’s campaign says that the current system creates the vast profits of the few by exploiting the poor, who, he states, bear the majority of the economic crisis. By contrast, he “would tax the corporations and end all tax breaks to developers and landlords” and “would not cut necessary social services or lay off employees.” He wants all bonds and flat taxes eliminated, having stated that they imply that working people and the super-rich are somehow equal.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Alvarez is a firm believer in creating a sustainable solution to the climate crisis. He was not however, in support of Measure B (a local measure a few years back about putting solar panels around L.A.) because it imposes a flat tax to pay for it, which he believes is unfair to the working class. His alternative would be to fund solar power and renewable energy sources by imposing high taxes and penalties on corporations.

**HEALTH CARE:** Alvarez wants free quality health care for all, including preventative, emergency and long-term care, paid for by

corporations, banks and Big Oil.

**EDUCATION:** He calls for free quality education for all, starting in pre-school all the way through college.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** “Free abortion on demand for all.” You heard him. On demand. Though probably not from Direct TV.

**FUN FACTS:** Alvarez wants to lower the voting age to 16... Could be great, could be terrible.

**SOURCES:** Alvarez for Governor; Party for Socialism and Liberation; The Los Angeles Times; Carlos Alvarez, Party for Socialism and Liberation Candidate for L.A. Mayor Facebook Group; Carlos Alvarez, Party for Socialism and Liberation Candidate for L.A. Mayor YouTube video

# Jerry Brown

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** DEMOCRAT

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Brown's manifesto: "Let's Get California Working Again." His top five priorities are, in descending order: jobs, education, environment, clean energy jobs, and pension reform.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY :** Life-long California resident Jerry Brown has lived a unique life. He's been, among other things, a conventional heir to a political dynasty, a hippie-monkish governor with a taste for visionary ideas, a populist insurgent and talk-show host who rubbed shoulders with the radical Left, and a nuts-and-bolts mayor of a corroded California city. Brown began his career as a public servant in 1969 after spending three years in the seminary and then working as a lawyer. His first elected office was as a member of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. (See, it's important who you vote for in the little races - Jerry has gone all the way up the ladder). Jerry has held many posts in the public sector of California, elected as Secretary of State, California Governor in 1974 (at age 36 (!) and right after Ronald Reagan) and 1978 (carrying the famously Republican Orange County), and Mayor of Oakland. Brown has led delegations, done the lecture circuit, worked with Mother Teresa and studied in Japan (studying Zen) and Mexico. He was Chairman of the Democratic Party till 1991, and has run for President of the United States (3 times) and for U.S. Senate (just once). He is currently Attorney General for the State of California.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** As Governor, Brown appointed more women, Asians, Latinos and blacks to high government positions than any other chief executive. As current Attorney General, he has refused to defend Prop 8 in court, and believes that same sex couples have the right to be married—when he was Governor the first time he went as far as to decriminalize homosexuality. He opposes Arizona's anti-immigration law and believes immigration needs to be "regularized by the framework of law." In 1975 he signed the Agricultural Labor Relations Act into law, which gave farm workers the right to unionize, and which benefits a number

of undocumented immigrants who work in California's agriculture industry. He does not, however, support sanctuary cities.

With respect to the Mary Jane, he doesn't support legalization, saying "We're going to get a vote of the people soon on that, but I'm not going to support it." (See the current Prop 19). As Attorney General he created guidelines to help police separate the criminals from legitimate clinic sellers and to protect patients from arrest; and in his first stint as governor, he liberalized the state's marijuana law.

Back to criminals for a sec: his term as Mayor of Oakland saw the crime rate drop for most of his time in office. He managed to hire more police officers but murders did spike his last year in office. He is against the death penalty - "thinks we are better off without it" - but says he will uphold the law and has done so, defending many death sentence convictions as Attorney General. While Governor he appointed a staunch anti-death penalty judge to the California Supreme Court.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Well, when Brown was Governor the first time, he gained a rep as a fiscal conservative—more than Ronald Reagan himself. (This, friends, is an accomplishment.) Jerry has been attacked heavily by competitor Whitman that he raised taxes during that time, though these claims have been debunked, and, in fact, taxes were somewhat lowered during his tenure (though he did sign an increase to gas taxes). During that time, California produced 25% of the nation's new jobs, and he aims to repeat that record. Brown oversaw large state surpluses in his early years as governor, which happened without any new tax increases. Some blame Brown for sitting on the surpluses, which allowed the tax revolt movement for Proposition 13 (the prop that capped property taxes back in '78 which is often cited as the reason that Cali is so broke) to gain steam. Brown opposed Proposition 13 before it passed, but after it did, he became an ardent defender, calling himself a "born-again tax-cutter", and won the endorsement of Howard Jarvis, the proposition's chief backer. In this year's race, Brown says there should be no tax increases without a vote. As Mayor of Oakland, Brown helped begin its revitalization by attracting \$1 billion in investments and by supporting a pro-

business policy that helped bring people and businesses back to the area.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Brown has provided a seven-point plan that includes a moratorium on new off-shore drilling, and supports measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. His average legislative record when he was Gov was 86% by the California League of Conservation Voters. (That's not too bad). Brown signed into law the California Coastal Protection Act, earned federal protection of Northern California wild and scenic rivers, started the California Conservation Corp, brought about the country's first building and appliance energy efficiency standards and made California the leader in solar and alternative energy. Brown definitely does not support the passage of Prop 23, which would suspend the state's Global Warming Solutions Act.

**HEALTH CARE:** As Attorney General, he has not joined other states to contest the Constitutionality of Obama's reform bill. Among his personal achievement claims in this area, his website lists curbing Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse, protecting patients, fighting drug marketing and curbing prescription drug price inflation. Signs point to Jerry signing off on single payer health care that Gov Schwarzenegger has vetoed twice. **FUN FACT:** Brown legalized the practice of acupuncture in California.

**EDUCATION:** Brown offers a 12 point plan that includes more money for higher education and gives more decision authority to local k-12 schools. He helped create two high performing charter schools while he was mayor of Oakland (Oakland School for the Arts and the Oakland Military Institute) but has also admitted that his school reform platform was "largely a bust" while serving as Mayor because he was unable to get the support he needed on the school board to make much change.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Pro-choice. Brown does not support parent notification laws. He supports Medicaid funding of abortions and is backed by NARAL, Pro-Choice California and Planned Parenthood.

**FUN FACTS:** His nickname when he was Governor the first time around was "Governor Moonbeam". On whether he will accept a salary as governor (GOP candidate

Meg Whitman says she will decline one cuz she's already got a billion bucks) he said: "Hell yes, I'll take a salary. I need the salary."

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Endorsements: Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, California Nurses Association, Code Pink, National Organization of Women, California Professional Firefighters, Los Angeles City Council, various environmental orgs, La Sheriff Lee Baca, San Jose Mercury News, NARAL, Planned Parenthood, Sacramento Bee.

**SOURCES:** Jerry Brown Campaign Website; The Los Angeles Times; The New York Times; Mother Jones; Mercury News; The Sacramento Bee; KPBS; NBC; California Healthline; GreenGov; Politifact.com; Factcheck.org; The Los Angeles Times; The Attorney General of California website; American Conservative; SFGate.com

## Chelene Nightingale

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** AMERICAN INDEPENDENT / TEA PARTY

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** 1) Support Prop 23 and overturn AB 32- California's Global Warming Solutions Act.

- 2) Secure the border.
- 3) Get water back to the Central Valley.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Born in Puget Sound, moved to Southern California in the early 1990s. Back in Puget Sound, she started a graphic design company, but then was—honest to goodness—spotted in a mall and began a career in modeling and then acting. She went on to be a producer, including shows like the All New Captain Kangaroo Show. In 2005 she gave it all up to focus on her family, then started a small business with her hubby. She has been super active in politics since then, mostly with regard to demanding secure borders and 'no amnesty no how.'

She has acted as director of "Save our State," an anti-illegal immigration group which has been known to hold anti-immigrant marches through Mexican-American neighborhoods and which has an active skinhead and Neo-Nazi element involved. Nightingale, at the helm, has tried to make the Neo-Nazi element feel unwelcome, she says that's not what the group is really about, but, regardless, SOS has remained a pretty militant anti-immigrant organization. (The Southern Poverty Law Center calls it a "hate group") This year she was requested by the National Constitution Party leaders to run for Governor. If elected, she wants to "govern ourselves the way our Founding Fathers intended."

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Are state's rights civil rights? She is a huge proponent of the former, and thinks the feds should really just butt the eff out. "Each state must embrace its own destiny and California is no exception." She most certainly does not believe in gay marriage.

**ON BORDER AND IMMIGRATION:** In response to a "mass criminal invasion" and to protect Cali, she would place the state mili-

tary on the border to help with patrol, and demand that our National Guard are sent back home. She wants to end "all public benefits for illegal aliens" and abolish any CA sanctuary cities.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Here's the deal. Nightingale's plan to combat wasteful spending by the state is to have the state legislature go part-time and she would reduce business regulations, lower business taxes, and line-item veto all unconstitutional bills. She and her team would audit the state's books and assets, curtailing unnecessary spending while needless assets are sold for profit. She would create a new bank (the Sound Money State Bank) that would "adhere to the California Constitution" and would offer low interest loans. As for AB 32—abolish that thing. And, finally she would explore a flat tax option.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Nightingale believes that "global warming" is "just another U.N. model to enact stricter government regulations." She believes that scientists have proven that our climate is actually cooling and that the warming science has been inconclusive, that humans are totally responsible enough to take care of the planet, we just need the freedom to do so. In her words: "People are more important than fish!" Also, owls. She thinks that the federal Endangered Species Act has turned our Central Valley into a dust bowl to save a few Delta Smelt. She wants to open the pumps that are a danger to those smelt and get water flowing back to the central valley while she works on permanent solutions like building new water systems. And don't even get her started on AB-32. She believes that it will cost consumers and small businesses billions and cost the state millions of jobs. No comment on anything we should do to protect our natural resources.

**EDUCATION:** Nightingale wants to stop educating "illegals," encourage home schooling, allow parents to "opt out" of education that does not fit their family values, force schools to improve through competition and allow parents to choose the best schools for their children by eliminating school district boundaries. And as she says, "Most people lose their jobs when they don't perform well. America's highest paid teachers should not be any different."

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** No "abortions

of convenience”.

**FUN FACTS:** In high school, Nightingale and a close friend created the Spirit Club for which she served as vice-president. Back when she was a model/actress she was on an episode of Northern Exposure.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Former 2008 Presidential Candidate Chuck Baldwin, G. Edward Griffin (Author, Creature From Jekyll Island), Former 2008 Presidential Candidate Tom Tancredo. Also: RogueOn.org, and, as of early October, 3,173 people “like” Nightingale on the Facebook.

**SOURCES:** SmartVoter.org; Nightingale for Governor; Independent Political Report; The New America; Southern Poverty Law Center

## Dale F. Ogden

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**POLITICAL PARTY:**LIBERTARIAN

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Reduce spending by California state government at least to 1998 levels, Reduce state employees’ salaries and pensions to private sector levels, Reduce or abolish state income taxes & reduce sales taxes.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Ogden received a B.A. in math from Townson State University. He started his postgraduate in Actuarial Science at Loyola but never quite finished. He is currently the President of Dale F. Ogden & Associates, an insurance firm, and has also worked at KPMG and Kramer Capital Consultants. Inc. He has never held office, though he has been a candidate for several offices including: Governor, State Senate, and Insurance Commissioner.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Ogden is a strong supporter of 2nd and 9th amendment rights. He wants to legalize all drugs in order to end the drug war. He states that we should make it easier for guest workers to come to America and that “immigrants who work hard and don’t break the law should have access to citizenship or legal status.” He wants to put together a panel to pardon folks who commit victimless crimes (like gambling or marijuana possession). He also has a plan to disband all SWAT teams and to prosecute any law enforcement agents who violate the rights of citizens.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Ogden believes that reducing government is the only way to increase prosperity. If voted governor he would use the line item veto to reduce wasteful government spending and the federal and state courts. He wants to abolish state personal and corporate income taxes. He also proposes to reduce pensions, move the retirement age for police and firefighters back to 60 to 65. He suggests no pensions for workers who haven’t worked for the state less than five years and no pensions for elected or appointed officials. He also wants to outlaw unions for state workers.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** He wants to repeal carbon limit laws claiming that Al Gore falsified the record and that

the stolen e-mails in the “climategate” scandal prove that global warming is unfounded - even though the English Courts revealed that there was no falsified data in those “climategate” scandals.

**HEALTH CARE:** He states that he is against the health-care reform bill and wants to reduce California’s roll in regulating health insurance.

**EDUCATION:** Believes the state should get out of the education business and that it should be left to cities and counties. Increase competition through Vouchers.

**SOURCES:** Dale Ogden campaign website; SmartVoter.org; Votesmart.org; Libertarian Party; Dale Ogden’s personal website

## Laura Wells

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** GREEN

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Laura Wells is from Michigan, and previously ran for State Controller as green candidate. She works as a financial systems developer.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** She's got some new taxes in mind: tax the oil that's taken from CA and apply a sales tax on wall street transactions. She says she wants to rework prop 13 (the 1978 prop that capped property taxes in Cali) so that it doesn't benefit large corporations and billionaires. Wants a State Bank for California so that California does not have to rely on Wall Street. (Not totally clear on what that means.)

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** She's a Green, so there you go, and she proposes: "cleaner, sustainable, local energy" and is against nuclear power and carbon sequestration. The next great job creator? That would be the green economy.

**HEALTH CARE:** Single payer universal health care.

**EDUCATION:** She wants: class size reduction, increased public school funding, more early childhood programs, restoring enrollment at the Cal States, and affordable higher education. She does not want: Corporate charter schools and teacher pay linked with student tests scores because leads to urban schools converting to charter schools.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Supports "freedom of choice" for patients.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** The majority of her endorsements are from other Green Party candidates and members.

**OTHER:** Because she's never held office it's difficult to find evidence of her actions. Her website doesn't have much on her background or work experience - what is there is pretty vague. Her website still references props from last June rather than this November.

**SOURCES:** Laura Wells campaign website; Californiality.com

## Meg Whitman

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** REPUBLICAN

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Meg Whitman believes there are three key areas for California to focus on to move the state out of deficit and into prosperity: 1) job creation, 2) reduced state government spending 3) reform of the K-12 educational system. Meg's goal is to create two million new jobs by the beginning of 2015, get rid of runaway spending to create long-term fiscal stability, fix the failing school system, and to provide economic opportunity for future generations.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Whitman was born and raised on Long Island, New York. She attended Princeton University as an economics major and went on to Harvard University where she earned her MBA in 1979. She didn't let the Ivy League down, and has held executive positions at companies such as Disney, Bain and Co. (founded by Mitt Romney), and Hasbro before joining eBay as its CEO in 1998. Whitman is credited with making the online retailer the commercial success that it is today, expanding services to Europe, Asia, Latin America while acquiring PayPal, Skype, and StubHub. She once raised eBay's stock 60 percent in 12 months. She sat on the board of Procter & Gamble and DreamWorks, has been featured in Time as one of the world's most influential people, and has been ranked "The Most Powerful Woman in Business" by Fortune Magazine. Meg served as National Finance Co-Chair for Governor Mitt Romney during his 2008 Presidential campaign, and then as National Finance Co-Chair for the McCain-Palin campaign. She retired a billionaire from eBay in 2008 to focus on politics.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Whitman supports California's Proposition 8, however she believes that same-sex marriages that took place before the ban should be recognized, and that gay and lesbian couples should be permitted to adopt children and that civil unions are ok.

Whitman has said that she supports Arizona's right to enact their new immigration law for its state, but that "it's not for California." So what is for California immigrants? Well, no amnesty, that's one

thing. She wants the construction of a border fence with Mexico and increased law enforcement to the Mexican border. She supports policies that would not allow undocumented immigrants admission to state funded colleges and universities (no DREAM Act for her) and she is opposed to bi-lingual education. She supports a guest worker program but no citizenship for those in the country illegally. Also, she's interested in instituting random workplace inspections for employers suspected of hiring the undocumented. In fact, she has argued that one way to address illegal immigration is to hold employers accountable for hiring workers who are not in the country legally. This position became awkward for Meg when it came to light in September that her longtime housekeeper, Nicky Diaz, was in the country illegally. Whitman says that as soon as she found out she fired her. Diaz disagrees.

Whitman supports California's three strikes law (25 to life after your third serious crime), supports the death penalty, and believes in the right to bear arms. She would like to build new prisons as opposed to exploring early release for incarcerated people or sentencing reform. She is opposed to the legalization of marijuana.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Not a fan of the taxes, Whitman wants to spark new job growth by implementing targeted tax cuts. She would eliminate the \$800 new business tax required for start-ups as well as taxes on manufacturing equipment. She would also ax state tax on capital gains and provide a \$10,000 credit for home purchases.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Whitman "supports California's renewable energy requirements and believes in promoting clean sources of energy that will help create green jobs and less dependence on fossil fuels."

However, Whitman has said that if elected, she would "probably" suspend California AB 32 (the state's major initiative for reducing climate change/greenhouse gas emissions) for one year to "study its economic implications." (Critiques argue that a one-year suspension would create a great amount of economic uncertainty and negatively affect clean tech investment and job creation.) Initially she had said that she would repeal the bill on her first day

in office, and then said she would “probably” veto it, and now advocates a year suspension. She has also said that she will vote against Prop 23, which also wants to suspend the landmark environmental legislation. Whitman opposes further restrictions on water supply in the Central Valley, opposes off shore drilling, and believes in exploring new energy solutions, including nuclear energy.

**HEALTH CARE:** Whitman had said that she would like California to join the list of states suing to overturn the new Federal Health Care law. However, she later revised her position on the lawsuit, but still thinks that it will hurt the economy and should be repealed. She believes that we should open up California to more insurance competition so there are more choices and more ability to buy plans.

**EDUCATION:** She would like to send money directly to school districts as uniform block grants, with responsibility for the grants placed on local school administrators. She would like to grade all public schools and provide access to this information online, as well as provide special bonuses to high-achieving teachers. Whitman would also like to invest \$1 billion in the U.C. and Cal State systems.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Whitman supports abortion rights, but not late term abortion. She voted in favor of California Proposition 4, which requires minors to notify a guardian or parent prior to an abortion.

**FUN FACTS:** Whitman is the fourth wealthiest woman in California according to Forbes, with a net worth of \$1.3 billion, and has spent more of her own money than any other self-funded political candidate in U.S. history. Also, this one’s fun: Whitman did not vote for 28 years, in her own words, an “atrocious” voting record.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Whitman has raised \$10 million in individual contributions along with a record breaking \$119 million from personal coffers. She is endorsed by Former Governor Pete Wilson, various Republican Congress people and Senators, newspapers like the Long Beach Press-Telegram, Sacramento Bee and the San Jose Mercury News. Also, the CA Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau Federation, Floral Council, Peace Officers’

Association, Restaurant Association and the Republican National Hispanic Assembly of California.

**SOURCES:** Meg Whitman campaign website; Diffen.com; WhoRunsGov.com; Slate; CaliforniaWatch.org; Reuters; Forbes<; SFGate.com; The Los Angeles Times; The Mercury News (2)



*One of these five people will represent California in the United States Senate for the next six years. Choose wisely.*

## Barbara Boxer (incumbent)

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Democratic Candidate

**PLATFORM:** Her top priority in these uncertain economic times? “Getting California back on track and getting Californians back to work.”

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Boxer currently holds the position of Chief Deputy Whip of the Democratic Majority of the U.S. Congress. But before all that fanciness, she was born in Brooklyn on November 11, 1940. She got a degree in economics from Brooklyn College, worked as a stockbroker for a bit in the 1960s, moved to Northern California, and then got into politics in 1972. She was elected as a member of the Marin County Board of Supervisors where she served as its first woman president.

In 1982 she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and remained there for a decade. In 1993 she was elected to the Senate and has stayed there ever since. As a Senator, she divides her time among 20 committees, 68 subcommittees, and four joint committees. She is Chair of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. She describes herself as “anti-war, anti-big business, pro-woman, and pro-environmental rights crusader.” She is pegged as one of the more liberal Democrats in the Senate, voting with her party over 95 percent of the time.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Back in the day, Boxer voted against the Patriot Act because she thought

it harmed civil liberties. More recently, she voted for the military to repeal its “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and voted against a constitutional ban on gay marriage. There was a recent kerfuffle when a Republican-sponsored Spanish-language advertisement claimed that Boxer voted against immigration reform, which was a surprise to her, as she has been a well-known advocate for comprehensive immigration reform for most of her career. She’s down for tough border security, but she has also advocated a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and supported the 2009 AgJOBS Act, which gave temporary visas to undocumented workers already in U.S. farms and fields.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** She supported Obama’s 2009 economic stimulus plan. She co-authored the bipartisan “Invest in the U.S.A. Act,” which gave companies tax incentives to create jobs in the United States and eliminated tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas. She helped pass the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act, which provided small businesses with tax cuts and loans, stating that “small businesses are the major job creators in our economy and this legislation will ensure that [they] have the tax incentives and credit they need to expand and hire.”

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** There’s a lot here. Boxer is the first woman to chair the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Environment and Public Works. She added an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996 and was super-mad at the Bush Administration’s rollback of clean air legislation and logging restrictions. As a Senator she has tried, a few times, to pass legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it has always been deemed too “radical.”

In 2009, Boxer teamed up with Senator

John Kerry to introduce their version of a climate bill, another strategy to reduce greenhouse gasses and cut dependence on foreign oil. The bill included the contentious “cap and trade” system that would give industries a certain amount of “permits to pollute” and then allow companies could trade those permits. It also included a carbon offset program that would help compensate farmers and landowners for their help with carbon mitigation (sustainable agriculture or planting trees, for example).

There was some pretty serious drama that went down in the Senate around the bill: First the Republican global warming denier Senator Inhofe of Oklahoma, said that Boxer was clearly working with some “corporate prostitutes” on this bill. Then, Republican members of the Environment and Public Works Committee boycotted the marking up of the bill. Boxer went ahead and marked it up without them. The bill died out of committee (and we probably won’t see another climate bill for years). Maybe Barbara should have gotten some Republicans on board? Or, maybe there’s just too much yelling in the Senate to get any real work done on climate change.

**HEALTH CARE:** Boxer voted in support of the recent health care reform package. In the past, she voted to expand the Children’s Health Insurance Program, to allow the import of prescription drugs from Canada, and to support military members and their families with affordable health care.

**EDUCATION:** Barbara wrote landmark legislation establishing the first-ever federal funding for after-school programs. She is rated 91 percent by the NEA, indicating pro-public education votes.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Boxer strongly supports abortion as a woman’s right and

condemns restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, voting to expand research to more embryonic stem cell lines. She has also voted to allocate \$100 million to reduce teen pregnancy with education and contraceptives. She gets a 100 percent rating by NARAL, indicating a pro-choice voting record.

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:** Boxer opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning.

**FUN FACTS:** Boxer has published two novels: *A Time to Run* and *Blind Trust*. They each have three stars on Amazon. Also, in 2005, Barbara co-filed a U.S. Congressional Objection to the certification of Ohio's Electoral College votes in the 2004 election. (You may recall, Ohio was sort of the clincher that year.) As a result of this challenge, Congress was forced into a debate over voter fraud and a constituent began the Barbara Boxer Rose Campaign, where the Senator received 4,500 roses to her office on Valentine's Day 2005.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Boxer had raised \$18,884,745 as of July. Her top five contributors are Emily's List (a pro-choice group), Girardi & Keese (a law firm), the University of California, Time Warner, and Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy (another law firm).

**HER ENDORSERS INCLUDE:** Barack Obama, the California Federation of Teachers, the California Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO, the California League of Conservation Voters, the California Nurses Association, Clean Water Action, Emily's List, Feminist Majority Political Action Committee, the League of Conservation Voters, NARAL Pro-Choice America, the National Education Association, the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus, Ocean Champions, the Peace Officers Research Association of California, Planned Parenthood, and the Sierra Club.

**SOURCES:** On The Issues, Barbara Boxer, Project Vote Smart, Amazon, Daily Kos, WhoRunsGov, OpenSecrets, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, PolitiFact

## Marsha Feinland

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Peace and Freedom

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** As a member of the Peace and Freedom party, Feinland is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism, and racial equality.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Feinland was born in New York City, went on to get her B.A. in history at Bryn Mawr College, class of 1969. That was an admittedly wacky year, so we won't fault her for a GPA of 2.9. She got it together when she got her M.S. in Education from California State University in the East Bay 10 years later. (She earned a 4.0 this time.)

Feinland was a school teacher for 25 years. Also served as a Rent Board Commissioner in Berkeley and worked to pass the Just Cause for Eviction ordinance in Oakland. She ran for President of the United States in 1996, representing the Peace and Freedom party, and received 25,332 votes. In 2004, she ran against Boxer for Senate and received 243,000 votes.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Feinland maintains that people who come to this country to work or to escape persecution should not be called criminals. She also wants to "end discrimination based on race, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability."

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Feinland think that it's better to protect people who live in foreclosed properties than it is to bail out banks. She also wants to double the minimum wage, and index it to the cost of living. But it doesn't end there. Glenn Beck should actually check her out if he really wants to know what a socialist looks like. Feinland wants a 30-hour workweek with no cut in weekly pay and longer paid vacations. She backs a universal basic income to alleviate poverty and homelessness, and wants to tax the income and assets of the rich to meet human needs. And—and here's what would really get Beck exercised—she wants social ownership and democratic control of industry, financial institutions, and natural resources.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Feinland argues we need to place strict limits

on all pollution to safeguard public health and prevent climate disaster. She does not believe in a cap and trade solution. She also wants to promote the production and use of clean renewable energy. But above all, she wants to implement infill housing, expand public transportation, and support social policies which reduce our use of energy, whatever the source, and protect and restore ecosystems.

**HEALTH CARE:** Feinland supports free, high-quality health care for everyone, including birth control, abortion services, and pre-natal and childhood health care. She envisions a system which covers all of us, and argues that socialized and single-payer systems provide effective and affordable health care for everyone in Britain and Canada.

**EDUCATION:** Feinland believes that constant testing has taken the place of real education.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Feinland is pro-choice.

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:** Feinland believes the U.S. occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan are a colossal waste of lives and resources, both ours and theirs. If we want to end those operations we need to cut off appropriations for them. But, she argues, that is not enough. We also need to stop subsidizing the companies that develop the weapons and the contractors that create the infrastructure for war. She also calls for the suspension of all U.S. aid to Israel until it withdraws to its pre-1967 borders.

**FUN FACTS:** Through all of the lefty rhetoric that Feinland throw at us, she also supports the right of working people to keep and bear arms.

**SOURCES:** Feinland for Senate, Peace and Freedom Party, VoteSmart

# Carly Fiorina

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** REPUBLICAN

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Fiorina says she will focus on “Creating Jobs, Restoring Fiscal Accountability, Fixing California’s Water Crisis, Focusing on Health Care, Reducing the Deficit, Immigration Reform, & Protecting America.” We’ll dig into what that all means below. But first, who is she?

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Fiorina was born in Austin, Texas. She got her undergraduate degree at Stanford (in medieval history and philosophy), an M.B.A. in marketing from the University of Maryland, and then a Master of Science in Management from MIT.

Her career in business started at AT&T where she rose through the ranks to become Vice President at the AT&T spin-off Lucent Technologies. In 1998 she was named Fortune Magazine’s “#1 Most Powerful Woman in Business”. In 1995, she became the CEO of Hewlett-Packard and the first Woman CEO of a Fortune 20 company. While at HP she oversaw its merger with Compaq, a deal that many in the business press thought was a bad idea. They might have been right, as HP’s stock fell by half under Fiorina’s leadership.

In 2005, after laying off more than 30,000 workers, she was forced to resign by the HP Board of Directors and was given severance pay totaling \$21 million. Carly then turned to politics. She served as an adviser to Sen. John McCain’s presidential bid in 2008. This is her first go at a political office.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Fiorina was a “proud voter for Prop 8” and believes that traditional marriage should be defended, but that civil unions should be allowed for gay folks. She has stated that she supports reforming both guest worker programs for seasonal workers and visa programs for workers in other high-skill and high-demand industries. While at HP she advocated for the expansion of the H-1B Visa program (that’s a 6-year guest worker visa) stating that “There is no job that is America’s God-given right anymore. We have to compete for jobs as a nation.”

Fiorina supports SB 1070, the current controversial anti-immigrant legislation in Arizona and believes we must secure our borders to help protect the country “through technology.” She opposes trying foreign terrorists in civilian courts and closing Guantanamo Bay.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Fiorina proposes reducing the deficit by reducing spending and cutting programs. She supported the Bush administration’s bailouts in 2008, but later said that she opposed the bailouts and believed President Obama’s economic stimulus package was unsustainable. As for her own plans, she wants to focus on jobs and small businesses by cutting taxes and reducing energy regulations and health care mandates. She calls for abolishing earmarks, and making government accounting more honest. Additionally, she supports posting each bill and budget on the Internet far enough in advance so that people can “comment on policies and take an active role in government.”

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** During the first televised debate with Senator Barbara Boxer she refused to take a stance on Proposition 23 (the measure to suspend California’s climate legislation), but two days later her campaign issued a statement that she was fully in support of Proposition 23. She has called climate change “a serious issue,” but believes global warming science is inconclusive. She has said “I think we should have the courage to examine the science on an ongoing basis.”

She opposes cap-and-trade legislation for controlling emissions and sees “green initiatives as contrary to job growth.” However, she does want to reduce dependence on foreign oil through investing in clean technology (which, we guess, she doesn’t count as a green initiative?) Finally, she promises to take the correct steps to “get the taps flowing” to the farms in the central valley.

**HEALTH CARE:** Fiorina’s a former CEO, so she’s down with encouraging competition in the health insurance market and wants the government to butt out. She supports a repeal the federal health-care reform bill passed this year. She also wants to crack down on frivolous lawsuits and make sure no one is denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

**EDUCATION:** Fiorina doesn’t mention Education in her platform, but we do know that she had come out against the Senate bill to deliver \$26 billion in federal aid to schools, stating that it’s full of accounting tricks and doesn’t immediately go to schools. (Independent analysis has said that that the bill would save 16,500 teachers in California schools.)

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Fiorina has stated that she is against abortion personally and she is endorsed by several anti-choice organizations. However, some of those groups have criticized her for stating that “Roe v. Wade is a decided issue” and that working to limit reproductive freedoms would not be a priority for her if she were elected.

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:** Fiorina states that she is committed to winning the war against Afghanistan and that the federal government should listen to the commanders on the ground and stay until the job is done. She is also committed to strongly supporting the state of Israel, and its right to defend itself. She supports tougher sanctions against Iran, however she has come under fire for HP equipment sales to Iran during her tenure at the company.

**FUN FACTS:** Portfolio listed Fiorina as one of “The 20 Worst CEO’s of all time.” It wasn’t for a lack of creativity though, at least judging from her campaign ads. One featured her Republican primary opponent as a demon-wolf in sheep’s clothing. It was aptly titled “Lies, Damn Lies and Demon Sheep.” Then there’s the seven-minute spot attacking her current Democratic challenger, Barbara Boxer, in which Boxer’s head inflates, breaks off from her body, and wreaks havoc as it sails over California.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** As of July, Fiorina had raised \$10.6 million, \$5.5 million of which was from her own bank account. The majority of the rest of her donations are from individuals, including \$63,000 from Appalachian coal-mining interests. Despite Carly’s close Silicon Valley ties, high-tech firms are giving more money to Boxer.

Her endorsers include Sen. John McCain, Lindsay Graham, Rick Santorum, the California Farm Bureau, GOProud, Hip Hop Republicans, Young Republicans Federated California, Susan B. Anthony’s List,

Taxpayer's League Liberty Fund, and the California Pro-Life Council.

SOURCES: The Los Angeles Times, Carly for California, ThinkProgress, RedState, Gawker, Fortune, CNN, OpenSecrets, California Watch, Hispanic Business

## Edward C. Noonan

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POLITICAL PARTY: AMERICAN INDEPENDENT / TEA PARTY

CANDIDATE PLATFORM: Noonan opposes "illegal alien amnesty and open borders," "climate alarmism," and "immorality/godlessness."

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY: Noonan served for four years in the U.S. Army. He was State Party Chairman of the American Independent Party from 2006 to 2008. He also ran for governor in California in 2006.

CIVIL RIGHTS: We're just going to let him speak for himself: "WE BELIEVE IN CONSERVATIVE LATTER DAY SAINT VALUES AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS!!! WE KNOW THAT ABORTION AND ESPECIALLY HOMOSEXUALITY ARE THE GREATEST MORAL EVILS OF OUR DAY!!! ALL MEN SHOULD BE LIKE "HELANAN'S 2000 STRIPLING WARRIORS" (ALMA 53:17-18) BECAUSE A STRONG RIGHTEOUS LAND EQUALS A STRONG CALIFORNIA." Wow.

FUN FACTS: Noonan thinks President Obama is not a citizen of the United States.

KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS: The California Mormon Battalion (Noonan is the founder).

SOURCES: VoteSmart, ResistNet, Noonan for U.S. Senate 2010

## Duane Roberts

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POLITICAL PARTY: GREEN

CANDIDATE PLATFORM: Roberts's first priorities are to create a single-payer health care system modeled on Medicare, ensure every student is eligible to receive a tuition-free public higher education, and repeal all federal laws making it a crime to use marijuana and hemp.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY: Roberts was born to working-class parents in Burbank, California, in 1967, but grew up in Anaheim. He worked as a typesetter before earning a B.A. in Criminology, Law and Society from The University of California, Irvine. In 2000, he ran for the Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees, and though he lost, Roberts was the first Green Party candidate running in a nonpartisan race to receive the endorsement of the Orange County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Between 2006 and 2008, Roberts was publisher of the Orange Coast Voice, a monthly community newspaper that circulates 15,000 copies in Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, and surrounding areas.

He is a longtime member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Anaheim and has been elected to serve on its Board of Trustees three times.

CIVIL RIGHTS: Roberts supports the freedom of same-sex couples to marry, calling Proposition 8 an "odious act that should be immediately repealed." He is also a strong supporter of immigrant rights, stating, "the majority of immigrants living here 'illegally' are law-abiding, work hard, and make important contributions to the wealth of this country. Those who have established residency and/or are raising families should be allowed to become citizens."

Roberts is calling loudly for the repeal of federal laws that criminalize marijuana, and backs Proposition 19. For Roberts, it's a public safety issue. He argues that marijuana prosecutions waste jail space, clog up the court system, and divert the time of police, prosecutors, and judges away from violent criminals.

ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE: Roberts also wants to legalize the weed because it would, theoretically, bring in billions of dollars in new tax revenues for cash-strapped California, not to mention the rest of the country, and would help fa-

cilitate the development of industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: Roberts is not down with nuclear power as a clean energy source. He thinks that any positive contribution of nuclear power to combating climate change "is greatly outweighed by the fact it happens to be one of the most expensive and dangerous sources of energy ever created." He thinks that subsidies are too big for nuclear plants, and that we should instead promote mass transit and work on developing clean and safe sources of renewable energy, like solar power. Roberts also wants to levy special taxes on companies with high greenhouse gas emissions.

HEALTH CARE: Roberts believes that health care is "a fundamental human right deserving of all people and not a commodity to be sold at a profit to the highest bidder." He wants to "drive the private health insurance industry out of business and replace it with a single-payer system." Roberts thinks that the federal health-care reform bill is actually a scheme to bailout the Wall Street billionaires who have lost investments in private health insurance companies.

EDUCATION: Roberts wants to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and use the money saved to pay for tuition-free higher education for all students in the United States. He says that by "immediately withdrawing all U.S. military troops, private mercenaries, and independent contractors from Iraq and Afghanistan, we can use about half of the estimated \$200 billion in taxpayer money currently being wasted each year on these bloody colonial wars to guarantee that every academically-qualified student living within the United States, regardless of immigration status, will be able to obtain a tuition-free education at a public college, university, or technical trade school of their choosing."

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: Roberts wants to withdraw the troops now.

FUN FACTS: In 2003, Duane helped organize what then was one of the biggest anti-war demonstrations in Orange County since the Vietnam War. It was at the Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda.

SOURCES: Vote for Duane, Green Party Watch, The Voter Guide



*The Attorney General is housed in the Department of Justice and works to lead and educate on law enforcement, justice, safety, equal opportunity, and economic prosperity.*

## Peter Allen

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Green

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Post-partisan and in it for the long haul, Peter argues that most politicians favor “short term spin and protecting their own power” instead of prioritizing the welfare of the state and its inhabitants. His top priorities align with the Greens: crime, the environment, the economy, political reform, and education.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Allen received his bachelor’s from UC Santa Cruz and his law degree from the University of San Diego. After a stint as a prosecutor at the San Diego City Attorney’s Office, Allen started working for TURN, a San Francisco-based consumer group. He then joined with the California Public Utilities Commission, advising them on environmental issues.

**DEATH PENALTY:** Allen supports an end to the death penalty, saying that its astronomical costs are crippling the state, monopolizing its most capable and experienced prosecutors, and backlogging the courts.

**PROP. 8:** Allen has not said whether or not he would take the Prop. 8 case to the Supreme Court, but his campaign website says “government should not be in the business of telling us who to marry.”

**THREE STRIKES LAW:** Allen has said, vaguely, that he supports creating a society where “violent criminals are punished not just by the state and the criminal justice system, but by everyone.”

**DRUGS:** Allen supports the decriminalization of all drugs.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Allen is adamant about fair competition and being real about true cost of businesses, the war on drugs, and education. He has said he wants to lower income tax and sales tax, and instead tax things like drugs, oil, cars, gasoline, and toxic chemicals.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** This has long been Allen’s cardinal issue, and he has long demonstrated his support for renewable energy. He opposes the creation of more nuclear power plants and off shore drilling in California, and supports making cars and trucks “bear a fair share of the true costs” in order to support public transportation.

**EDUCATION:** Allen talks about education as an economic issue, arguing that the state is ruining an investment that was previously made, and that the long-term costs of not investing in education are dire.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** He supports existing California law and the federal precedent set by *Roe v. Wade*.

**FUN FACTS:** Allen is an artist and photographer, an amateur musician, a volunteer junior sailing instructor, and an adoptive parent.

**SOURCES:** Peter Allen for Attorney General; California Voter Guide

## Steve Cooley

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Republican

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Steve Cooley wants to fight crime both in the streets of Los Angeles and in the world of politics. His key issues for the election are public corruption, foreign extradition, fraud, and gang prosecution.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Cooley was raised by an F.B.I.-employed father and a homemaker mom. He graduated from California State in 1970 and went on to USC Gould School of Law, where he received his law degree in 1973. Cooley then joined the L.A. County District Attorney’s Office, where he served as a prosecutor for 27 years and as a reserve LAPD officer for seven. In 2000, Cooley was elected as L.A. County’s D.A., he got a second term in 2004, and yet another in 2008. Cooley’s office prosecutes 60,000 felonies and 130,000 misdemeanors annually. He oversees an annual operating budget of more than \$330 million.

**DEATH PENALTY:** Cooley supports the death penalty. As D.A., his office obtained 13 death-penalty verdicts in 2009, according to the San Francisco Chronicle—four more than the entire state of Texas during that same time.

**PROP. 8:** Cooley would defend Prop. 8, and would use the state’s resources to do so.

**THREE STRIKES LAW:** Cooley coauthored the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2006. Cooley supported the ballot measure that would have changed the Three Strikes Law (it didn’t pass), and he left the California District Attorneys’ Association in 2006 due to political differences over this law.

**DRUGS:** Cooley is against the decriminalization of marijuana and opposes Proposition 19. As D.A., he worked to shut down medi-

cal marijuana dispensaries in L.A. County.

**BATTLING CRIME:** Cooley created the Public Integrity Division to monitor and prosecute politicians, as well as the Justice System Integrity Division. (There is some controversy around this, in the form of a federal lawsuit filed by the Association of Deputy District Attorneys alleging that Cooley made it a policy to punish its members with punitive transfers, demotions, reduced benefits, and other disciplinary measures.) Cooley has placed an emphasis on using DNA and other new technologies to solve cold-cases. His office co-authored Proposition 69, passed in 2004, to allow for the collection of DNA samples from all people arrested for or charged with a felony. Cooley's office also prioritizes combating intellectual-property theft and other cybercrimes.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** In 2003, citing budget restraints, Cooley closed the District Attorney's Environmental Crimes unit, leaving one attorney to cover all environmental crimes in L.A. County. He has declined to take a public stance on Prop. 23, which would halt California's Global Warming Solutions Act.

**HEALTH CARE:** He also opposed the health care reform bill passed by Congress in March, and has vowed to sue for its repeal.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Spokespeople for Cooley say that he is "pro-choice." The pro-choice organization NARAL has criticized Cooley for not clarifying his stance, however.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** The L.A. Police Union, the Association of California School Administrators, the Farm Bureau, California Women's Leadership Association, Metropolitan-News Enterprise, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Sacramento Bee, Modesto Bee, Fresno Bee, Contra Costa Times, Oakland Tribune.

**FUN FACTS:** He is a history buff who enjoys collecting memorabilia, including a suitcase that had belonged to Michael Jackson and the clothes that U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy was wearing when he was shot to death at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968.

**SOURCES:** Steve Cooley Website; L.A. County Web Site; L.A. Weekly (2), Los Angeles Times (2); SF Gate (2); L.A. Sentinel; Christian Science Monitor; CA Majority Report

## Robert J. Evans

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Peace and Freedom

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Evans received his bachelor's and law degrees from UC Berkeley. He has been in private practice for the last 40 years doing civil and real estate law and has served on Berkeley's Rent Stabilization Board.

**DEATH PENALTY:** Evans is against the death penalty.

**PROP. 8:** He supports gay marriage.

**THREE STRIKES LAW:** Wants to repeal Three Strikes.

**DRUGS:** Evans is in favor of legalizing marijuana and decriminalizing other drugs.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Evans pro-choice, and the Peace and Freedom Party also supports a platform of free abortion on demand.

**FUN FACTS:** Robert Evans is in no way related to the legendary producer of the same name. His party has adopted "The Internationale"—which until 1944 served as the anthem of the Soviet Union—as its official party music.

**BATTLING CRIME:** He wants to create a special unit of the Attorney General's Office to investigate police violence and, where appropriate, "prosecute badge-wearing criminals."

**SOURCES:** Justice for California; Peace and Freedom Party Website

## Timothy J. Hannan

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** LIBERTARIAN PARTY

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Hannan received his BA from the University of San Francisco and his law degree from Georgetown University. Hannan was a Lt. Commander in the Coast Guard Reserve, where he served for 11 years. He now practices real estate law in Santa Rosa.

**DEATH PENALTY:** Hannan is against the death penalty, writing: "None please. Seriously no death penalty."

**PROP. 8:** In an email he wrote, "If elected Attorney General, I would defend Prop. 8 in possible higher court challenges. I would do so because the California Constitution charges the Attorney General with responsibility for enforcing California's laws 'uniformly and adequately.' I personally voted against Prop. 8 because, as a Libertarian, I believe in maximum individual freedom ("live and let live"). But since Prop. 8 was legitimately voted into law by a majority of the voters, I have to respect their decision. If the courts ultimately decide that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause, then I will honor and enforce that decision as well."

**THREE STRIKES LAW:** Opposed to the Three Strikes Law, especially as it is applied to non-violent offenders. "Judges need far more flexibility in sentencing offenders that Three Strikes allows. I understand the angry popular sentiment that gave rise to Three Strikes. But I think it is a clumsy, heavy-handed, unintelligent reaction to the crime problem. I recommend abolishing the Three Strikes Law."

**DRUGS:** Hannan is in favor of legalizing marijuana. His stance on other drugs is unclear.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Hannan believes the government does not have any right to tell an adult woman she cannot terminate her pregnancy. He does however favor parental notification for abortions performed on minors.

**FUN FACT:** His campaign site features a zoomable picture of the candidate's face.

**SOURCES:** Email correspondence with the candidate; Tim Hannan Campaign Website; Smolen Campaign Website

## Kamala D. Harris

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** DEMOCRAT

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Harris believes that we have to be tough on crime but also smart on crime. Her top priority would be to battle the state's 70 percent recidivism rate. Other priorities include battling hate crimes and protecting civil rights and marriage equality, environmental preservation, financial fraud, and more.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Harris was born in the East Bay to a Tamil Indian breast cancer specialist and a Jamaican American economics professor. She got her BA from Howard University and her law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. Once graduated, she started her career as a Deputy D.A. in Alameda County, where she specialized in prosecuting child sexual assault cases. She later worked in the San Francisco D.A.'s Office, and in 2003 became the first woman elected D.A. of San Francisco. Under Kamala, the San Francisco D.A. has had the highest felony conviction rate in almost 15 years. She has received various awards, and has been recognized by Oprah and Newsweek for being one of "America's 20 Most Powerful Women."

**DEATH PENALTY:** Harris personally opposes the death penalty, but said she'd uphold it if elected Attorney General. As the DA in San Francisco, she refused to seek the death penalty against a gang member who killed a San Francisco Police Officer in 2004, sparking a fair amount of controversy, and much criticism from her Republican opponent.

**PROP. 8:** Kamala is "committed to doing everything within the power of the Attorney General's office and the law to join in the effort to repeal Prop 8." In 2006, she organized and led a national conference to confront the "gay-transgender panic defense" that has been used to try and justify brutal hate killings

**THREE STRIKES LAW:** Harris said her policy has only been to seek 25 to life for a third strike if the conviction is for a serious offense.

**DRUGS:** In March, Harris opposed a bill to legalize the recreational use of marijuana and opposes Prop. 19.

**IMMIGRATION:** Harris has overseen the

implementation of free legal clinics in immigrant communities in San Francisco. She "recognize[s] that there are 12 million undocumented immigrants who are already here [in the U.S.], and [she wants to] help them transition toward compliance with the law, without jumping ahead in the line."

**BATTLING CRIME:** In 2005 her office created the program "Back on Track" — an employment and reentry initiative focusing on reducing recidivism among young adults and nonviolent drug offenders. The National District Attorney's Association and U.S. Department of Justice have selected Back on Track as a model re-entry program for prosecutors' offices across the country.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** As DA, Harris has prioritized the prosecution of financial predators, processing over 450 consumer complaints in 2009 and forming the state's first stand-alone mortgage and investment fraud unit.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** As AG she would "vigorously" uphold the enforcement of California's Global Warming Solution Act and focus on the use of state criminal laws in order to protect the environment.

**HEALTH CARE:** She supports federal health care legislation.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Harris is pro-choice and has a NARAL endorsement to prove it. She has worked to reduce unplanned pregnancies as well as to protect a woman's right to choose.

**FUN FACT:** If elected, Harris would be a series of firsts for the state of California: First woman elected AG, first Asian-American, and first African-American.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Dolores Huerta, Diane Feinstein, former LA Police Chief William Bratton, California Professional Firefighters, California Labor Federation, San Francisco Chronicle, the L.A. Sentinel, and many nonprofits.

**SOURCES:** Kamala Harris campaign Website; Los Angeles Times (2); SFist; SFGate; ABC News; San Francisco D.A. Office Website; Huffington Post

## Diane Beall Templin

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** American Independent Party.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Templin got her BA and JD from SUNY Buffalo. She passed the bar in 1979 and currently works in Escondido as the head of a firm that defends low-income people. She has run for President three times on the Independent American Party ticket.

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Her website says that she favors a "government based on the 10 commandments."

**PROP. 8:** Her official stance is unclear but she has said that marriage is between a man and a woman and that she wants to "assert the role of the law in establishing and reinforcing the mutual rights and obligations of that God-ordained contract."

**FUN FACTS:** Templin's website says she's a big fan of swing dancing.

**SOURCES:** Templin Campaign Website; SFGate; Smart Voter



*The Lieutenant Governor is president of the State Senate, and serves on commissions that oversee public colleges, economy and trade, environment, disaster relief, agriculture, cultural tolerance, and the census.*

## Pamela J Brown

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Libertarian

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Personal freedom and small government. Yep, she's a Libertarian.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** That's Dr. Brown to you. Born in Boston, attended University of Rhode Island and then got her PhD in Economics at George Mason University. She went on to teach economics in California. She has been a Libertarian since age 19, and has run for both the California state senate and assembly.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** "My husband and I are gun owners and supporters of the NRA and 2nd Amendment." She wants to control our borders to "prevent illegals from committing violent crimes or terrorist acts against our citizens and siphoning billions in state services must be a top priority for our state." She supports the legalization of marijuana.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Her plan is to reduce state tax burdens to levels competitive with other U.S. states in order to attract business and jobs back to California. She also wants to cut state spending by aligning public-sector pensions and salaries with those in the private sector.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** She supports Prop 23, the measure suspending AB32 Global Warming regulations to

reduce carbon emissions in California. She does not believe the science supporting "global warming." She also believes that California's farmers must have access to water resources, instead of "tiny endangered fish." In essence, she wants more water to be sent to the very dry farms of the central valley, though negative environmental impacts have been demonstrated when sending water there. She does, however, believe that "protecting our coastline and environment is essential so tourists worldwide want to visit, and retirees want to live in our wonderful state."

**EDUCATION:** She wants to improve education outcomes with competition (school choice) and pay-for-performance incentives (not clear on whether that is payments to teachers, schools or students, though).

**FUN FACTS:** She is an "enthusiastic" Tea Party supporter. Her call to action? "Had it with RINOs and socialists? I have. Help me take back our state and our liberties." (RINO's are "Republicans in Name Only.")

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** She has not accepted campaign contributions from unions or business groups.

**SOURCES:** Smart Voter; Vote Smart; California Wants Freedom

## James "Jimi" Castillo

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Green

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** He sums it up this way: "We are all stewards of this earth. Now is the time to go "GREEN." Chief among his priorities are to establish a more affordable and accessible educational system, reform the criminal justice system, assure California residents a clean, safe supply of drinking water, protect existing surface and groundwater from pollution, preserve our oceans with their enormous diversity of life and functions, create a greater awareness of the rights of all indigenous peoples worldwide, promote full self-government on all Indian reservations, advocate children's rights, and set a standard of excellence in public land management to ensure that we maintain a healthy environment in the future.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Jimi Castillo is the first Native American to run for the office of Lt. Governor in California. Born and raised in Whittier, he is a Pipe Keeper and Sun Dancer for the Tongva and Acjachemen People. He is a proud member of the statewide Bear Clan Society and a Marine Corps veteran (1960 to 1965). Castillo is a respected Native American spiritual leader, and his profession is listed as "Cultural Spiritual Advisor." He has served as a mentor for young men housed in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Castillo participated on the Board of Directors and also contributed as a counselor for the Southeast Area Counseling Center in Santa Fe Springs, California. He actively helps plan and staff UCLA's annual Graduation Powwow and Youth Leadership Conference and donates much time to work with the UCLA Native American Student Association. Castillo is married to

Jeanette Castillo and has four children and nine grandchildren. As mentioned, his tribal ancestry is Tongva, the original people of the Greater Los Angeles area, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino County (commonly referred to as the Gabrieleno) and Acjachemen, the original people of the South Orange County area and North San Diego County (commonly referred to as the Juaneno).

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Castillo believes that our criminal justice system is inhumane, ineffective, and prohibitively expensive, and that retribution has replaced rehabilitation. He wants to focus again on rehabilitation (such as halfway houses, electronic monitoring, work-furlough, community service and restitution and recovery programs), with prison sentences being a last resort, mostly reserved for violent criminals. He also wants to fix the parole system with a focus on re-entry programs. He lists possible legislation on his site. Castillo believes that no immigrant should be imprisoned because of immigration status, and in the recognition of the rights of all indigenous peoples worldwide. He supports of full self-government on all Indian reservations.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** He's got a big focus on water, and believes that it is the responsibility of government to assure a clean, safe supply of drinking water to every California resident. He offers dozens of potential polices for Water Management, solutions for Water Conservation and Pollution, and Ocean management, including support of the National Oceans Protection Act which bans offshore drilling to a distance of 50 to 175 miles from U.S. shores; mandate water efficient appliances and fixtures be used in all new construction as well as to promote retrofitting of older buildings; promote native landscaping and other drought resistant/climate-appropriate plants to reduce the need for irrigation; support upgrade of the water infrastructure including levees, irrigation canals, and aqueducts. He also wants to work to reduce carbon emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2005 (...Do you mean 2025, Jimi?) and establish an environmental trust fund with money raised from pollution fees and other public revenues.

**EDUCATION:** Wanna fix the school system? Castillo does. His solutions: increase and make more equitable state and federal funding for public education at all levels,

increase compensation and support for teachers, decrease the student-teacher ratio in classrooms and increase the number of counselors, nurses, librarians and social workers; oppose state or federal requirements to make significant decisions about schools, teachers or students based primarily on test scores; promote and fund bilingual and second-language immersion education with trained teachers and appropriate materials and support services; oppose any advertising or promotion of commercial products on a school site or in any adopted or recommended curricular materials or school-based Internet access; revive vocational education in high schools; and add more before-school and after-school programs. To top it off: nutritious, preferably organic breakfasts and lunches must be available for all students, subsidized according to need. How to pay for it all? Stop paying to fight all those wars abroad, and fix the costly criminal justice system.

**FUN FACTS:** Castillo's website is worth a mention: the background involves closeups of leaves and a graphic of a green flower sort of cradling the earth. But, like, in a good way.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Marty Cantu, Pipe Keeper & Sun Dancer Treasurer, Native American Spiritual Council of California Native American Spiritual Leader at the California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo

**OTHER:** A Note from the researcher: "it is a rare thing to come across a website with so many actual policy recommendations. Other non Dem/Repub candidates could learn a lot from him. Maybe that's why he gets to be called a Cultural Spiritual Advisor..."

**SOURCES:** Jimi Castillo; California Votes

## Abel Maldonado (Incumbent)

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Republican

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Fix the budget process, build a stronger economy, no new taxes, quality schools, cut out corruption and waste, safe communities, and emergency readiness.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Abel Maldonado is the son of immigrant Mexican-American farm workers. His family succeeded in raising enough money to buy a small strawberry farm and send him to California Polytechnic in San Luis Obispo where he studied agriculture. There is an outstanding dispute between the IRS and Maldonado's farm, about social security, Medicare, and federal withholdings.

Maldonado first ran for office when he was 26 after working with city bureaucracy on improvements to the farm. He ran for Santa Maria City Council and two years later became Mayor of Santa Maria defeating the incumbent. He has since served in the California State Assembly and the State Senate. He criticized Gov. Schwarzenegger for not supporting his candidacy, however later Arnie nominated him for Lt. Governor. He currently holds that post.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Maldonado supports upholding Prop 8. He has voted No on allowing incarcerated youth to appeal sentences of life without parole.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Maldonado signed a bill as Lt. Governor that refunded \$2.9 million to City of Bell property owners after they were found to have paid an illegal tax to fund the compensation scandal that's been in the news (City Council members paying themselves waaaaay too much). He generally votes "pro business" and has voted down many bills in regards to raising minimum wage and increasing disability pay, though he did vote for AB 1835 which raised the minimum wage \$1.25 over two years.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Voted against several measures to reduce emissions through higher taxes for companies. Has voted for several pro environment measures including a ban on Suction and

Dredge Mining and increased Water Conservation requirements. He appears to be a moderate when it comes to environment. He has even stated that he does not back Prop 23, which is seen as one of the major pro business anti-green propositions on the November ballot.

**HEALTH CARE:** In the past, he has leaned much more conservative on healthcare. Voted against a bill that required employers to pay 7.5 percent of payroll of employee healthcare. He also voted against one that would prohibit healthcare providers from canceling health insurance unless the insured submitted false information.

**EDUCATION:** On his website he pledges to prepare for the future by increasing research projects in green energy and bio genetics, and computerized manufacturing. He also opposes fee hikes and tuition hikes in the future. However last year he supported the Republican party line and reduced education spending.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Although Maldonado is anti-choice he seems to be more of a moderate. He doesn't make it a priority in his campaign literature. He has gotten scores between 40 and 50 voting from Planned Parenthood and NARAL.

**FUN FACTS:** Not so fun, but Abel currently has a lien against him by the IRS for unpaid Social Security and Medicare taxes for the workers on his farm.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations, California Farm Bureau Federation, Clovis Chamber of Commerce, California Republican League, San Luis Obispo Republican Party, George Deukmejian (former Governor, California), Bill Simon (former Republican nominee for Governor), Steve Poizner (Insurance Commissioner)

**SOURCES:** Abel Maldonado 2010; Los Angeles Times; Sacramento Bee; Vote Smart; Smart Voter

## Gavin Newsom

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Democratic

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** There are three primary issues at the heart of Newsom's campaign. The first is revitalizing California's economy. Though California is the eighth largest economy in the world, it is struggling with a significant drop in GDP and an unemployment rate of 12.3 percent. With this in mind comes the second main issue, that of improving the quality of the environment by encouraging recycling and green energy while reducing landfill and carbon emissions. Newsom strongly advocates for expanded investment and incentives for the clean-tech industry to create jobs and drastically improve the quality of the environment and the economy as a whole. The third main issue is that of improving and fully funding the public education system of California.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Newsom, 42, is the current Mayor of San Francisco. He attended Santa Clara University and graduated with a B.A. in political science in 1989. After college, Newsom had a variety of jobs in the fields of orthotics, real estate, and he eventually founded PlumpJack, a wine shop that now operates wineries, restaurants, and hotels. In 1996, Newsom was appointed to the Parking and Traffic Commission and elected President of the Commission. He was then elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1998, 2000, and 2002. He was elected Mayor of San Francisco on December 9, 2003 and then re-elected on November 6, 2007 with 73 percent of the vote.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Newsom gained national attention in 2004 when he authorized marriage licenses for gay and lesbian couples, with 4,036 couples getting married in a month. This action defined Newsom's first term as Mayor, and remains his most famous and controversial accomplishment. He was a strong opponent of Prop 8.

In July 2008, Mayor Newsom enacted an immigration policy that shifted enforcement of San Francisco's City of Refuge Law, permitting city officials to report minors to immigration authorities as soon as they are booked on felony charges, rather than awaiting a conviction.

Yet Gavin supports San Francisco as a sanctuary city and has sought to reduce immigration raids by federal authorities. Newsom supports identification cards for immigrants, whether they are legal or illegal, so that they may have access to city services.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Gavin's plan for the California economy is vague, though he advocates strongly for the need to attract and retain business as the solution to unemployment and other fiscal problems. A greater emphasis and investment in a green economy highlights his economic platform.

Combating homelessness in San Francisco has been a key initiative for Newsom as Mayor (i.e. Care Not Cash; San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team; Project Homeless Connect). He transitioned 10,000 homeless individuals off the street, and his volunteer initiative, Project Homeless Connect (imitated in over 130 cities) has led to more than 20,000 San Franciscans helping the homeless in some capacity.

In accordance with the Minimum Wage Ordinance of San Francisco, Gavin has stood in support of wage increases that keep pace with inflation and linking the city's minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index. He hopes this establishes a national model for minimum wage laws.

Gavin's record on the economy includes implementing a local economic stimulus plan that provides for new jobs through a local payroll tax credit for two years for new hires, small and no-interest loans to small businesses, and a 50 percent property tax rebate for local businesses. He launched JOBS NOW! in 2009, which led to 3,820 San Franciscans with children being put to work.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Gavin's environmental goals include conserving natural resources, fighting climate change and pollution, clean energy generation, and the growth of a clean energy economy. He opposes the expansion of offshore oil drilling, seeks to protect coastal resources and he strongly supports the Marine Life Protection Act. He also strongly supports AB32, Cali's Global Warming Solutions Act. He seeks to limit land use developments that do not address the consequences of climate change and advocates for research and

education on energy and environmental innovation. He advocates for a transition to a cleaner energy generation by means of renewable energy on state lands, promotes renewable ocean-based energy, and wants funding for research and development of clean energy technologies, using UC and Cal State systems to train clean technology professionals.

Newsom's accomplishments as Mayor include closing San Francisco's last two-fossil fuel burning power plants (Hunters Point and Potrero), reducing greenhouse gas pollution by 7 percent below 1990 levels, authoring the most environmentally sound municipal green building standards in the country for new construction and renovations, requiring mandatory recycling and composting in San Francisco buildings, implementing the United State's largest municipal rebate program for residential and commercial solar installations, implementing the greenest public transportation fleet in the U.S., retrofitting 17,600 streetlights, and more.

Newsom also signed the Kyoto Protocol for San Francisco.

**HEALTH CARE:** In 2007, Newsom fought for the Healthy San Francisco initiative in support of universal health care for all residents. More than 80 percent of the previously uninsured are now covered by San Francisco's universal health care program.

**EDUCATION:** Promises to fully fund higher education in California and strongly opposes cutting UC and/or CSU budgets. He also promises to ensure access to pre-school for all California children, limit teacher layoffs, reduce the cost of higher education, and encourage college students to become teachers. As Mayor, Gavin launched Kindergarten to College savings accounts, prevented the layoffs of 405 public school teachers, initiated Preschool for All, Afterschool for All, and SF Promise, guaranteeing a place at SF State for all 6th graders and above who achieve a high school diploma.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Gavin is pro-choice and has been endorsed by Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

**FUN FACTS:** We've got a few: Gavin famously had an affair with an aide, Ruby Rippey-Tourk, the wife of Newsom's campaign manager and close friend, Alex Tourk. He is

now married to actress Jennifer Lynn Siebel. He is the second cousin, twice removed, of California-based musician Joanna Newsom, and he attended Santa Clara University on a partial baseball scholarship.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** A boat-load of elected officials, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, CA Assembly Speaker John Pérez, CA Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, CA Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Chair of the State Board of Equalization Betty Yee. Also various Labor Unions, like SEIU Statewide Council, CA Teachers Associatin, United Food and Commercial Workers, Electrical Workers, Teamsters, aaaand, Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers & friend of Cesar Chavez. He's also got firefighters, police people, and organizations like the CA League of Conservation Voters, Stonewall Dems of Sacramento, Equality California, The Sierra Club, and Planned Parenthood of California.

**SOURCES:** Gavin Newsom; San Francisco Chronicle; Los Angeles Times; The New York Times; San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco Press; Ford Harrison; San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco Chronicle

## C.T. Weber

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Peace and Freedom

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Two main goals: solve the budget crisis and institute electoral reforms that will result in better and fairer representation (parties represented in legislatures in proportion to votes received, require a majority vote for executive positions, and equal funding of all campaigns). His other goals are those of the P&F party.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Weber is a retired government analyst who now serves as the State Chairperson of the Peace and Freedom Party of Cali (which he has been elected to three times). He's got a Master's degree in Public Administration and Bachelor's degree in History, both from Cal State Long Beach. He was elected to four, two year, terms on the California State Employees Association Board of Directors. He has also served on the SEIU Local 1000 State Council, and as a delegate to the Sacramento Central Labor Council.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Wants to preserve social programs and shift burden of taxation back to "those who get wealthy off the system." He wants to achieve economic security through full employment, double minimum wage/tie it to cost of living, and a defined benefit retirement system.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** opposes offshore drilling.

**FUN FACTS:** Founded the Long Beach Free Clinic.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Peace and Freedom Party of California, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism Northern California, Party for Socialism and Liberation

**OTHER:** Believes that the major issues facing CA today is to have a fair, open and comprehensive immigration policy.

**SOURCES:** Smart Voter; Weber campaign site



*Secretary of State is the Chief Elections Officer, controlling state voting method (paper trail versus electronic mysteries); is responsible for disclosing campaign and lobbyist information, some commercial documentation, and the State Archives; and serves on state trade commission.*

## Debra Bowen

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Democrat

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Debra Bowen is recognized for her strong support toward open government reform, emphasizing the importance of creating a transparent and accessible government and believes the use of new technologies can aid these efforts. As Chief Elections Officer of California, she is also committed to empowering voters. She rallies to increase voter registration and voter turnout as well as expand voter education. Bowen is committed to election integrity and fights for increased accountability of private-sector election contractors who design and manufacture voting equipment. Bowen actively supports cracking down on fraud in business deals and elections, and maintaining the personal privacy of citizens.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Debra Bowen began her career as a lawyer that fought for many grassroots causes in her local community in Southern California in the 1980s. By 1992, Bowen became an “accidental politician” and she was elected to the California State Assembly representing the 53rd Assembly District in the South Bay, and was then elected to the State Senate representing the 28th district (Los Angeles and the South Bay). While in the Senate she chaired

the California Senate’s Committee on Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments. In 1993, after realizing the difficulties of citizen access to public legislative information, Bowen authored a bill that made all of the info about the bills passed in California available on the Internet ... in 1993. After her term limits were maxed in the Senate, she was elected to the position of California Secretary of State in June of 2006. Upon her election as California’s new chief elections officer, Bowen commissioned a “top-to-bottom” review of California’s \$450 million investment into proposed electronic voting systems...a review and audit that showed many flaws ... after which she withdrew her approvals and imposed major security and auditing requirements on electronic voting systems. Bowen’s decision was honored in 2008 when she received the John F. Kennedy Profile of Courage Award for her bold leadership, commitment to protect the integrity of the vote, and choosing principles over partisanship.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** During Bowen’s 14 years in the State Legislature she actively supported efforts to expand the rights of the LG-BTQ community. As Secretary of State she maintains the Domestic Partners Registry and works to ensure that members of the community know how to use it. Bowen is very active in women’s rights and is an advocate against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. As the SOS she maintains the Safe at Home program which is a confidential address program that helps protect the identities of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking victims and people that work with reproductive health clinics.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Bowen began her political career volunteering for the grassroots organization Heal the Bay, an

environmental advocacy group dedicated to protecting Santa Monica’s Bay. She still remains active in the organization. She is also the chair of the Natural Resources Committee. Bowen is married to Mark Nechodom, the Deputy Director for Energy and Climate in the Office of Environmental Markets at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**EDUCATION:** Bowen spends much of her time traveling and speaking in high schools and colleges across the state encouraging youth to get out and vote. She prides herself in reaching out in creative ways and emphasizes the use of social media.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Bowen believes that abortions should always be legally available. She also protects the safety and confidentiality of those that work in reproductive health care clinics through the Safe at Home Program.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Bowen is endorsed by the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, California Association of Professional Scientists, California National Association of Social Workers, California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations, California Federation of Teachers, California Teachers Association, and the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

**SOURCES:** Secretary of State; Debra Bowen; Debra Bowen’s Twitter; The Santa Barbara Independent; Project Vote Smart

## Marylou Cabral

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Peace and Freedom

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** The Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) believes that the answer to the problems facing the United States is the “socialist transformation of society.” It is an anti-war and anti-capitalist platform. Cabral’s web page states that she is “adamantly against the corporate owners, ruling-class politicians and the racism, sexism, anti-LGBT bigotry and exploitation they promote.” Cabral’s main goals as a candidate are jobs, quality education and accessible free health care for citizens and non-citizens.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Marylou Cabral is a 22-year-old Cal State Long Beach student majoring in Art Education with the goal of teaching art in the public schools and becoming Secretary of State. Cabral, whose parents immigrated from Zacatecas and Sinaloa, Mexico, has been involved in social justice issues from a young age and has joined with immigrant rights organizers in L.A. County and as a volunteer organizer with the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism Coalition.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** In a letter to her college newspaper, in a reply to a letter criticizing her stance against a tenured professor who is said to be aligned with the American Third Position Party, and is “known as a white supremacist intellectual”, she wrote, “Racism is the main problem in this country. It has been since its birth. Whether it is aimed at Latinos, African Americans, Asians, Pacific-Islanders, Arabs or anyone else, it should not be tolerated.”

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** She says: “We are moving forward with the task of building a revolutionary Marxist party based on the working class, and seek unity with all those who agree with our perspective. Such a party must not only look to a different future, It must be engaged in all of today’s struggles against oppression and exploitation.” Thus, she wants taxes on large corporations to be increased and the minimum wage too; to \$15 an hour.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Cabral supports punishing those responsible for harming the environment and holding them

fiscally liable. Believes in ending environmental destruction.

**HEALTH CARE:** The PSL appears to support President Obama’s health care plan, as they released a statement criticizing the right wing media for calling the plan “socialist.” Cabral is critical of the power and wealth of the health care insurance and pharmaceutical companies.

**EDUCATION:** Cabral supports free public education from pre-school through college. She recently offered her support for the L.A. teachers union protest against the Los Angeles Times, in regard to the paper’s public printing of teacher’s evaluation scores. She wants to see job training for young people.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Pro-Choice. Supports women’s reproductive rights.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Fellow members of the PSL and the Peace and Freedom parties.

**SOURCES:** Party for Socialism and Liberation; Daily 49er; Project Vote Smart; Smart Voter

## Damon Dunn

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Republican

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Dunn, who once had a 5-game stint in the NFL, states that the focus of his administration will be to personally go door to door in inner cities to ask people to register to vote. He has also noted that he has voted once in the last 33 years. Regardless, he wants there to be a mandatory 100 percent voter registration requirement because he said, “the cost of not voting is just too great.” As for the business filing part of the job of Secretary of State, Dunn says he would use his business experience to concentrate on the jobs we are losing to other states, and looking at the reasons why so that solutions may be found.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** As to his experience of the historic 2008 election and why he skipped voting in it, African American Damon Dunn stated that “I don’t remember how I spent that day. It was probably like any other Election Day for me.” Um, wow. He supports Prop 8.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Supports the use of electronic voting systems and calls for transparency. Wants ID required at the polls to ensure fair elections.

**EDUCATION:** Wants to create an education system where the student is at the center, not education bureaucracy. He has been committed to helping youth through his volunteer efforts but offers no concrete plan for his views, although, this job does not call for specific plans in education. He also volunteers with the Latino Educational Attainment Initiative.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** He is the top contributor to his own campaign with \$60,097, Former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, New York Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin. Various southern california local leaders, including: Fountain Valley Mayor Larry Crandall, Lindsay Councilmember Suzi Picaso, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, Orange Unified School District Trustee Dr. Alexi Deligianni

**SOURCES:** The Los Angeles Sentinel ; Damon Dunn; Los Angeles Times; Database of Football; Ballotpedia; Los Angeles Examiner; San Francisco Gate; Mercury News; Hip Hop Republican

## Ann Menasche

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Green

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Clean and publicly funded elections, a more representative democracy, and a crack down on corporate crime.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Menasche is the daughter of Turkish immigrants. She grew up on Long Island, New York, attended Vassar College in the 1960s, and was super active in the social movements of the time. Then she moved to Frisco, got her law degree and came out as a lesbian. She practiced law specializing in housing discrimination and civil rights. She is now in San Diego still practicing law, fighting Prop 8 and living with her partner—to whom she is married. She is currently on the County Council of San Diego County Green Party.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Repeal Prop 8 in 2010.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Ann believes in “ecological wisdom.”

**HEALTH CARE:** She supports universal single payer healthcare and removing private profit-making health insurance from the business all together.

**INTERNATIONAL:** “End the fruitless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cut the military budget. Bring our troops home now!” Use that funding for jobs, health care and education—not war.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Laura Wells, Green Party candidate for Governor

**SOURCES:** Green Party; Ann Menasche; Smart Voter

## Merton D. Short

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** American Independent Party

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Short believes that most of the problems in the country are the result of disobedience to the Constitution. If elected, he would like to restore compliance with the Constitution and significantly increase the registered voting population with a constitutionally informed electorate.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Short was born in the Ozark Hills of Missouri. His father passed away before he was a teenager, and the family was penniless during the Great Depression. (We can't find how old he is, but he probably hung with our grandparents). After high school, Short moved to Kansas City and worked for Hallmark. He then attended Wichita University on a music scholarship and played snare drum in the ROTC marching band. Merton joined the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, and began studying aeronautical engineering. There, he trained as a navy fighter pilot and served on a Jeep carrier in the Pacific. He later was a Commanding Officer for a mission regarding nuclear weapons delivery into the Soviet Union and also served during the early part of the Vietnam War. He then served in upper management at various aviation related companies. Merton has been Chairman of the American Independent Party twice.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Short believes the Federal Reserve System is unconstitutional and economically disastrous for the country, and supports action to audit it.

**SOURCES:** Redwoods District Constitution Party; Project Vote Smart

## Christina Tobin

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Libertarian

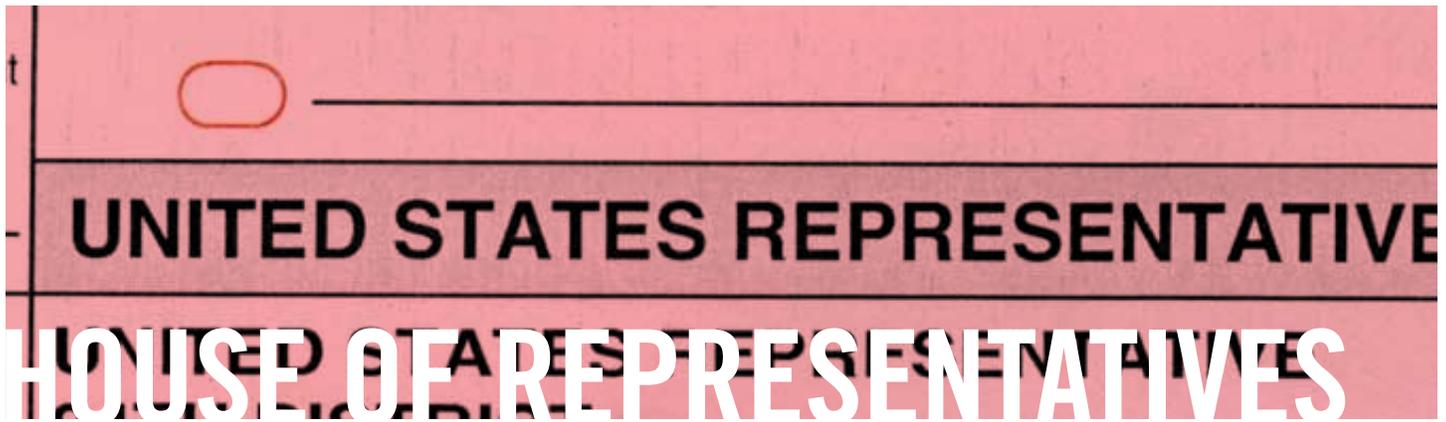
**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Electoral reform! Christina Tobin wants to make elections more open to Independents and third party candidates. She proposes to do this by fighting Prop 14 (the top-two primary), and allowing for instant runoff voting.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Christina Tobin is an activist in third party and Independent politics. She founded a nonprofit that addresses issues for voters and candidates. In 2008, she served as Ralph Nader's “ballot access coordinator” when he ran for president as an Independent.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Christina stays true to her passion for election reform by only discussing budget reforms that revolve around election reform. Ideas include: all-mail voting, filing fees in stead of petition gathering, small party nominations by convention instead of primary, avoiding lawsuits by repealing unconstitutional elections laws, moving to electronic resources for election related publications, and charging cost of printing for those who request paper copies.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Christina Tobin's endorsements include a broad range of political leanings: from a cofounder of the Green party to Libertarian leadership. From Peace activists to Tea Party activists. They include: Anne Goeke (co-founder of the Green Party of the United States), Michael Jingoian (National Vice Chairman of the Libertarian Party), Wayne Root (Media Personality, Libertarian and Tea Party Activist), Kevin Zeese (Executive Director of Campaign for Fresh Air and Clean Politics), Cindy Sheehan (you remember her!), and Cheri Bunker (Vice President of the Oroville TEA Party Patriots). We imagine that these people have probably never all been on the same list together before.

**SOURCES:** Christina Tobin



*The number of U.S. Representatives per state is based on population of each state; they serve two-year terms without limit.*

## U.S. House of Representatives: 27th District

### Mark Reed

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Political Party: Republican

**Candidate Platform:** Mark Reed identifies himself as a “Conservative Constitutionalist Republican,” which is a dog-whistle code-word for rolling back federal civil rights protections and increasing the rights of corporations. According to his website, he is seeking Congressional office because of the “real-world” consequences of the national debt being “piled on” his “thrifty and self-reliant” children and grandchildren. The solution is to increase the debt in order to finance further tax cuts for the wealthiest, and to eliminate or sharply reduce social safety net programs, such as Social Security and Medicare.

**Background and History:** Reed is a successful actor, avid rancher, and owner of several pool cleaning and supply companies. He is a “descendant of the Mohawk and Apache, mixed with German, English, Spanish and French” who was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. He has a high-school degree from El Camino Real High, and attended, though apparently did not graduate from, Pierce Junior College.

**Civil Rights:** Reed believes that Republican Party “has championed freedom and

civil rights for blacks,” and focuses on the GOP’s proud pre-1960’s civil rights history. Moreover, and quite contrary to reality, Reed believes that “Martin Luther King was a Republican.” His understanding of civil rights, taken from a document linked on his website, is that some organization called the “Democrat Party ... is and always has been, the party of slavery, secession [and] segregation,” and therefore, African-Americans should support the Republican Party. Yeah, that’s the ticket.

Regarding more contemporary civil rights issues, Mark Reed believes that there is an “epidemic” of illegal immigration, and that undocumented workers take a moral and financial toll on taxpayers. He has a plan for increased border security that is “founded in honor and respect” for legal immigrants, and states that completing the border wall will “stem the tide” of illegal immigration.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Reed wants to make economic policy with the working class in mind, and believes that this is best accomplished by cutting taxes on businesses and the wealthiest. His position on economic issues is that President Obama and the Democratic Party want to reward “unproductive” members of society and penalize the “industrious.” Also, although he opposes organized labor, Mark Reed highlights his activism as a board member and committee chair of the Screen Actor’s Guild.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Reed is a climate change denier. The central focus of his environmental position is that global warming is a “hoax” perpetrated by corrupt scientists, and for evidence he cites the luminaries of the Wall Street Journal editorial page. Reed does not think that there are

any other important environmental issues that are worth highlighting.

**Health Care:** Reed vows to “repeal and replace” the Obama Administration’s Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which he denounces as socialism and compares to British tyranny over the American Colonists. Interestingly, however, the “replace” portion of his plan includes many of the popular programs and policies that have already been enacted in the Affordable Care Act, including insurance exchanges, preventing insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions, and efforts to bolster preventative medicine. He has a 10 step plan for healthcare reform that includes deregulating insurance companies in order to allow them to sell cheap and insufficient policies across state lines, and tort reform to reduce malpractice lawsuits.

**International Issues:** The majority of Mark Reed’s opinions on international issues are vaguely worded statements about freedom and terrorists. He is much more specific about his support for Israel, his belief that the Obama administration is “anti-Israel,” and his position that the administration’s policies demonstrate “outright anti-semitism.” As evidence he (falsely) asserts that President Obama refused to dine with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, criticizes Obama for “bowing to Muslim Leaders,” and for supporting “multi-national resolutions to strip Israel of nuclear weapons.”

**Fun Facts:** Reed calls himself a “successful” actor, however the only IMDb listing for Mark S. Reed is for “stunts” on a 2005 TV movie, “Jane Doe: The Wrong Face.”

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** Americans

for Legal Immigration PAC, Nikki Sixx bassist for Motley Crü, Republican Party of LA County, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, Congressman Buck McKeon, Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee.

Sources: Internet Movie Database; Mark Reed; Vote Smart; Screen Actors Guild

## Brad Sherman

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Political Party: Democratic

**Candidate Platform:** Congressman Brad Sherman cites job creation is his top priority, and voted for legislation that created more than three million jobs and accelerated freeway construction in the San Fernando Valley. He believes that the best way to improve the economy is to invest in infrastructure and transportation, and to stand up against Wall Street. He successfully worked to improve the Wall Street Reform legislation to prevent future bank bailouts. Additionally, Sherman cites legislation that he authored to protect consumers from credit and mortgage fraud, increase capital requirements for banks and end conflicts of interest for bond rating agencies. He is a strong advocate of fiscal responsibility and balanced budgets. Brad Sherman believes in fighting to protect Social Security and Medicare from Republican attempts at privatization.

**Background and History:** Sherman was born and raised in Southern California, and is a married father of two daughters. He attended public schools, and graduated from UCLA and Harvard Law. He currently serves as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, and is a senior member of the Financial Services Committee. Before serving in Congress, Brad Sherman was a member of the State Board of Equalization, and advised small businesses as a Tax Law Specialist and CPA.

**Civil Rights:** Sherman has been a forceful opponent of discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual orientation. He supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which preserves the rights of women to access the

courts to challenge unequal workplace practices. He also supports repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy which prevents gay soldiers from serving openly in the military.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Sherman claims to have led the effort to oppose the bank bailout program, being an early and outspoken critic of the Bush Administration's Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the first version of the TARP bank bailout program. He eventually voted for the modified TARP program. He points out that he was a strong advocate of capping Wall Street bonuses, standing up to the Obama administration on this issue, and has been zealous about monitoring the TARP program for fraud and efficiency.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Sherman is a strong advocate of progressive environmental policies, and works to prevent the federal government from weakening California's environmental laws. He is proud of his efforts to expand and improve parkland conservation in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Sepulveda Basin. He is a proponent of expanding bike lanes, and strongly supports policies that would expand alternative fuel use. He has a 100% voting score from the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters.

**Health Care:** Sherman was integral to the passage of the Obama Administration's Affordable Care Act, which includes closing the prescription drug "donut-hole," lowering prescription drug costs for senior citizens, and approaches universal coverage.

**Education:** Sherman opposes the expansion of private voucher programs, and strongly supports increased federal funding for education, including voting for billions of dollars to help modernize public and charter schools, making them more energy efficient, and saving local school districts money. He has supported grants to historically Black colleges, and supported the Student Loan Reform Act, which expands Federal Pell Grants to college students.

**Reproductive Freedom:** Sherman supports a woman's right to choose, and strongly favors keeping abortion legal. Sherman also is an advocate for federal grants for stem cell research.

**International Issues:** Sherman believes that

Israel is the most important U.S. ally in the Middle East, and has long supported the continuation and expansion of U.S. aid to Israel, including military aid. He was a critic of the Gaza Flotilla, claiming that the flotilla organizers were connected to Hamas.

Sherman believes that a nuclear Iran is the biggest threat to Israel and U.S. national security interests. He authored legislation to increase economic sanctions on Iran in order to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

**Fun Facts:** Sherman was featured on Stephen Colbert's "Better Know a District" segment, during which he did an admittedly "bad impersonation" of a robot, and claimed to know nothing about the Valley being the home of the porn industry.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** AARP, Sierra Club, LA County Sheriff Lee Baca, Planned Parenthood, and the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Among his top contributors to his campaign are ActBlue, Rodeo Realty, and Ticketmaster Corp.

Sources: Brad Sherman; The Colbert Show; YouTube; The Washington Post; GovTrack; Open Secrets; San Francisco Examiner; Vote Smart; On the Issues

## U.S. House of Representatives: 28th District

### Howard Berman

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Political Party: Democratic

**Candidate Platform:** It's difficult to find anything that can be called an actual campaign platform. He is for improving America's diplomatic strength through a reauthorization of the State Department, assistance to fight terrorism in Pakistan, and improving the efficiency of U.S. foreign aid.

**Background and History:** Berman was born and raised in Los Angeles. He attended UCLA, receiving his B.A. in 1962. He was elected to the California State Assembly in 1973, and clearly made an impression on his colleagues: they named Berman Majority Leader during his first term, the youngest to ever hold that position. This probably has something to do with Berman's skill at establishing the "Berman-Waxman" political "machine" that has dominated Democratic party politics in West Los Angeles ever since. In 1983 he was elected to the US Congress and he's been there ever since. He has been delegate to the Democratic National Convention multiple times and in 2008 he was one of those fancy "super delegates" that everyone was going on about. He's chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a self-described "liberal."

**Civil Rights:** Berman is an advocate of gun control, and has co-sponsored legislation banning Assault Weapons for civilian use. He's voted against banning the desecration of the Flag, against the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act", and against the death penalty. In 2000, Berman was the first recipient of the now annual Farmworker Justice award. (Subsequent recipients include: Hilda Solis and Ted Kennedy). He has voted no on building a fence along the Mexican border.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Berman has supported several pieces of legislation designed to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, including the home buyer tax credit. He is a supporter of free trade, voted for NAFTA and other free trade agreements, and supports U.S. involvement with

the World Trade Organization. He co-sponsored legislation to combat wage discrimination on the basis of sex, race, or age.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Berman was bummed when cap and trade climate change legislation died in the Senate. First of all, he believes in climate change, and that we should probably do something about it. He voted against drilling for oil in the ANWAR reserve, a few times. He's fought to strengthen and preserve the Endangered Species Act, and an act that added millions of acres to federally protected lands (including the San Gabriel mountains, the Eastern Sierra, and Sequoia Wilderness). Recently, he supported the "Cash for Clunkers" program designed to get more fuel efficient cars on the roads.

**Health Care:** Berman voted in favor of the Obama Administration's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. He also voted for the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act that requires health plans to offer the same treatment benefits for mental health coverage as they do for other physical illnesses. He believes that the single-payer model is the best approach to providing universal healthcare coverage.

**Education:** Has worked to increase funding and grants for education in SoCal, supported the Higher Education Opportunity Act, and has passed legislation which requires Congress to fulfill its commitment to fund No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

**Reproductive Freedom:** Berman is strongly pro-choice, with a 100 percent NARAL score, plus numerous votes in favor of stem cell research.

**International:** Howard voted for the Iraq war in 2002. He is one of the leading advocates for continuing the strong relationship between the U.S. and Israel. He received an A+ from DarfurScores.org, with extra credit for co-sponsoring the Genocide Accountability Act of 2007.

**Fun Facts:** He's serious about Israel. In 2008 he was quoted saying, "Even before I was a Democrat, I was a Zionist." Also, it is almost impossible to find any indication on the internet that Berman is, in fact, running for re-election. Guess he is not that

worried.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** As of June, Howard had raised almost \$1.8 million. The top 5 contributors to his campaign: News Corp, Walt Disney Co, Time Warner, NorPac ("Pro-Israel" PAC), National Amusements Inc. (owns movie theaters and apparently, quite a few of them.)

**Other:** Berman's record gets a little funky around redistricting. In 2001, he and his political consultant brother, Michael, authored the bipartisan redistricting scenario that has been called an "incumbent protection plan." The plan ensured 34 safe Democratic seats, while "awarding" the GOP an additional seat. When the plan went public, fellow Dem Brad Sherman complained, saying that he now had too many Hispanic voters, so Howard went back to the plan and gave himself more of the Latino population. MALDEF sued, saying this diluted Hispanic representation but the plan went ahead anyway. Funky.

**Sources:** Open Secrets; The Washington Post; Farmworker Justice; U.S. House; On the Issues; Forward; Berkeley

### Carlos Rodriguez

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Political Party: Libertarian

**Candidate Platform:** Carlos Rodriguez believes that in smaller government, and that "the sole function of government should be to uphold the law, maintain order and provide for defense. Period." He believes that national bankruptcy is "INEVITABLE" and does not want his "children growing up in a bankrupt, third world country." The solution: "seriously slash spending ... privatize, de-regulate, and reduce taxes."

**Background and History:** Carlos Rodriguez was born in Cuba, but escaped that "communist prison" with his mother in 1970. He grew up in Yonkers, New York, and attended "PRIVATE" schools. He studied Government and Politics at Manhattan College, a small Christian college in the Bronx. "Having been traumatized by brutal winters," Rodriguez moved to Miami, where he worked as an immigration lawyer. Again feeling the need to seek better weather,

Carlos moved to California in 2001.

**Civil Rights:** Rodriguez is passionate about immigration reform, and believes the issue “will bring about the death” of the Republican Party. He is a strong believer in the hard work and character of undocumented individuals, and believes that the federal government is the problem, not the solution. His solution is a combination of the Bush plan and the Democratic plan: a guest worker program and an eventual review of individuals who are “worthy of the American Dream.”

**Environmental Responsibility:** Rodriguez does not emphasize environmental issues, but, being the Libertarian nominee, its probably safe to say that he believes environmental regulation is unacceptable government intrusion into the free market.

**Health Care:** Rodriguez writes that government involvement and “control” of health care is the cause of the problems facing the country. Safe to say he is not a supporter of government efforts to expand insurance coverage and regulate insurance companies. He advocates eliminating the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Drug Administration.

**Education:** Rodriguez highlights his private school education, but, other than eliminating the Department of Education, does not seem to have any specific policies for improving the public education system.

**International Issues:** Rodriguez believes that terrorism is caused by the presence of U.S. troops and military bases in the Middle East. He wants all U.S. troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Fun Facts:** He says the Founding Fathers are his mentors.

**Sources:** Rodriguez Goes to Washington, Liberty Candidates.org, SmartVoter.org

## U.S. House of Representatives: 29th District

### John P. Colbert

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**Political Party:** Republican

**Candidate Platform:** Colbert (pronounced Kohl-ber-t, not Kohl-bare) is running on a platform of “honest, ethical, and sensible governance.” Aside from general statements about corruption, Colbert plans to change things by utilizing his experience as a former law enforcement officer. “It starts with enforcement of the rules.” Aside from fantasizing about personally arresting other members of Congress, Colbert focuses on lowering taxes, reducing the debt, and creating jobs. Unsurprisingly, he also wants to repeal the deficit reducing portions of the Obama administration’s healthcare reform.

**Background and History:** Colbert served for 13 years as a law enforcement officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. He has never held elective office. Following his time in law enforcement, Colbert was the CEO of Guidance Software, Inc., which produced the materials, training and software that supported computer forensic investigations. And, under the category that photos are worth a thousand words, Colbert’s campaign website prominently displays a photo of the candidate with Grover Norquist – founder of the Club for Growth (a radical conservative anti-government and anti-tax group), and board member of the National Rifle Association.

**Civil Rights:** No publicly available position on civil rights.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** According to Colbert’s campaign site “We must reduce regulations and get government out of the pockets of the American people.” He supports eliminating the Estate Tax, which would entirely benefit the very wealthiest Americans and add hundreds of billions to the deficit over the coming years.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Colbert focuses on environmental sustainability, but don’t let that phrase fool you. His definition of sustainability is increased oil drilling along California’s coasts, and reducing gas

prices. Colbert’s opposed to Cap and Trade legislation designed to reduce carbon emissions and prevent global climate change. He supports expanded use of nuclear power, waste energy, geothermal, solar, and wind power. Colbert blames the “anti-human” policies of the EPA for producing a water crisis in the Central Valley.

**Health Care:** On health care, the chorus of anti-government conservative positions continues with Colbert’s call for repeal of President Obama’s healthcare reform legislation, and hysterical claims about it being “unethical ... and a willful and intentional violation of the law.” Colbert’s solution relies on Republican talking points about allowing “competition” across state lines, and tort reform.

**Education:** Colbert does not mention education on his campaign website. But, given his repeated focus on cutting taxes and reducing government makes it highly unlikely that Mr. Colbert would support additional federal funding for K–12 education or Pell Grants (higher education support for qualifying low-income students).

**Reproductive Freedom:** No comment.

**International Issues:** Colbert does not state whether or not he would have supported operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, the words Iraq and Afghanistan do not appear on his website. Moreover, his stance of national security and defense seems more concerned with taxes and deficits than a specific policy. He states that “by 2015 our interest payments on the national debt will exceed our defense budget; we will not be able to afford the necessary upgrades that protect the lives of our soldiers.”

**Fun Facts:** In 2002, Mr. Colbert donated \$1,000 to the Congressional campaign of his opponent, Adam Schiff. Additionally, many other employees of have contributed money to Adam Schiff’s campaigns over the past eight years.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** Newt Gingrich

**Sources:** Colbert for Congress; Maplight

## Bill Cushing

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Political Party: Libertarian

Candidate Platform: Cushing believes the Libertarian Party “represents our nation’s greatest minority: the individual.” He pledges that his first action if elected would be to pass the following Constitutional Amendment: “Whereas the power of these United States resides in their laws and not in the individuals residing, Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of these United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and/or Representatives; and, Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of these United States.” We have no idea what that means, either.

Background and History: Cushing is originally from Queens, New York, and he moved to Glendale, California, in 1996. He holds a B.A. from the University of Central Florida and a MFA in “nonfiction writing” from Goddard College in Vermont. He is currently an English teacher at the community college level in Southern California.

Economic Responsibility / Justice: Libertarians can usually be relied upon to be passionate about economic issues, but Cushing’s website is oddly devoid of economic policy statements. The only statement about economic policy to be found is a short blog entry condemning Nancy Pelosi’s praise for the job creating effects of unemployment benefits. Cushing derides the idea that unemployment benefits have positive economic impact as “moronic and incorrect.” It’s a good thing that Mr. Cushing teaches English instead of Economics, because two-thirds of the members of the National Association for Business Economics (not exactly a progressive organization) supported the idea that unemployment benefits have a positive effect on economic growth.

Health Care: As a primary tenet of his ideology, Mr. Cushing states that he has a “basic distrust of government-operated programs.” Unfortunately, he provides no specific position or alternative to the recent healthcare legislation other than to state; “I simply do not believe that this problem can be solved with further legislation.” On the other hand, Cushing would like to apply the

Hippocratic Oath, “first do no harm,” as he considers whether to vote for any proposed law.

Fun Facts: For anyone who is undecided about their ideological leanings you can find a link on Cushing’s website that connects to a quick quiz intended to answer the question: “Am I a Libertarian?”

Sources: Cushing for Congress; Nabe.com

## Adam Schiff

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Political Party: Democratic

Candidate Platform: Schiff emphasizes national security and foreign policy rooted in diplomacy. He pledges to work to improve quality of life for the communities of his district, with a special focus on health, safety, and education of children.

Background and History: Schiff was first elected to represent California’s 29th Congressional District in 2000. He is a graduate of Stanford University (B.A. 1982) and Harvard Law (J.D. 1985). (Your basic highly accomplished over-achiever.) In addition, Schiff sits on the very powerful House Appropriations Committee, which determines all discretionary federal expenditures each year. And, in a break with standing Democratic Caucus practice, Schiff was permitted to remain on the House Judiciary Committee. These two committees are considered the 1st and 3rd most power in the House respectively. This dual role allows Schiff substantial influence on both policy and spending issues. Before all this, he served a 4-year term as State Senator for California’s 21st District. He also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles for 6 years, most notably prosecuting the first FBI agent ever to be indicted for espionage. Sexy.

Civil Rights: During the 110th Congress, Schiff voted in favor of stronger protections for gays and lesbians in the workplace. Moreover, he sponsored a resolution to bring recognition to ongoing problem of human trafficking.

Economic Responsibility / Justice: In past years, Schiff has voted in favor of increasing the minimum wage. More recently he sup-

ported extending unemployment benefits. Finally, he supported President Obama’s economic stimulus bill and assistance to families facing foreclosure.

Environmental Responsibility: Adam supports Cap and Trade climate change legislation to create a market for trading pollution credits on carbon dioxide. In addition, he supported President Obama’s repeal of a long-standing moratorium on off-shore oil and natural gas drilling.

Health Care: Schiff voted during the 110th Congress to expand health care coverage to uninsured children (formally known as SCHIP) as well as for President Obama’s healthcare reform legislation.

Education: Schiff supported the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act. In subsequent years, he has supported student loan forgiveness for teachers as well as President Obama’s student loan reform legislation, which increased funding for Pell Grants and federally-subsidized student loan limits, and restructured the role of private banks within the higher education lending market.

Reproductive Freedom : Schiff is a strong supporter of reproductive freedoms. During the last Congress he voted against efforts to restrict federal funding for abortions as well as against rules that would prevent military personnel from obtaining an abortion overseas. Finally, he voted against legislative amendments that would have required more strict parental notifications and limitations on late-term procedures.

International Issues: Schiff voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq (H.R. Res 114, also known as the Iraq war resolution). Since then he has supported funding for the armed forces as well as several legislative proposals that would have ordered troop redeployments within 90 days.

Fun Facts: Schiff is married to a woman named Eve. True.

Sources: Schiff for Congress, SmartVoter.org; Thomas

## U.S. House of Representatives: 30th District

### Richard R. Castaldo

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Political Party: Peace and Freedom

**Candidate Platform:** Besides to “Rock the System?” Castaldo wants to de-fund all wars of imperialism (Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan etc.). He supports universal single-payer healthcare, wants to abolish corporate “personhood,” end corporate and bank bailouts, and create green jobs. He also wants to terminate the Patriot Act and restore the Bill of Rights.

**Background and History:** Castaldo is a sound engineer with a degree to prove it. He’s from San and attended the state college there and the Arapahoe community college. Castaldo attended Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and was a victim of the infamous shootings there in April, 1999. As a result, Castaldo remains in a wheelchair due to a spinal cord injury. He has been a subject of numerous documentaries including Bowling For Columbine and Peacejam. Castaldo, we are truly sorry to hear about that. Fight on.

**Fun Facts:** He has a very groovy mustache. 179 people “like” his campaign Facebook page. He lists California gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman’s television commercials as his “least favorite thing ever.”

Sources: SmartVoter.org; Peace and Freedom; Castaldo for Congress

### Erich Miller

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Political Party: Libertarian

**Candidate Platform:** As a Libertarian, Miller defends the right of people to engage in “any activity that is peaceful and honest.” (Except vote for Democrats or Republicans.) He believes that the two major parties are only concerned with “supporting a corrupt system that protects their own politics interests.” He is running for office because he believes that “regular people,

not career politicians” are the best hope to get the economy moving again. Unlike all those corrupt career politicians, Erich Miller wants to lower taxes, and is opposed to the Obama healthcare reform legislation.

**Background and History:** Miller has been married for 27 years and has two children. He is a passionate touring musician, and is actively involved with the private schools to which he sends his children.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Miller holds several contradictory positions about economic issues. As a Libertarian, he opposes economic regulation and labor unions. Yet, as an active member of the Professional Musicians Union, Local 47, he has benefited from the efforts of organized labor. He is an advocate of the free enterprise system, and believes that government should not determine economic winners and losers. Yet, he believes that government should be a “referee that establishes a fair opportunity for all Americans to live out their version of the American dream.”

**Health Care:** Miller is similarly confused about health care policy. He supports “the elimination of the existing employer-based system” of health insurance coverage, and proposes a “private market system with medical insurance that remains with people regardless of their employment situation.” This seems to mean that he wants businesses prohibited from providing health insurance to their employees, forcing individuals to purchase their own health coverage, while at the same time prohibiting insurers from denying health insurance to anyone.

**Fun Facts:** Although we have not been able to discover which instruments he plays, Miller is trying to follow in the footsteps of other famous musicians turned politicians. The list includes: former U.S. Senator Robert Byrd (he played the fiddle) and U.S. Senator and 2004 presidential election runner-up John Kerry (during prep school days he had a band called The Electras, he played the bass - he could have been the first bassist president. Why the Republicans didn’t base their smear campaign on this is beyond us).

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** According to Open Secrets, Miller has raised \$3,720.

Sources: Miller for Congress; Congress.org; Rate Your Music

### Rep. Henry Waxman

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Political Party: Democratic

**Candidate Platform:** One of the liberal lions of the House, Rep. Waxman is widely respected for his legislative achievements in health and environmental policy. Over his three decades in Congress, he has fought for universal health insurance, comprehensive Medicare and Medicaid coverage, tobacco regulation, AIDS research and treatment, clear air and water quality standards, pesticide regulations, nursing home quality standards, women’s health research and reproductive rights, affordable prescription drugs, and community rights to know about pollution levels. From 1979 to 1994, he chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. In January 2009, Rep. Waxman became the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

**Background and History:** Raised a nice Jewish boy from Los Angeles, Waxman earned a B.A. and J.D. from UCLA, in 1961 and 1964 respectively. Before his life in public office, Waxman was a practicing attorney from 1965-1968. In 1969, he was elected to the California State Assembly and served 3 terms. Waxman was first elected to Congress in 1974 and is currently serving his 18th term.

**Civil Rights:** Waxman’s stellar civil rights record is reflected in his perfect ratings from the Human Rights Campaign and NAACP, and an 87% rating from the American Civil Liberties Union. He voted against defining marriage as only between a man and a woman, voted to extend domestic partnership benefits to federal employees, and opposed California’s anti-gay marriage Proposition 8.

Waxman is a progressive on issues of immigration and undocumented persons. He opposed building a fence along the Mexican border, and supports increasing the amount of immigrant visas for skilled workers. He supports a comprehensive approach to immigration reform that would “establish a path to lawful residence for those undocumented immigrants who demonstrate that they’ve made contributions to the U.S.,

undergo background checks, pay fines, meet English and civics requirements, and pay all taxes.”

Waxman is a passionate supporter of gun control, supporting legislation that would close the gun show loophole, create a national background check system, and reauthorize the assault weapons ban.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Like most Democrats, Waxman is pro-union, receiving an 85% rating from the AFL-CIO. Waxman has voted to extend unemployment benefits from 39 weeks to 59 weeks and votes consistently to increase the minimum wage.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Since entering Congress, environmental policy has been Waxman’s cornerstone issue. In January 2009, Rep. Waxman became the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Last year, along with Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), he wrote H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which, if not for the dysfunction of the U.S. Senate, would have been the most comprehensive clean energy bill in history. Waxman is rated 80% by the League of Conservation Voters.

**Health Care:** Henry Waxman has been a lifelong supporter of healthcare for all, and counts the expansion of the Children’s Health Insurance Program as one of his signature legislative achievements. Waxman’s stance is that we should “make healthcare a right, not a privilege.”

**Education:** Rated 91% by the National Education Association, Waxman is a supporter of reducing class sizes, voted to support \$84 million in grants for Black & Hispanic colleges, and \$40 billion for green public schools. He has stated his support of Head Start, to prepare children for school. In addition, he is a member of the Pell Grant Caucus and supports increasing financial aid funding to expand access to higher education for middle- and low-income students.

**Reproductive Freedom:** Pro-choice. Consistently rated 100% by NARAL, Waxman has co-sponsored legislation to expand contraceptive services for low-income women. Waxman signed the “Prevention First Act” – which focuses on preventing pregnancy, plus emergency contraception.

**International Issues:** Waxman voted to authorize military force in Iraq (2002) and to redeploy troops out of Iraq (2007). He voted to investigate Bush impeachment for lying about Iraq (2008). In April 2009, Waxman voiced his support of sanctions on Iran to end their nuclear program. He was rated 100% by The Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, indicating a “Pro-Peace” record.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** TV/Movies/Music, Health Professionals, Hospitals/Nursing Homes, Health Services/HMOs

**Sources:** U.S. House; National Journal; On the Issues; Open Secrets

## Chuck Wilkerson

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**Political Party:** Republican

**Candidate Platform:** Chuck Wilkerson has several reasons for seeking elected office, among them “love,” “camaraderie,” and a sense of personal fulfillment. “It finally dawned on me that I would be missing the opportunity of a lifetime not to attempt a run to unseat” Henry Waxman. Oh, and lest we think this run is all about Chuck, he briefly cites his policy disagreements with Waxman as a rationale: “because of Mr. Waxman’s positions on a number of key pieces of recent congressional legislation, I would not have chosen to run against any other candidate.” This either means that Mr. Wilkerson was planning to run in several different races at the same time, or that he freely chose a Don Quixote-like challenge against one of the safest and most respected members of Congress just for kicks.

**Background and History:** Chuck served in the U.S. Marine Corps for three years, including time in Korea during 1952. He has degrees in electrical engineering, which he put to use as a “systems and payload development engineer ... on classified programs” for the Defense Department. In plain English that means he designed weapons. He also lists himself as an “outspoken advocate” of conservative policies “via ‘letters to the editor’ ... and email.” Last but not least, Chuck is a “student of and lecturer on global warming science and politics.”

**Civil Rights:** Under the “Illegal Immigration” tab of his campaign website, Chuck Wilkerson laments that “English no longer appears to be the official language of the United States, as everything from public safety notices to even voter ballots are now printed, through government sponsorship, en Español.” Chuck believes that, “Americans have had it. Enough!”

His three step plan for immigration reform is, “a robust border security system, a viable guest worker program, and a path to citizenship which is fair to all and which will create citizens who assimilate into our Constitutional culture and communicate in English at all levels – as did those who came before them.”

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Though the candidate does not put forth his stance on economic responsibility, he does state his opposition to, “A Welfare State – designed to promote citizen dependency on government” and advocates for “Limited Assistance – and only to the truly needy.” This roughly translates to privatizing Social Security and cutting Medicaid, but keep your darn dirty hands off my Medicare!

**Environmental Responsibility:** A staunch global warming denier, Wilkerson believes that human activity causing climate change is a “hoax,” and states that human activity has no effect “zip, zilch, zero, nada” on global temperatures. If elected, Wilkerson promises to “do everything in my power to put this hoax to rest and return this country to the energy-driven prosperity which it is so capable of achieving.” Of course, Mr. Wilkerson is a staunch, if ill-informed, opponent of the Waxman-Markey climate change legislation.

**Health Care:** Wilkerson calls the recently passed healthcare reform legislation an “Obamanation,” and questions its constitutionality. If elected, he would choose to “scrap” the bill and start fresh with standard Republican boilerplate: “competition across state lines,” “tort reform,” and “requiring individuals to have a non-zero stake in their health care.” Apparently Wilkerson lives in a world where Oprah says, “you get free health care! You get free health care! You get free health care!”

**Education:** Wilkerson is in favor of educating “youngsters” in math, English, the physical sciences, and “factual history.”

Unfortunately, those darn teachers unions keep working to prevent said youngsters from learning those subjects. The solution is to encourage a “competitive environment for truth-telling. Competition is good in virtually all human activity.”

**International Issues:** Wilkerson believes that the focus of Obama Administration foreign policy has been an “Apology Tour to the “Muslim World” and also capitulating to Hugo Chavez. Unlike the “commies” in the Administration, Wilkerson would do things differently.

**Fun Facts:** Chuck Wilkerson is a “birther” who questions whether President Obama was born in the United States, and also believes that President Obama is a Muslim. He lays out his argument for these insane beliefs in a recently submitted a “letter to the editor” of the Jewish Journal.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** Newt Gingrich, Congressman Dan [sic] Rohrabacher, and actor, John (sic) Voight

**Sources:** Chuck Wilkerson; Vote Smart; FEC

## U.S. House of Representatives: 31st District

### Xavier Becerra

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**Political Party:** Democratic

**Candidate Platform:** Representative Becerra’s platform revolves around the economy, the environment, health care, and social security. His core commitment is to promote issues that affect the industries that are important to the Southern California economy, including health care, high technology, and entertainment.

**Background and History:** Xavier Becerra comes from a working class background, born to an American father and Mexican mother, and was the first person in his family to graduate from college. He graduated from Stanford University, and obtained his law degree from Stanford Law. He is married, and has three daughters. Becerra was first elected to Congress in 1992, and has become an important voice in the House Democratic Leadership, as well as the first Latino to serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

**Civil Rights:** Becerra is a strong supporter of rights and protection from discrimination for gays and lesbians, rated 100% by the Human Rights Campaign. He is also a strong supporter of the DREAM act, which would provide comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Becerra is a strong supporter of organized labor, and has stood with President Obama on the economic stimulus legislation, including important investments in green technology jobs, and helping to make public schools energy efficient.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Becerra has been a champion of solar industry, especially promoting the efforts of the alternative fuel industry in Southern California. He has voted numerous times for tax credits and incentives designed to promote energy conservation and renewal energy production.

**Health Care:** Becerra’s voting record was rated 100% by The American Public Health Association, indicating a strong pro-public

health record. His record includes votes in favor of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

**Education:** Rated 100% by the National Education Association (NEA), indicating pro-public education votes.

**Reproductive Freedom**  
: NARAL Pro-Choice America rated Becerra 100% for his pro-choice voting record.

**International Issues:** Rated 100% by SANE, a pro-peace/anti nuclear war organization, indicating a pro-peace voting record. Becerra is a Member of the Out-of-Iraq Congressional Caucus. He has voted to support recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

**Fun Facts:** Becerra sponsors a student art competition, and the winner’s art is showcased in Becerra’s Capitol Hill office plus Dodger Stadium.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** California League of Conservation Voters, California Labor Federation, SEIU, Planned Parenthood, Stonewall Young Democrats, Sierra Club.

**Other:** Becerra was rated +25 by NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law’s), indicating a pro-drug-reform stance. (That’s on a scale of 10 – 30)

**Sources:** SCPR; Who Runs Gov; U.S. House; On the Issues

### Stephen Smith

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**Political Party:** Republican

**Candidate Platform:** Frustrated following the 2008 election, Stephen Smith and his wife started a group to discuss political issues, study the Constitution and other articles written by the Founding Fathers. Smith’s group grew from five people to fifty in three months. When Smith invited Jane Barnett, Chairman of the Republican Party for Los Angeles County to speak at one of their group events, she urged him to run for Congress.

Smith believes in a government that protects freedom and liberty. He does not believe

in redistributive change or spreading of wealth, but instead in creating opportunity.

**Background and History:** Smith says he is “not a lawyer, not a politician, not a corporate lackey, not a member of the elite, I am you.” We can also assume he is not a witch. Smith was born and raised in North Hollywood and attended UCLA. He started his career working in a paint factory for furniture production, and later at Radio Shack locations all over Los Angeles, managing retail stores and computer centers. He is a “well read news junkie (2 newspapers a day).”

**Civil Rights:** Smith believes that border fences and monitoring will decrease crime and protect the people. He is a strong supporter of the Arizona anti-immigration law.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Smith believes that the federal government should “regulate interstate commerce (not run or own G.M.) and promote the general welfare.” As an example of promoting the general welfare, Mr. Smith advocates “the idea of teaching a man to fish rather than giving him fish for the rest of his life.” To which, one might reply, “so long, and thanks for all the fish.”

If Mr. Smith goes to Washington, he will support a Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment, and warns his fellow citizens that there is no such thing as a free lunch. He wants lower taxes, especially Capital Gains tax cuts, which he believes will stimulate investment and job growth, contrary to the last 10 years.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Smith believes in federal subsidies for building more electrical generation plants, including nuclear, solar, and “scrubbed coal.” He wants to institute a federal energy surcharge on energy consumers in order to pay for these subsidies. He apparently doesn’t realize that this means a new federal energy tax. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have found a Republican candidate in favor of raising new taxes!

**Health Care:** Smith would like to cancel Medicare and Medicaid and provide vouchers that can be used to purchase private insurance for those that cannot afford their own health care. Smith would also like to pass legislation regarding pre-existing conditions, tort reform and cross state line sales on health care, believing that this will

reduce fraud in the industry.

**Education:** Smith believes in creating vouchers, to be spent at schools that parents choose for their children – to encourage competition in education and greater involvement from families.

**Fun Facts:** On his website, Smith has a “campaign video” in which he sings (yes sings) about his qualifications to be a Congressman. It features Victoria Jackson (occasionally funny former Saturday Night Live castmember). It is four minutes long, and has been viewed 277 times.

**Key Donors and Endorsements:** The California Republican Assembly, The Hollywood Congress of Republicans, The Republican Party of Los Angeles County, California Republican Assemblyman Chuck DeVore

Sources: Candidate site

## U.S. House of Representatives: 32nd District

### Judy Chu (incumbent)

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Political Party: Democratic

**Candidate Platform:** Congresswoman Chu highlights the following issues as most important: unemployment, environment, health care, education, and transportation.

**Background and History:** Judy Chu was elected to represent the 32nd Congressional District in 2008. Prior to joining the House, she was on the California State Board of Equalization for three years after five years in the State Assembly. She served three terms as Mayor of Monterey Park and also served on the City Council and school board. She has taught Psychology at East LA Community College for 13 years.

**Civil Rights:** Dr. Chu opposed the anti-gay marriage Proposition 8, and applauded the decision of the federal district court that declared the proposition unconstitutional. She voted to repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.

**Economic Responsibility / Justice:** Congresswoman Chu voted for the extension of unemployment benefits, increased stimulus spending, a shareholder vote on executive compensation, and for the Dodd-Frank Act. She also expressed her support of the nomination of Elizabeth Warren to head the Consumer Finance Protection Agency, suggesting a pro-consumer stance.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Congresswoman Chu received a 100 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters. Although she has not had a chance to cast a vote on many environmental issues, she did vote against ending the moratorium on deepwater drilling rigs.

**Health Care:** Chu voted for the Obama Administration’s Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

**Education:** New to the House, she hasn’t participated in many votes. She did vote for a bill that appropriates money to the States for teacher employment purposes, and also voted in favor of the Student Loan

Reform Act, which lowered interest rates for student loans and increased federal Pell Grant funding.

#### Reproductive Freedom

: Chu voted against the amendments to the health care bills that would have prohibited federally funded abortion services.

Fun Facts: She is the first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress.

Key Donors and Endorsements: California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, California League of Conservation Voters, Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund, National Education Association, Planned Parenthood

Sources: Los Angeles Times; Smart Voter; Vote Smart; On the Issues; Judy Chu

## Edward “Ed” Schmerling

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Political Party: Republican

Candidate Platform: Cut Spending, Reduce Taxes, Protect Our Borders. Wants to put “serious minded, fiscally sound individuals in charge of this country. Like our parents worked to secure our future, we must work to secure our children’s.” How’s he plan on getting us there? “Cutting spending, reducing the tax burden on our citizens and our businesses, opposing regulation and government intervention that is destroying our economy and securing our borders to protect our citizens.”

Background and History: Not a lot out there on “Ed”. We know that he’s a Technology Consultant/Programmer and we found these tags for him on a pretty random website called ourcampaigns.com: “Conservative - Libertarian - Jobs/Industrial Growth - Pro-gun - Pro-Life - Pro-Smaller Government - Married - Christian”.

Economic Responsibility / Justice: Most of the viewpoints that Ed has to share with us are economic in nature. He is not at all down with free trade agreements, stating that they cost American jobs. We can deduce that he had a really good year in ‘07, cuz he wants to return federal spending to 2007 (or earlier) levels and establish a clear constitutional mandate to require the reduc-

tion of the national debt. He thinks that Americans are super-overtaxed and wants to keep the Bush Tax Cuts (their effect on the national debt is not an issue for him). He definitely does not support the TARP “bailouts” and believes that “only the private sector can create jobs or stimulate the economy”, FDR be damned. And, finally, on his website, he offers us “three areas that should be addressed” with regards to Congressional Oversight: 1) Complete auditing of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and 2) Complete auditing of the Federal Reserve Bank. Wait, that’s only two. Hmmm. Well, he probably didn’t major in math, so we’ll forgive him.

Environmental Responsibility: Opposes government regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, believe that that sort of regulation is not actually about the environment, it’s actually the Obama admin’s “anti business big government agenda”. In his words, “Taxing American business under the guise of protecting the environment will drive our businesses out of the energy industry and allow foreign less environmentally conscience companies to create the energy required by all Americans.” No other thoughts from Ed about environmental responsibility.

Health Care: Believes that repealing the Obama Health Care Bill is “vital”, cuz, according to him, it’s not actually about Health Care, it’s only about creating a larger govt. No alternative plans offered.

International Issues: Ed believes that “defending the sovereignty of the United States against the current invasion of the illegal immigration should be the highest priority of the Federal Government.” As for the “War on Terror”: Ed wants us to try and use more of a military response, as well as a law enforcement response.

Fun Facts: Well, this probably isn’t fun for him, but according to Open Secrets, Ed’s campaign has only raised zero dollars.

Key Donors and Endorsements: On his website, four endorsements are listed: Kevin McGary, Author; Teresa Hernandez, South El Monte Business owner; John McCready, South El Monte; and Dave Butler, West Covina Chemist.

Sources: Candidate website; Our Campaigns

## U.S. House of Representatives - 33rd District

### James L. Andion

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Political Party: Republican

#### Candidate Platform

James Andion bases his platform on the foundational “time-tested truths” of the United States. He supports balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility, national security and energy independence. In addition, he wants to improve education and reduce crime rates.

#### Background and History

Andion received his degree in Business Administration degree from Michigan State University, and is practicing attorney with a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He is fluent in Spanish and has over 20 years experience working in the Hispanic, Korean, and other Asian communities. He has been a Congressional candidate once before in 2006 for the 39th Congressional District. He volunteered his attorney skills for President Bush’s election campaigns in 2000 and 2004 as well as Governor Schwarzenegger’s campaigns.

#### Economic Responsibility / Justice

Andion self-identifies as a Reagan conservative and is focused on jump starting the economy and job growth by cutting government spending and balancing the federal budget. He argues for pay as you go spending to avoid budget deficits and debt to foreign countries like China. He apparently is unaware that Ronald Reagan raised taxes at least six times, after his initial budgets vastly increased the budget deficit.

#### Education

Andion demands excellence in education and wants to teach our children through a successful public school program which he thinks needs saving. No plan that we can find though.

#### Fun Facts

Andion is “nationally known for obtaining political asylum for those persecuted for their Christian beliefs.”

Sources

andionforcongress.com

# Karen Bass

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Political Party: Democratic

## Candidate Platform

Karen Bass' accomplishments within and intimate experience of the 33rd District are the driving force behind her campaign to represent the district on the national level. Ms. Bass is concerned with repairing each broken aspect within California and the nation – specifically foster care, drugs and crime in the community, and the educational system.

## Background and History

Karen Bass was the first African American woman to serve as a Speaker of a State Assembly. Prior to holding elected office, Karen Bass worked 14 years as the founder and Executive Director for Community Coalition, a community-based social justice organization in South L.A. She also worked as a Physician Assistant and was a Clinical Instructor at the USC Keck School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program for nearly ten years.

## Civil Rights

In an interview with Essence.com in June 2009, Karen Bass reiterated her opposition to Proposition 8 while distinguishing it from the African American civil rights struggle: "...I think that it would be helpful if the LGBT community didn't compare our struggle to theirs because it's harder to win African-American support when you do that. I do believe it's a struggle for equality but I don't believe that every struggle for equality is identical to the African-American struggle."

When asked about Arizona's SB1070 immigration law, Karen Bass replied: "It reminded me of the eighties, when South Africa required ID cards of their black citizens. The Arizona law has to be challenged. This happens in cycles. 30 years ago, the issue of immigration reform came up. I will definitely be involved in immigration reform. "

## Economic Responsibility / Justice

Karen Bass supports closing corporate tax loopholes, and reinstating marginal income tax brackets for upper-income earners. Her basic economic philosophy is to invest in people, not cutting tax breaks.

## Environmental Responsibility

Speaker Bass has been a strong supporter of implementing California's groundbreaking anti-global warming legislation, AB 32. She also believes in supporting green technology jobs, and in keeping California a leader in green technology innovation.

## Health Care

Karen Bass authored legislation to expand the Healthy Families Insurance coverage to protect children from not having healthcare. She also secured federal funding to support health coverage for Californians who lost jobs in small business.

## Education

"Supporting public education is my first priority, therefore I will not support (and have actively fought against) school vouchers or any other attempt to subsidize private schools with public money. My priority for education is to lessen the achievement gap, and see that students from every district get the best education possible. Education should be the top budget priority in good times and bad."

## Reproductive Freedom

Karen Bass: "I have worked hard to ensure social and economic justice for women. I am Pro Choice and believe that all reproductive choices are between a woman and whomever she decides to consult, such as her family, physician or clergy."

## International Issues

Karen Bass has pledged to fight for justice for the Armenian Genocide and support legislation to advance proper recognition and commemoration of this crime against humanity. Karen Bass is concerned with foreign policy as it relates to Africa.

## Fun Facts

Karen Bass has been endorsed by Magic Johnson, Danny Glover and Jamie Foxx.

## Key Donors and Endorsements

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Representative Diane Watson, State Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, State Assembly Speaker John Pérez, L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, American Federation of Teachers, California Federation of Teachers, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, L.A. County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, Human Rights Campaign, EMILY's List

## Sources

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<http://www.consumerfedofca.org/article.php?id=143>  
<http://www.asianjournal.com/consumer/prosy-abarquez-delacruz-jd/5645-karen-bass-her-pursuit-of-democracy.html>

# Benjamin DeGroot

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Political Party: Independent

## Candidate Platform

Benjamin DeGroot wants to help bring back debate, dissent, logic, and reason as core elements of the government in order to take responsibility for the future and Congress. He is driven by his desire to restore confidence in Congress and the government. The main issues that concern DeGroot are lobbying reform, campaign finance reform, education, the economy, fiscal reform and regulation, and technology advancement.

## Background and History

Benjamin DeGroot grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from UC Irvine with a double major in Computer Science and Political Science as related to Constitutional Law. He went on to become the VP of Technology for a small advertising firm in Los Angeles. He worked as a technology analyst and in 2007 co-founded MeGlobe, a startup technology company focused on artificial intelligence based language translation. He currently does freelance work as a System Integration Engineer.

## Economic Responsibility / Justice

DeGroot identifies joblessness as a local and national problem. He believes a combina-

tion of tax cuts for businesses as well as federal aid to rebuild schools, infrastructures, commerce areas and community centers will address the problems both locally and nationally. DeGroot argues federal spending on these core elements of society create jobs and provide a double investment to help grow the economy.

#### Education

DeGroot wants to increase efficiency in the school systems in terms of staffing. He argues that investment in the educational system is an investment in the community that creates jobs in a repeating win-win cycle that creates more consumer spending and a stronger economy. He wants to direct left over money from the bank bailout to be redirected into this win-win-win cycle. He also argues that the No Child Left Behind Act needs revision in its measurement of quality teachers, facilities, and student progress.

#### Sources

<http://ben2010.com/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Benjamin-De-Groot-for-US-Congress-2010/10452727292154>

## U.S. House of Representatives - 34th District

### Wayne Miller

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Political Party: Republican

#### Candidate Platform

National Defense, Legal Immigration, Transportation, Jobs, and Small Businesses.

#### Background and History

From Maywood, CA, Wayne has lived in California his whole life long. Currently he's in South Gate where he attends a local Christian church with his wife Gladys and has been a public employee for 39 years. He's Chairman of 34th District Republican Central Committee, and a member of the LA County Republican Central Committee, the Republican Party of LA County, the CA State Republican Party, and he's an Endowment Member of the National Rifle Association. He has run his own campaigns for the US House since '98 because he was "appalled by the manner in which our representatives were squandering the resources of the people."

#### Civil Rights

Wayne supports the Death Penalty. With regards to Immigration: "We have a problem with the work force. Half of the population is over thirty-five. Make no mistake — we need skilled and semi-skilled individuals to fill a void in the skilled work force so the United States can be a productive nation again. We need people to sponsor people and thereby assure access to productive workers through an expedited legal immigration process. Assimilating them to be patriotic Americans is essential as well."

#### Economic Responsibility / Justice

Believes in lowering taxes so taxpayers can keep more of what they earn. His goal is to help Californians regain the jobs that have either left the state or the country.

#### Education

Wants to bring schools back to local control and believes that school curriculum needs to be controlled by parents and local educators.

#### Reproductive Freedom

Anti-choice.

#### International

Wants a strong missile defense system and a strong military. He will push for Southern California to garner its fair share of investment in the defense budget, "as it has historically been a leader in defense technologies."

#### Key Donors and Endorsements

Anne Bayer, Downey Mayor; Gladys O. Miller, Candidate for 50th Assembly District, the Second Amendment Foundation. His website includes a (partial) list of five 34th District residents who endorse him.

#### Sources

[www.waynemiller34th.com](http://www.waynemiller34th.com)

## Lucille Roybal-Allard (incumbent)

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Political Party: Democrat

#### Candidate Platform

Expanding opportunities for residents of her district and working families throughout the country. Increase access to health care, create affordable housing, modernize and upgrade public schools, improve school safety, increase the federal minimum wage, reduce the high Hispanic drop-out rates, preserve Social Security and Medicare, and stimulate economic growth to create new jobs.

#### Background and History

Lucille was born in Boyle Heights, CA, the daughter of Representative Edward R. Roybal and Lucille Beserra Roybal. She was educated at Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra, California, and California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to being elected to public office she was a public relations officer and fund raising executive. She began to serve in the State Assembly in '86 and then moved over to Congress in '92, becoming the first Mexican American woman to be elected there. She has served as the Chair of the CA Democratic Congressional Delegation and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. She has also been active on the Congressional Children's Caucus, Democratic Homeland

Security task force and the livable communities taskforce. She currently sits on the House Appropriations (again, the first Latina to be appointed there) and Standards of Official Conduct committees and lives in East L.A.

#### Civil Rights

Fierce proponent of Civil Rights. Championed the DREAM act (opening access to college for children of immigrants). Wants to make Cesar Chavez's birthday a national holiday.

#### Economic Responsibility/Justice

Has fought to address the problems associated with 500,000 children employed in agriculture in the U.S, for worker's on the job safety standards and to lower poverty rates.

#### Environmental Responsibility

Lucille authorized \$20 million for restoration and revitalization projects along the L.A. River. Rated 100% by the Campaign for America's Future because of her stance on energy independence. In 2007 Lucille got an 85% from the League of Conservation Voters. In 2006 she got 100%. We can't find a rating past '07. (What happened there Lucille?)

#### Health Care

Worked for Improved Vaccination efforts for uninsured Adults. She gets A's from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Children's Health Fund, and the American Public Health Association. She gets a straight F from the Alliance For Headache Disorders Advocacy, but, hey, nobody's perfect.

#### Education

Advocate of quality public education. Get's an A from the National Teacher's Association.

#### Reproductive Freedom

Pro-Choice, gets an A from NARAL and Planned Parenthood.

#### International

Allard voted against the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 that started the Iraq War.

#### Fun Facts

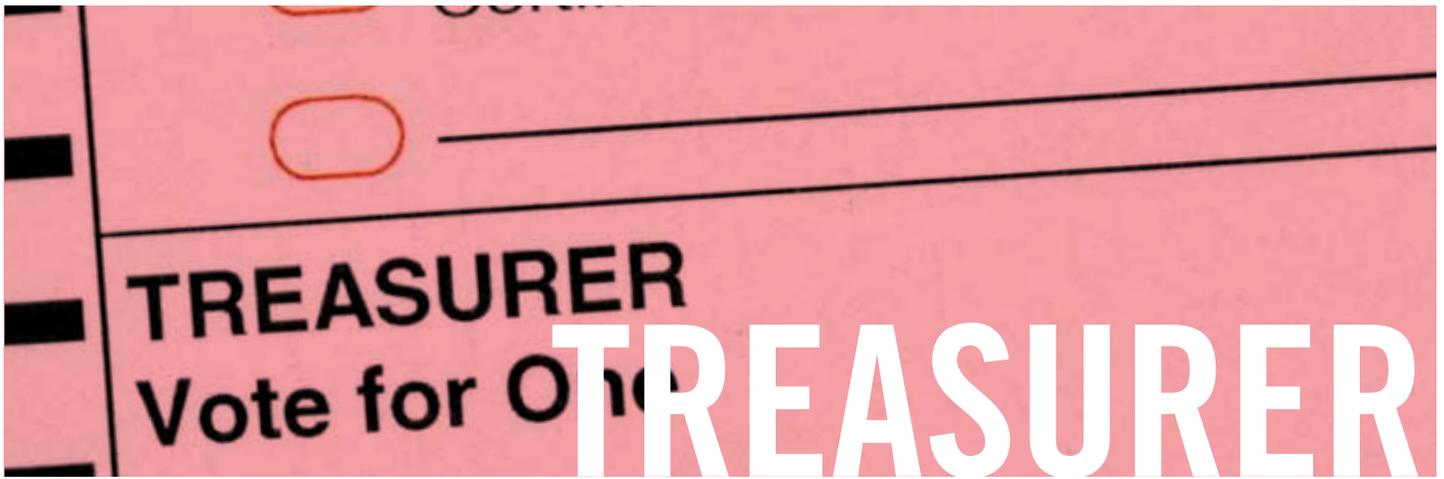
Lucille must be pretty sure she is going to win this election, as she has no campaign website. How's that for some gumption?

#### Key Donors and Endorsements

Top Five campaign contributors: Communications Workers of America, Ironworkers Union, Jerry Epstein Management, Honeywell International, Edison International.

#### Sources

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[http://www.ontheissues.org/CA/Lucille\\_Roybal-Allard.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/CA/Lucille_Roybal-Allard.htm)



*One of these people will be California's Treasurer, issuing bonds, managing investments, and trying to fix the state's financial crisis.*

## Charles "Kit" Crittenden

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Green

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Kit wants a just, environmentally sensitive, peaceful society. He doesn't list a lot of his policy recommendations on his site; he simply urges us to look at his fellow Green Party candidates, namely Laura Wells, candidate for Governor, and Ross Frankel, candidate for State Controller, for more details.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Crittenden is from Raleigh, North Carolina. He attended the University of North Carolina, majoring in philosophy, and got a master's in it too. After a brief stint in the Naval Flight School in Florida, he went on to get his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Cornell. That was 1964. He lived and taught in Florida and later California. In the 1990s, he joined the Green Party, and in the 2000s he served on the Los Angeles City Council. He is now a retired professor.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Crittenden supports "public policies and individual behaviors that will conserve our resources and protect our environment over the long term in order to preserve the quality of life of future generations." He also supports "sustainable urban growth and agricultural practices that will conserve our planet's resources and protect our environ-

ment."

**EDUCATION:** Crittenden writes "Education is [a] central component... and so the state's once-splendid educational system must be restored. This will require adequate funding – which can be found in new sources of taxation (adopting an oil extraction tax, and increasing the marginal tax to its former rate of 11% as opposed to its present 9% level, to mention two further possibilities)."

**FUN FACTS:** In his teens, Crittenden created the "Retrospective Party" with some of his friends. It had the motto, "Give the country back to the Indians." He has said that it was a "largely private gesture."

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** The Green Party of California

**SOURCES:** Crittenden for Treasurer, League of Women Voters

## Robert Lauten

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** American Independent

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** This one is good. Lauten doesn't really care about winning this election, he doesn't even really want you to vote for him. The goal of his campaign is to have you call your congress member and ask him or her to support "Glass-Steagall" safeguards for America's banking systems, which would limit bank size and systemic threats to the economy as a whole, which is actually probably a pretty good idea. There's also a picture of him at

the racetrack holding a sign: "I want a bail-out." That's what his "official" campaign website is all about. That's at robertlauten.com.

**FUN FACTS:** His unofficial website is really, really crazy. It features an amazing collage, including images of a bust of Queen Elizabeth II with a ring of stars around her head, a decaying face, a decaying hand holding an iPod, and Obama leaping in a tuxedo. We suggest you check it out.

## Bill Lockyer

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Democrat

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Lockyer wants to keep that state from going belly up. Otherwise, he says, California may have to shut down school construction, road work, and other public-works projects and put as many as 10,000 private contractors out of work, none of which is good.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Though he is from Oakland, California, Lockyer has been in Sacramento for a while. He was elected treasurer in 2006, and served as Attorney General from 1999 to 2006. There, as he likes to say, he had "one of the most impressive records of accomplishment in the office's history." He says that he created and maintained the nation's most effective and sophisticated DNA forensic crime laboratory, cracked down on Medi-Cal fraud and recovered billions of dollars for defrauded energy ratepayers, consumers, and taxpayers. Before all that, he served 25 years in the state legislature with a stint as Senate President Pro-Tem. (Some people,

mostly opponents, describe him as a “career politician.”) He went to the University of California, Berkeley, then earned a law degree in Sacramento while serving in the state senate. He’s got a wife and two kids.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Lockyer was attorney general back in 2003 and part of the lawsuit, *Lockyer v. Andrade*, which upheld California’s three-strikes law—and resulted in a 25-years-to-life sentence for a dude who stole video tapes from two different K-Mart’s. He also established the Megan’s Law website to locate and identify registered sex offenders. In 1984, Bill sponsored the state’s first “hate crimes” legislation, the most comprehensive of its kind at the time, and saw to it that it was enforced at the local level.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Lockyer calls the California budget “a train wreck” and says “it’s only going to get worse.” So, here’s his (short-term) plan: He’s lining up a short-term loan of more than \$5 billion from a group of Wall Street banks (Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., and RBC Capital Markets) that will give the state enough cash to keep from going bankrupt. The loan would be repaid when the state sells an estimated \$10 billion of cash-flow notes once a budget is enacted.

He has done this before: last year, when the state was issuing IOU’s (remember when you got that in the mail for your tax return?), he borrowed \$1.5 billion from JP Morgan and then repaid it after he sold one-year notes. He does believe that we need to solve this crisis in a “structurally long-term manner” and believes that begins with allowing the budget to be passed by majority, rather than the current two-thirds vote. (See Proposition 25). But what about long-term sustainable revenue generation? He’s ambiguous on Prop 13 (which keeps property taxes super low), and really likes to sell bonds. (He set national records for selling bonds to individual investors which has helped to curtail taxpayers’ debt service costs.) On top of that, he promotes the creation of a Master Plan for Infrastructure Financing and Development. It would be a long-range plan to build and finance the schools, roads, hospitals, housing, water works, and other infrastructure California needs, now and in the future.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Lockyer

is relatively serious about environmental legislation, as he believes that climate change is the single greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. He has restored (or as he likes to say, “reinvigorated”) the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority within the treasurer’s office that provides financing for renewable energy. Back in 1974, he wrote the first legislation to provide state funding for emergency oil spill decontamination, and, later, the first state regulation of trucks hauling toxic substances through California. Lockyer might be best known for the “Bay Trail”—a 293 mile-long hiking and cycling path with park lands and protected natural habitats around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays.

**HEALTH CARE:** Lockyer has increased the availability of low-cost loans to build facilities and buy equipment for local clinics, launched an emergency financing program that helped hospitals preserve health care at the height of the credit market meltdown, and helped to provide bridge loans to hospitals and community clinics to keep their doors open when the state stopped funding them during the 2008 budget crisis.

**EDUCATION:** He wants to help kids and families pay for college. How? He launched a pilot project to provide \$150,000 in college savings awards to 200 K-12 students in Sacramento County schools, and, in 2008, expanded ScholarShare, the state’s education savings plan, by 64 percent.

**FUN FACTS:** Lockyer is not afraid to be candid. With regard to the main candidates for governor, he remarked, “Neither of them has a plan that I’ve read that makes any sense.” And, when asked who he thought was going to win the race for attorney general he replied, “I think Cooley’s going to win, even though he’s a mean, gloomy bureaucrat.”

He’s got a history of this stuff. In 2001, during the Enron scandal, he publicly quipped, “I would love to personally escort Ken Lay to an 8-by-10 cell that he could share with a tattooed dude who says, ‘Hi, my name is Spike, honey.’”

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** The San Francisco Chronicle, The Sacramento Bee, AFL-CIO, The California Democratic Party, The California Department of Forestry, Equality California, the Latin Business As-

sociation, The Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, the California Teachers Association, and the League of Conservation Voters.

**SOURCES:** Lockyer 2010, The San Francisco Chronicle, BNET, The California Treasurer’s Office, San Francisco Bay Trail, Reporting Hate Crimes (PDF)

## Debra Reiger

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Peace and Freedom

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Develop a state bank, invest state money into socially responsible funds, provide reliable and safe public transportation throughout the state, and tax the income and assets of the rich to meet human needs.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Here’s what we could find: Debra got her B.S. in Business Administration and Finance in 1981 at Cal State Sacramento. She worked for the state government in the department of finance and she has served on the board of Directors for the Sacramento County ACLU.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Reiger pledges to invest money in “progressive” state funds. She wants to strengthen CalPERS and CalSTRS funds through sound investments and will oppose any moves to enrich fund managers. She would make sure all investments are in companies that do not provide military weapons or equipment. She believes we should provide jobs instead of cutting services, though, it should be noted, as treasurer she would not have control of the budget. She believes tax law favors the wealthy and supports balancing property taxes.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** She would use her position on boards to make sure state money is invested only in environmentally sound projects.

**SOURCES:** NextGenPolitics, Reiger for Treasurer

## Edward M. Teyssier

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Libertarian

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Teyssier wants to get the United States out of Iraq, enact campaign finance and election reform, repeal the Patriot Act, and repeal income and estate taxes. He pretty much wants to dismantle the government. So that's exciting.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Edward is from California, got a Masters from Cal State Northridge, and has been President and CEO at Microwave Solutions, Inc, from 1984 until now. He has run for the U.S. House and the California State Assembly and he was Vice-Chair of the San Diego Libertarian Party in 1998.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** He wants to stop the federal war on drugs and reduce prison sentences for those who commit nonviolent crimes. He supports gay marriage and temporary worker programs for undocumented workers. He also supports the principal that illegal immigrants should have to return to their countries of origin before being considered for citizenship.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** He would like to eliminate federal funding for, um, most things: agriculture, the arts, education, environmental protection, FEMA, international aid, medical research, scientific research, space exploration programs, the United Nations, and welfare.

He would greatly decrease funding for defense, homeland security, federal law enforcement, and public health services. He would slightly increase taxes for those making under \$40,000 per year, maintain rates for folks between \$40,001 and \$100,000, and give every one else a tax break. (We have to ask, What would he use tax revenue for anyway? He's eliminated everything.)

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** He wants to completely eliminate federal funding for anything agriculture- or environment-related and decrease federal funding for our national parks slightly. Which is nice for the kids.

**HEALTH CARE:** Teyssier supports expanding eligibility for tax-free medical savings accounts and allowing the importation of

prescription drugs into the United States. He believes that providing health care is not a responsibility of the federal government.

**EDUCATION:** He supports school vouchers and federal tax incentives to help families save for college. He does not support federal funding for universal pre-kindergarten programs, increased funding for the Pell Grant program, and No Child Left Behind.

**Reproductive Freedom:** Teyssier says the "issue isn't whether the government should be making abortions legal or illegal, but rather whether the government is subsidizing irresponsible behavior."

**INTERNATIONAL:** He wants to get the United States out of foreign wars, and focus military spending on national defense.

**SOURCES:** VoteSmart, California State Election Guide

## Mimi Walters

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Republican

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Mimi says: "California is in trouble. Decades of wasteful spending and fiscal mismanagement have left our state nearly bankrupt and we need to clean house in Sacramento before we can get our financial house in order." Her priorities, as she describes them, are protecting your tax dollars from bad investments, reducing wasteful government spending, lowering taxes on families and small businesses, and holding government accountable for every dollar it spends.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Senator Mimi Walters represents the 33rd District in the state senate, where she is serving her second term. She has a background in business, finance, and local government. Her professional career, prior to public office, was serving as an investment executive for many years at some major investment banking firms.

Walters began her public service career at the local level, as a member of the Laguna Niguel City Council in 1996. She served as the city's mayor in 2000. Walters is a founder of the California Women's Leadership Association and has served on the Boards of

the National Association of Women Business Owners, the American Cancer Society, and the South Coast Medical Center Foundation.

She currently holds the title of Senate Assistant Republican Leader. She serves on the Senate Budget Conference Committee, is the chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, vice chair of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, and a member of the Senate Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. A graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles, Walters and her husband, David, live in Orange County with their four children.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** If civil rights were a class, we are afraid that Walters would have failed. She has repeatedly received an F grade by Equality California for her lack of support and leadership with regard to GLBT rights, and an F on the Applied Research Center's Legislative Report Card based on her lack of leadership or support for racial equity in the state.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE:** Interestingly, for someone running to manage the state's finances, there is actually nothing on her campaign website about how she would do that. There's a 31-second YouTube video blaming Bill Lockyer for California's budget crisis, but all it says about Mimi is that she's "the future."

(Her platform as mentioned above was found on the California Statewide General Election Voter Information Guide. That's all we got.)

**Reproductive Freedom:** She is anti-choice.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Her largest donors in 2008 included AT&T, the California Dental Association, the California Physical Therapy Association, and Ketel One Vodka/Nolet Spirits USA.

Endorsements Include the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the California Small Business Association, and gubernatorial hopeful Meg Whitman.

**SOURCES:** The California Statewide General Election Voter Information Guide, Mimi Walters for Treasurer, Meg 2010, VoteSmart, Equality California, The Applied Research Center, Ballotpedia



*Controller is California's CFO, the "state's independent financial watchdog" over government use of tax dollars. Accounts for state government income and spending and guides local government.*

## John Chiang

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Democrat

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Chiang wants a process that holds politicians accountable for passing timely budgets, without excessive borrowing, and without "fancy" accounting tricks. As Controller, he has fought to close special-interest tax loopholes and wants to reform the state pension system. He also wants to upgrade the technology in the Controller's office and return unclaimed property to state residents.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Chiang was born in New York and went on to receive degrees in finance and a law. He served on the California Board of Equalization from 1997 to 2006 and was elected State Controller in 2006.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** In July 2008, Chiang refused to implement Schwarzenegger's proposal to decrease the pay of 200,000 state employees to minimum wage. A year later, Chiang made the bold move of issuing IOUs instead of checks while the legislature was still hashing out the budget.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** He has joined with institutional investors to call on federal lawmakers to enact a national

standard to address global warming. While on the State Land Commission, he opposed new offshore oil leases.

**FUN FACTS:** He is apparently so beloved by state workers that one of them pasted his face on a picture of the body of a saint with the caption "St. John."

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** California Democratic Party (CDP); California Labor Federation AFL-CIO; California League of Conservation Voters; Lee Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff; San Francisco Chronicle

**SOURCES:** Los Angeles Times; Sacramento Bee; John Chiang campaign Website; SF Gate

## Andrew "Andy" Favor

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Libertarian

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Favor pledges to put "taxpayers first." He is described as "pro-business, pro-freedom, and frugal," and his top three priorities are to implement a private account alternative to Social Security; to expand health savings accounts; and to improve education quality through privately owned schools and school-choice vouchers.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Favor is a graduate of San Diego State University and has lived with his wife Lisa and their two children for the past 21 years in Laguna Niguel. He is a practicing CPA specializing in small business. He has run three times

for state assembly and he was treasurer of the Libertarian Party of Orange County in 2005 and 2006.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Favor argues for the need to outsource prisons to other countries, conceding that "Yes, it is not ideal to outsource our prisons. But the global competition we face demands that we seek efficiency in all aspects of government."

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Contending that California does not have a revenue problem, Favor instead insists the state has a spending problem. To combat this, he promises to fight "ill-conceived pork giveaways like the high-speed-rail proposal."

**HEALTH CARE:** The solution lies in the private sector, says Favor, as well as health savings accounts. "I think every American, legal or otherwise, should be able to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars regardless of who they work for."

**EDUCATION:** Looking to Chicago school economist Milton Friedman, Favor believes California should privatize education. He believes that we "need a system where bad schools go out of business and good schools thrive," and supports the voucher system that gives parents more choice.

**Reproductive Freedom:** He thinks that the pro-choice argument has "some validity," and thinks California should try to reduce the abortion rate through persuasive measures rather than legislative ones.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** James Gray, retired Superior Court Judge and Ms.

Holly Clearman, Ron Paul, and several others.

SOURCES: Andy Favor campaign Website; Vote Smart; California Voter Guide

## Ross D. Frankel

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Green

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** As stated on his campaign website, Frankel aims to “bring fairness and reasonableness to our State’s tax structures; reform State government process and reform California’s legislature; and bring independence to the Controller’s office from the “Titanic political machines.”

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Frankel was born in Los Angeles and has lived there his entire life. He received his bachelor’s from Loyola Marymount College has worked in accounting and as a public school teacher.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** He has proposed a new tax rate on all goods and services, supports reforming property tax laws to account for fluctuations in value, and encourages a more progressive property tax.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** As a member of the Green party, he supports environmental protections, though he is not opposed to all offshore drilling. Still, he supports strict environmental protections in the cases where it offshore drilling is sanctioned.

**HEALTH CARE:** Frankel supports affordable health care but does not specify the means to that end.

**FUN FACTS:** In his candidacy, he has decided not to accept any donations personally, asking all potential donors to give to the Green Party instead.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** The Green Party, Los Angeles County Council, and Michael Feinstein.

SOURCES: Smart Voter; Ross Frankel campaign Website

## Tony Strickland

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Republican

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Strickland believes in the importance of the government to manage resources efficiently while remaining accountable to tax payers. He prioritizes growing California’s economy through job creation, waste reduction, corruption reduction, and a balanced budget. He also strongly opposes raising taxes.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Strickland was first elected to the state assembly in 1998 and has served as Chairman of the Assembly Republican Caucus, which is the second-highest ranking position for a Republican in the assembly. In 2004, Strickland had to step down from the assembly seat due to term limits, and his wife, Audra Strickland, got the job. In 2006, he ran for Controller but lost, and in 2008, he was elected to the Senate. During his time in the Senate, he has authored many bills ranging from putting more limits on the rights of sex offenders to declaring Feb. 11 Ronald Reagan Day.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Strickland strongly opposes gay marriage.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Strickland believes there has been a huge amount of waste and overspending of taxpayer dollars, citing school-system renovations and the City of Bell administrators’ excessive misappropriations of city funds. Strickland is a strong proponent of exposing these issues and being accountable to the taxpayer. He also is very strict on his “no new taxes” stance.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Strickland is the vice president of GreenWave Energy Solutions LLC, a company that is focused on harnessing ocean wave energy. Throughout his career he has campaigned for a more energy-efficient economy and transitioning California to more renewable energy sources. He is a strong supporter of creating green jobs in California.

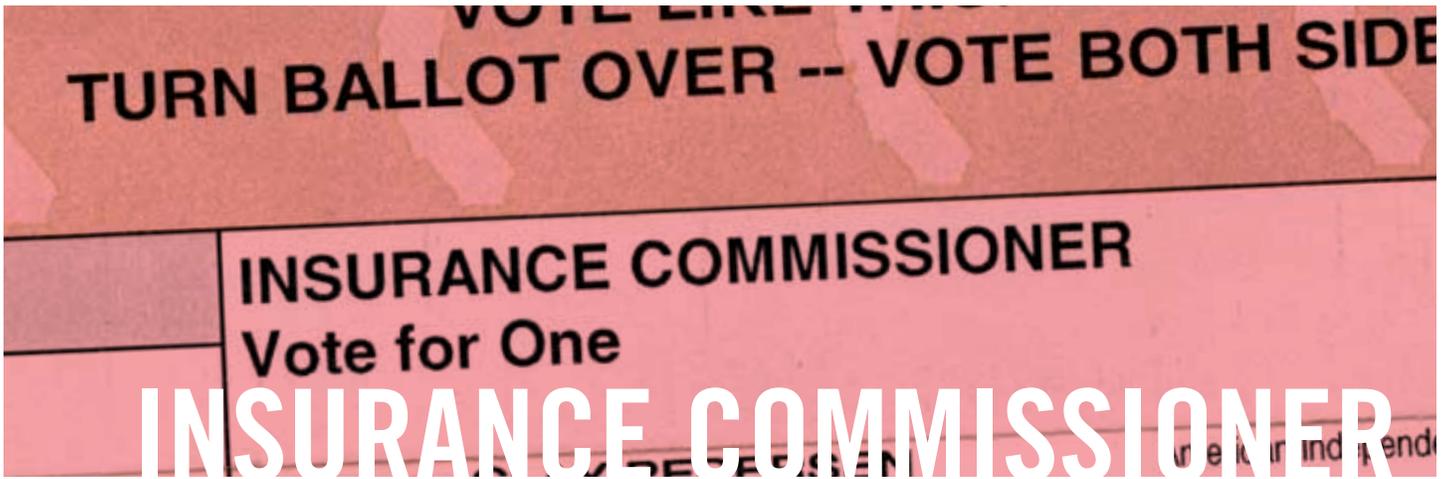
**EDUCATION:** Strickland believes schools are appropriately funded, and that the problem is that their funding is mismanaged.

**Reproductive Freedom:** Strickland is anti-abortion.

**FUN FACTS:** Tony and Audra Strickland are the second husband and wife team to serve concurrently in the California State Legislature.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Mitt Romney, Meg Whitman, the California State Senate and Assembly GOP.

SOURCES: Tony Strickland campaign Website; Wikipedia; Political Vanguard; Vote Smart; Ventura County Star



*The Insurance Commissioner enforces insurance-related California laws, and regulates industry to “protect consumers and promote a healthy marketplace.”*

## William “Bill” Balderston

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POLITICAL PARTY: Green

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Believes in a single-payer health care system, that insurance companies should have no role in the health care system—not in California and not nationally—and advocates for a single-payer auto insurance and flexibility for how to access it.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Bill graduated from Brown University. He is a long-time political activist in the East Bay. He taught high school English and social studies for over two decades in East Oakland and served in the political leadership of the Oakland Education Association for over a dozen years. He’s also represented Oakland teachers at the state (CTA) and national (NEA) levels, and continues to fight for them. Bill currently serves on the steering committees of Labor 4 Peace & Justice, the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, and Vote Health, and recently participated in national conferences of US Labor Against the War and the Labor Campaign for Single-Payer. As a socialist and committed believer in independent working class politics, Bill has been an active supporter of the Green Party and campaigned for many state Green candidates. That’s pretty much all there is out there on him.

**OTHER:** Believes United States should withhold funds from ANY insurance company doing business with ANY nation (including Israel) in that region that has a nuclear weapons arsenal.

SOURCES: Health for All; Smart Voter

## Rick Bronstein

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POLITICAL PARTY: Libertarian

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** He wants to allow Californians to choose for themselves what kind of coverage they wish to have by allowing Californians to get insurance from any company they want and by allowing individuals and businesses of all kinds to deduct their insurance and health care costs. In this way, he thinks the government will cut the cost and improve quality for all Californians.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Richard S. Bronstein or “Rick,” was born December 23, 1953. He lives in Encino with his wife Tracy. The two have a son, Andrew “Andy” Bronstein. Bronstein the elder received his Bachelors of Science Degree from UCLA in Political Science, class of 1977. He’s an Insurance Broker at Green Sky Insurance. Before joining the Libertarian Party, Rick was a registered Democrat.

**FUN FACTS:** He plays golf in his spare time and volunteers for Libertarian candidates and causes. He is also a dog lover and is very grateful for his dog Monty.

SOURCES: Vote4rick

## Dave Jones

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POLITICAL PARTY: Democratic

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Make pay in the health care system outcome-driven, not procedure-driven; Address double-digit health plan premium increases year over year (because they suck); Give the State the ability to approve rates for health insurance like it does for auto and home insurance (because maybe that would suck less).

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Dave Jones has been to Sacramento before. In fact, he currently is serving his third term representing the 9th District (Sacramento) in the Cali State Assembly where he chairs the Assembly Health Committee and serves on the Appropriations, Judiciary and Accountability & Administrative Review Committees. Before that gig, Jones served as a Sacramento City Councilmember and worked as a legal aid attorney with Legal Services of Northern California, providing free legal assistance to the poor. In 1995, Jones was awarded a White House Fellowship. He served in the Clinton Administration for three years as Special Assistant and Counsel to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. He’s a graduate of DePauw University, Harvard Law School, and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. He and his wife, Kim Flores, have two young children, Isabelle and William, and live in Sacramento.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** Dave opposes big increases in workers’ compensation rates. In the Assembly he sponsored

a bill that prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against women by charging higher rates than men for similar plans. He also co-authored a bill that would have required state approval for health insurance rate increases. And, like his GOP opponent, he opposes the 20 percent-plus increase in base rates recommended by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** In 2010, Dave introduced the Green Insurance Act that established environmental standards and protections in the insurance business, and provides incentives and tax credits for offering green insurance and making green investments.

**HEALTH CARE:** Dave advocates for universal single payer health care reform and wants to regulate health insurance rates.

**FUN FACTS:** His haircut is pretty fun. He's seriously rocking the side part.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** California Democratic Party, CDF Firefighters, California Federation of Teachers, California Labor Federation, California League of Conservation Voters, California NOW (National Organization for Women), California Nurses Association, California Professional Firefighters, California School Employees Association, California State Building Trades and Construction Council, California Teachers Association, Equality California, PAW PAC, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, Sierra Club, The Sacramento Bee

**SOURCES:** Dave Jones 2010; Smart Voter; San Jose Business Journal; Sacramento Bee

## Dina Josephine Padilla

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Peace and Freedom

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Dina's got a Program for California. It includes: prosecution of the insurance industry for shifting liabilities onto governments, forcing the Feds to clean up toxic dump sites and provide adequate health care for those affected, eliminating the Insurance Industry in health

care and moving to a single payer plan, removal of insurance industry reps from the Fraud Assessment Commission, and a yearly public summit so that Californians can air their Insurance grievances.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Dina is from Chicago and has been fighting corruption a long time—since '85 in fact. She's a Catholic and a former union leader at Kaiser in Sacramento, where she successfully fought the unjust treatment of workers and patients. She's currently an Injured Worker Consultant and a Sacramento Central Labor Council Board Member. In 2008 she ran for Congress in California.

**SOURCES:** Vote Smart; Padilla4Insurance-Commissioner

## Mike Villines

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**POLITICAL PARTY:** Republican

**CANDIDATE PLATFORM:** Reduce insurance fraud, which contributes to insurance costs and frivolous lawsuits, and improve access to health care, including for people with pre-existing conditions.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:** Mike was elected to the 29th Assembly District in 2004, a Central Valley seat that encompasses Fresno and Madera counties. He then served as Assembly Republican Leader for more than 2 years, beginning in November 2006. Before that he served as an aide to former Governor Pete Wilson, where he spent most of his time working to "reform ineffective environmental regulations." He also served as chief-of-staff to former State Senator Chuck Poochigian, which is a really fun name to say. He currently owns a Fresno-based public relations business called Panagraph. He's a Cal State Fresno grad, with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He serves on the Board of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent national organization "committed to educational enrichment programs for state legislative leaders." He's also on the executive board of the Senator Kenneth L. Maddy Institute for Leadership and Ethics. An active member of the People's Church of Fresno, he and his wife, Christina, reside in Shaver Lake with

their three children. No, not Silver Lake. Shaver Lake.

**ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY / JUSTICE:** He wants you to know that he opposed a bill that was sponsored by his Democratic opponent which prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against women by charging higher rates than men for similar plans. However, he does agree with his Democratic rival in that he opposes the 20 percent-plus increase in base rates recommended by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California. See, who says that the parties can't get along in Sacramento?

**FUN FACTS:** In 2009, Mike controversially voted for a budget deal that included temporary tax increases, taking enormous criticism from Republican hard-liners. For this, he was awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2010 with other California legislators.

**KEY DONORS AND ENDORSEMENTS:** Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association, Latino Mayors and Elected Officials Coalition, Hispanic 100, National Mexican-American Anti-Defamation Committee, National Tax Limitation Committee, New Majority California, California State Sheriff's Association, Lincoln Club of Northern California, Republican Party of Fresno County, Fresno City Firefighters Association, Great Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce, Clovis Chamber of Commerce, Fresno Sheriff's Sergeants Association, San Diego Lincoln Club, Orange County Taxpayers Association, Taxpayers Association of Central California

**SOURCES:** Sacramento Bee; San Jose Business Journal; Smart Voter; Mike Villines; Mike Villines; KFSN Fresno News ABC