

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

GOVERNOR

- As the state's chief executive officer, oversees most state departments and agencies, and appoints judges.
 - Proposes new laws, approves or vetoes legislation, and submits the annual state budget to the Legislature.
 - Mobilizes and directs state resources during emergencies.
-

Xavier Becerra | DEMOCRATIC

No candidate statement.

Steve Hilton | REPUBLICAN

No candidate statement.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- Assumes the office and duties of Governor in the case of impeachment, death, resignation, removal from office, or absence from the state.
- Serves as president of the State Senate and has a tie-breaking vote.
- Chairs the Commission for Economic Development; is a member of the State Lands Commission, and the Ocean Protection Council; and sits on the boards of the California university systems.



Fiona Ma | DEMOCRATIC

California is at a crossroads. Too many are being priced out of the California Dream. Housing, groceries, gas, insurance, healthcare continue to rise, while government red tape delays housing and discourages investment. Owning a small business and obtaining permits are far too difficult. California can do better. I am a Certified Public Accountant since 1992 with a B.S.-Accounting, M.S.-Taxation, and MBA-Finance. I have the financial knowledge and experience to keep California an economic powerhouse while building a more affordable future. Voters elected me to four public offices where I focus on accountability, transparency, fixing broken systems, cutting waste, and delivering results. As State Treasurer, I financed a record number of affordable housing units, expanded down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, saved distressed hospitals, and attracted investments that created

good-paying jobs. My guiding principle is simple: “58 Counties. 1 California. Stronger Together.” Every community is unique so I’m honored to have the endorsement of 500+ local elected officials from 58 counties because relationships matter. As the oldest child of immigrant parents and daughter of a public-school art teacher, I built programs that help families save for college and reduce student debt. As Lieutenant Governor, I will make higher education more affordable, expand paid internships, and strengthen career pathways. I am proud to be endorsed by the CA Labor Federation, State Building Trades Council, CA Democratic Party, Equality California, CA Farm Bureau, NWPC, Planned Parenthood, CA Professional Firefighters, CA Nurses Association, CA Teachers Association, CA Federation of Teachers, CA Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, San Jose Mercury News, Bakersfield Californian, and others. California is my forever home. I humbly ask for your vote.

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Gloria Romero | REPUBLICAN

California needs a real choice. I’m Gloria Romero. I served as California Senate Majority Leader, fought for transparency in government, authored landmark school-choice reforms to give parents and students trapped in failing schools real opportunities, and stood up for survivors of violence and sexual harassment. Like you, I know why Sacramento is broken. California’s budget is bloated with bureaucracy and waste. For years, one-party rule has failed us. Homelessness has exploded. The cost of living is crushing families. Our schools are failing. Too many students aren’t proficient in basic levels of reading and math. Public safety has been weakened. Reckless policies have made food, gas, housing, and energy unaffordable for ALL of us. The California Dream is fading. Yet, politicians make excuses instead of taking responsibility. So I walked away from monopoly one-party rule. Because California needs a champion for the

people. This is why I’m running for Lieutenant Governor. This office should not be a ceremonial title or a parking spot for failed career politicians. I will restore education standards, develop a bold economic plan that helps businesses thrive, rein in politicized commissions that have failed to protect our water, farmland, and way of life, defend Title IX for our daughters in sports, and fight antisemitism on our campuses. Stand with Reform California and VOTE Gloria Romero for Lieutenant Governor to put Californians ahead of Sacramento insiders. California isn’t a blue or red state. It’s the Golden State. I ask for your vote. Join me: [GloriaRomero.com](https://www.GloriaRomero.com)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

SECRETARY OF STATE

- As the state's chief elections officer, oversees statewide elections and provides public access to campaign and lobbying financial information.
- Maintains certain business filings, authenticates trademarks, regulates notaries public, and enables secured creditors to protect their financial interests.
- Preserves California's history by acquiring, safeguarding, and sharing the state's historical treasures.



Donald P. (Don) Wagner | REPUBLICAN

As California's Chief Elections Officer, I will ensure every eligible voter's right to participate in our democracy, every legitimate vote is counted, and every Californian can trust the result, no matter who wins. California's election system is mismanaged and broken. Other large states finish counting votes and announce results on Election Night. California takes more than a month. As Governor Newsom said, "the longer the voting count takes, the more mis- and disinformation spreads." We must do better. Thirty-six states and most democratic nations require photo ID at the polls. California does not, leaving our election security so weak at least one dog was registered and voted twice! We must do better. California's voter rolls are so outdated the state wastes millions mailing ballots to people who have moved or died. It's unacceptable for California to have such an embarrassing election system. As Secretary of State, I

pledge to speed up vote counting, secure our elections, and remove the chief elections officer from partisan politics. The Office of Secretary of State should be non-partisan, representing the will of the people, not answering to Sacramento political machines. I will be an umpire for fair elections, not a partisan player. This is the gold standard of democracy I have maintained for almost 30 years of public service and will enforce as Secretary of State. I pledge to protect your vote, our democracy, and restore trust with fast, free, and fair elections. We will do better when I am Secretary of State. Visit WagnerForCalifornia.com and protectmyvoteca.org/ for my election reform platform.

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WagnerForCalifornia.com | protectmyvoteca.org



Shirley N. Weber | DEMOCRATIC

I will never give up on protecting your voting rights. I was born in the Jim Crow South to sharecroppers who couldn't vote. California welcomed us with open arms and has been my home ever since. My parents cast their very first votes here and even used our family living room as a polling place. America is the only country in the world where, within one generation, a family can go from Jim Crow disenfranchisement to administering elections in the largest state in the nation. We've come so far, and I've seen it firsthand. However, there are people who want to roll back that progress. They want shorter polling hours, fewer days to vote, and the removal of vote-by-mail ballots. Some of them have even threatened the lives of election officials when their preferred candidate loses. This behavior will not be tolerated in California. When our voting rights were under attack, I fought for us in the courts, and won. I've stood up to Donald

Trump. And I've been a transparent leader because trust is everything. Every eligible Californian should register to vote and cast their ballot whether we agree politically or not. I will continue to fight to make sure that nothing stands between you and the ballot box. Vote Dr. Shirley N. Weber for Secretary of State. Visit www.DrShirleyWeber.com to learn more.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CONTROLLER

- As the state's chief fiscal officer, serves as the state's accountant and bookkeeper of all public funds.
- Administers the state payroll system and unclaimed property laws and conducts audits and reviews of state operations.
- Serves on the Board of Equalization, the Board of Control, and other boards and commissions.



Malia M. Cohen | DEMOCRATIC

As California State Controller, Malia Cohen serves as the state's chief fiscal officer, safeguarding the finances of the world's fourth-largest economy. She is running for re-election to ensure taxpayer dollars are managed with transparency, accountability, and fairness. A lifelong Californian, Malia understands firsthand the promise of our state and the urgency of protecting it for future generations. A working mom and dedicated public servant, she believes budgets are moral documents that should reflect our shared values and invest in people, not special interests. As Controller, Malia has strengthened fiscal transparency by expanding public access to financial and payroll data, giving Californians a clear view of how public dollars are spent. She has released timely monthly cash reports to help keep California fiscally strong during economic uncertainty, reunited all 58 counties with millions in unclaimed property, and

honored local governments for excellence in accurate financial reporting. She has also advanced the long-overdue modernization of California's payroll system to better serve public workers statewide. At a time when trust in government matters more than ever, Malia Cohen is committed to protecting California's financial future and making the California Dream real for every community. Join teachers, nurses, firefighters, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, healthcare workers, operating engineers, plumbers, pipefitters, electrical workers, and working folks across California in supporting Malia Cohen for Controller. Learn more at: [MaliaCohenForCA.com](https://www.MaliaCohenForCA.com)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/malia.cohen/> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MaliaCohen>



Herb W Morgan | REPUBLICAN

The State Controller does not set policy. The Controller is tasked with ensuring efficiency in state government through pre-audits and approval of expenditures, followed by rigorous post-audits that verify performance and proper use of funds. I will deliver for the people by placing all expenditures in an easy-to-use online database with transaction-level detail and near real-time reporting, so every Californian can see exactly how public funds are used. This transparency builds trust and directs resources more effectively to classrooms, communities, and essential programs. www.herbmorgan.com

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

TREASURER

- As the state's banker, manages the state's investments, and administers the sale of state bonds and notes.
- Serves on several commissions, most of which are related to the marketing of bonds.
- Pays out state funds when spent by the Controller and other state agencies.



Jennifer Hawks | REPUBLICAN

I'm running for California State Treasurer because taxpayers deserve someone who will protect every dollar as if it were their own, and help bring much-needed change to Sacramento. I'm not a career politician. I'm a business professional who has spent my career managing budgets, improving operations, and demanding accountability. Just as importantly, I'm not part of the Sacramento political establishment, and I never will be. My loyalty is to California taxpayers, not political insiders or special interests. I believe lasting change in Sacramento begins with transparency, accountability, and putting taxpayers first. The Treasurer cannot rewrite the state budget or create new laws, but the office can demand transparency, strengthen oversight, and shine a light on how taxpayer dollars are managed. As Treasurer, I will ask the tough questions others won't, insist on measurable results, and work to expose waste, fraud, and mismanagement wherever they exist. I will advocate for responsible investing, greater accountability, and honest stewardship of the public's money. California needs a financial watchdog, not another politician. By bringing private-sector leadership and independent oversight to the Treasurer's Office, I will work every day to bring meaningful change to Sacramento, restore trust in how our state manages its finances, and always put taxpayers first. It's your money. You deserve to know where it goes, how it's spent, and whether it's working for California.

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Eleni Kounalakis | DEMOCRATIC

As the daughter of Greek immigrants, I grew up believing in the California dream. As a businesswoman, financial expert, and Lieutenant Governor, I've dedicated my career to keeping that dream alive for the next generation. I'm running for state Treasurer to responsibly manage California's finances, strengthen our economy, and make smart investments that create opportunity. As Treasurer, I will build more affordable housing through public finance; invest in the financial future of children and families, defend health care and immigrant communities, and protect pensions for hard-working Californians. Before running for office I spent nearly two decades as a builder. I built housing communities and financed infrastructure projects in the private sector. As Lieutenant Governor, I've helped create clean-energy jobs, managed public lands, and voted to deliver more than 60,000 new college housing beds to help reduce costs for students and families. This November, California voters face a clear choice. As the only Democrat in the race, I'll stand up to Donald Trump's attacks on our state and protect the values that make us stronger. I'm proud to have the support of Governor Gavin Newsom, Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, and hundreds of thousands of teachers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, and union members across California. EleniForCA.com

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- As the state's chief law officer, ensures that state laws are enforced and investigates fraudulent or illegal activities.
 - Heads the Department of Justice, which provides state government legal services and represents the state in civil and criminal court cases.
 - Oversees law enforcement agencies, including county district attorneys and sheriffs.
-

Rob Bonta | DEMOCRATIC

No candidate statement.



Michael E. Gates | REPUBLICAN

We need a new Attorney General. According to FBI data, California ranks 6th highest in the nation for violent crime. Every Californian deserves to feel safe—in their neighborhoods, at school, walking to the store. Too many families don't feel that way today. Fentanyl is taking our kids. Retail theft is closing the stores we count on. Nearly half of all homeless Americans live in California. And crime always hits working families hardest. I am a husband of 30 years and father of five. I have spent my career trying cases in courtrooms, not politics, as a trial attorney and prosecutor. I enforced Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice and am admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. As a City Attorney, I built a local prosecution program that cut crime by double digits in its first year and made Huntington Beach one of California's safest cities. I brought residents, leaders, and law enforcement together, and I will do

the same as your Attorney General. Californians voted for Prop. 36 overwhelmingly to restore accountability for repeat theft and drug offenses. I will fully enforce it and will prosecute the traffickers poisoning our communities, protect victims, help people off the streets and into treatment, and make sure your tax dollars are spent honestly and effectively. Safe streets and equal justice belong to every community, whatever your zip code or last name. Public safety is not a partisan issue, and I will never treat it like one. www.Gates4AG.com

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

- Heads the Department of Insurance, which enforces California insurance laws and adopts regulations to implement the laws.
- Licenses, regulates, and examines insurance companies.
- Answers public questions and complaints about the insurance industry.



Ben Allen | DEMOCRATIC

I'm running for Insurance Commissioner to reform our broken insurance system, lower costs, and protect consumers. I'm not taking any insurance company money because my loyalty is to you. In the State Senate, I've fought for consumers and working Californians. I've passed laws holding polluters accountable and investing in wildfire prevention, water infrastructure, and resilience, while meeting our clean energy goals and protecting our water, coast, and ocean. After a disaster, Californians deserve fast and fair treatment when they're trying to rebuild. That's why I authored laws requiring insurers to increase upfront payments for claims, creating low-interest loans for home improvements that reduce fire risk, and helping homeowners keep their coverage when they fix hazards on their property. When fires ravaged my district, I helped hundreds of constituents who lost everything rebuild their homes and lives, holding insurance

companies accountable to pay what they owed. As Insurance Commissioner, I'll increase competition to bring down costs, protect consumers who are unfairly dropped, make insurers accountable and the process transparent, and expedite rebuilding. Instead of creating an untested large-scale system that puts the state and you the taxpayer on the hook, I believe in a proven, practical path that adds insurance options and lowers rates, without gambling our state's finances. I'm honored to have the support of the Consumer Federation of California, California Professional Firefighters, Planned Parenthood, California Federation of Teachers, the Sierra Club, Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla, and a broad coalition of Republican, Independent, and Democratic leaders from across the state. I hope to earn your support, too. BenAllenCA.com

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Jane Kim | DEMOCRATIC

The Insurance Commissioner should be working for you to lower prices, not working for the industry to increase profits. That's why I will never take a dime from insurance companies. California deserves a watchdog for consumers, not a lapdog for corporations, and I'm the only candidate refusing money from corporate PACs. Right now, insurance companies raise our rates, cancel our coverage, and deny our claims while they rake in record profits—using *our* money. I'll hold them accountable to make insurance more affordable and available and make sure our money works for us. I'll make claims fast and fair, cap excessive profits, and crack down on illegal price-fixing. I'll ensure our premiums are invested into making our communities safer through a public Disaster Insurance for All program. And I'll fight for guaranteed healthcare for every California child. I'm not running to manage a broken system, I'm running to fix it.

I'm a civil rights attorney and consumer advocate, and I know how to take on big challenges and win. As an elected San Francisco Supervisor, I won *universal tuition-free community college*, California's *first \$15 minimum wage*, and *record amounts of affordable housing*. I'm proudly supported by United States Senator Bernie Sanders, Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Controller Malia Cohen, Dolores Huerta, California Teachers Association, California Nurses Association, and many more because they know I'll fight for *you*. It's time for an insurance system that works for *all* working families, and I would be honored to earn your vote. www.JaneKim.org

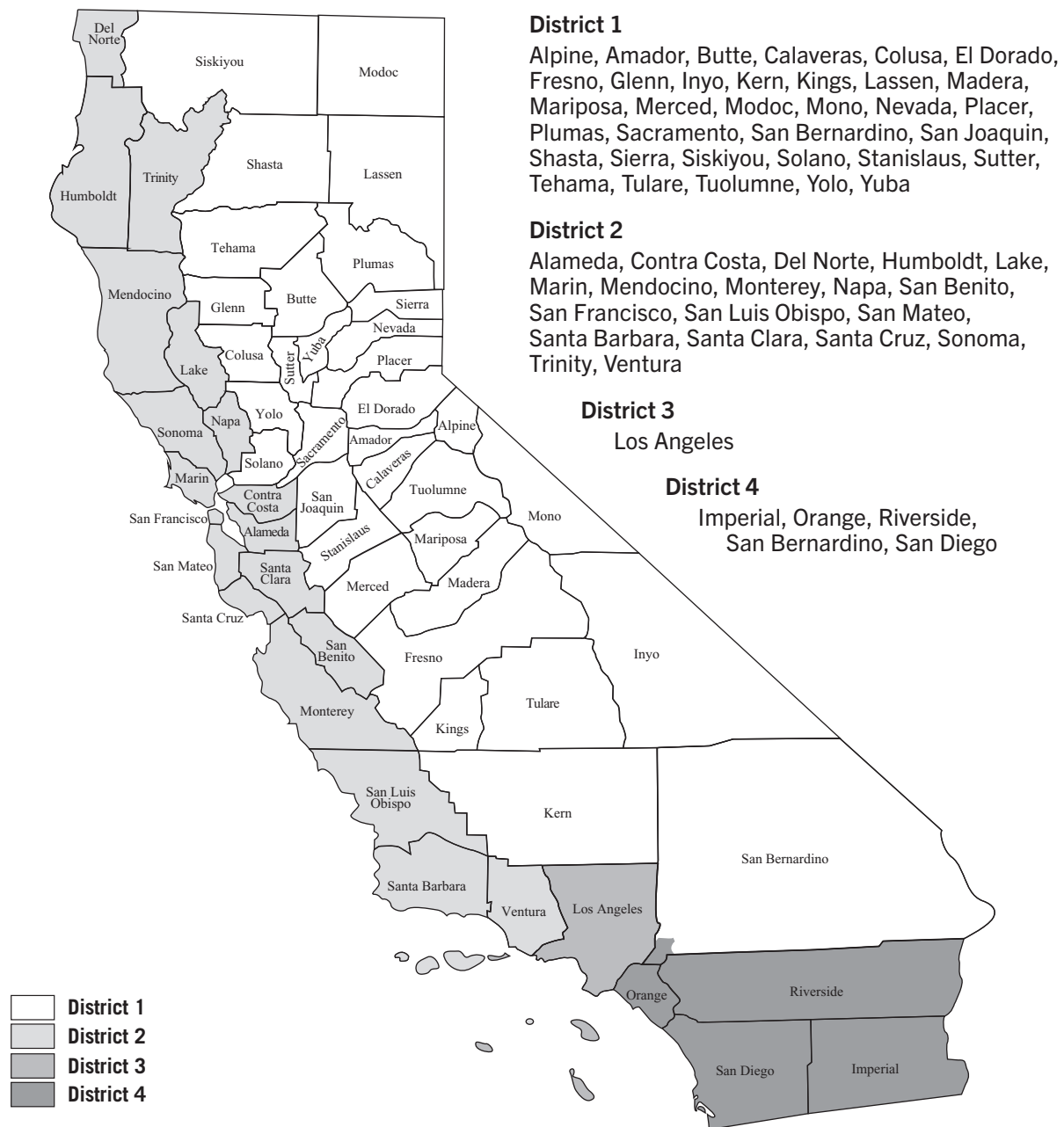
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CALIFORNIA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION DISTRICTS

Counties in Each Board of Equalization District



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Serves on the Board of Equalization, the state's elected tax commission, which:

- Assesses the property of regulated railroads and specific public utilities, and assesses and collects the private railroad car tax.
- Oversees the assessment practices of the state's 58 county assessors.
- Assesses and collects the alcoholic beverage tax, and jointly administers the tax on insurers.

DISTRICT 1



Nelson Esparza | DEMOCRATIC

Nelson Esparza is a dedicated public servant and proven champion for California's working families and small business owners. Raised in California's Central Valley, Nelson's life and career have been shaped by a deep commitment to opportunity, fairness, and economic prosperity for all. Nelson is running for the State Board of Equalization to ensure a fair tax system for all Californians. Nelson will fight to close tax loopholes and crack down on tax evaders so that our local governments can continue to invest in public safety, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic development. As a long-time educator and economist, Nelson will bring real-world financial expertise to California's state tax board. On the Fresno City Council, he serves as Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, where he deals with complex financial issues every day. Additionally, he has secured hundreds of millions in investment for

our communities. Nelson will oppose new taxes on middle class and working class families as well as small businesses that are already struggling to make ends meet. He'll fight for more transparency in our tax system, and for fair impartial property tax assessments. Nelson is supported by local law enforcement, teachers, nurses, construction workers, and leaders at the local, state, and federal levels across California—because they know that he has the experience and the drive to protect our tax dollars and our public services. By November 3rd, Vote Nelson Esparza for State Board of Equalization. Learn more at nelsonesparza.com.

E-mail: nelson@nelsonesparza.com

Facebook: facebook.com/esparzanelson | Instagram: instagram.com/esparzaforBOE



Shannon Grove | REPUBLICAN

I am running to protect the American Dream for you. I didn't grow up with a lot. I was born in rural Kern County, enlisted in the U.S. Army, came home, and built a small business from nothing. But what I am most proud of is that through my small business, I helped thousands of Californians start their careers with good-paying jobs. That has been my life's work. I had the opportunity to live the American Dream, so I keep fighting for others to live theirs. In the California Legislature, I fought for the family trying to buy their first home. The small business owner drowning in red tape and taxes. And the children whose dreams were taken away from them because dangerous sex offenders weren't being held accountable for their actions. It never mattered what political party you belonged to. What mattered was getting things done. Now, I am asking to be your watchdog on the Board of Equalization. To be your tax fighter. To make sure the

government doesn't overtax your home, your business, or your property. To defend taxpayer protections like Proposition 13 that keep people in their homes. And most importantly, to support economic growth that puts the American Dream within reach for every Californian. Whether you live in the North State, Sacramento, the Central Valley, or the High Desert, your dreams are worth fighting for. I've spent my life proving that. I hope you give me the chance to keep proving it, for you.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

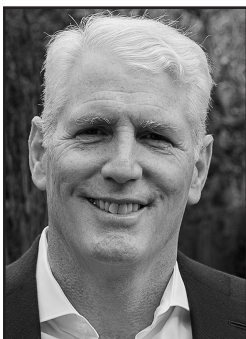
DISTRICT 2



Sally J. Lieber | DEMOCRATIC

I am honored to serve as your representative and as Chair of the State Board of Equalization, California's elected property tax oversight board. On the Board, I have worked to expand access to property tax relief, including tax credits for Veterans and low-income families, increased public information on Proposition 19, and advanced consumer protections for homeowners' insurance. I have fought for affordable housing, supported identity theft protections for property owners, and worked to ensure that the Board is efficient, accountable and transparent. I do not accept contributions from corporate PACs and will always insist that wealthy interests pay what they owe. As a member of the Board, I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and California, including Proposition 13. Over the next four years, I will continue to work for accurate and equitable property tax assessments, expanded taxpayer assistance, and policies that support housing affordability, rapid disaster recovery, and economic stability for working families. Before election to the Board, I served in local, regional, and state government. In the California State Assembly, I authored legislation to raise the statewide minimum wage, protect our coast and the San Francisco Bay, expand renewable energy, increase CalGrant scholarships, and worked to preserve free community college access statewide. I am endorsed by Teachers, Nurses and Firefighters statewide, by the California Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood California, the Sierra Club California, and over forty congressional, state executive and legislative leaders. I am thankful for the support of more than 1.3 million voters in the primary election. I respectfully ask for your vote. www.sallylieber.org

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E-mail: vote@sallylieber.org | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CAvoteSally>



John Pimentel | DEMOCRATIC

I'm not interested in politics as usual. I'll reform the Board of Equalization so it works fairly and without corruption. The Board is *supposed* to ensure consistency and transparency on >\$100 billion in property tax assessments. However, it fails to stop corruption and rubber-stamps sweetheart tax breaks for utilities. Career politicians have let us down. Let's do better. My career is based on common sense problem solving and getting results. My companies built over \$1 billion in sustainability and energy projects creating good jobs while lowering energy costs. As California's Deputy Secretary for Transportation, I used incentive-based contracts to accelerate delivery on critical highway projects, and consolidated two law enforcement agencies creating savings and improving public safety. As Community College Trustee, I spearheaded Free College—boosting enrollment by making higher education more affordable. I uncovered fraud, fixed it, then instituted reforms to increase transparency and recover lost funds. I'll bring this energy and experience to BOE. I'll fight to end sales tax on restaurant and delivered food that everyday people rely upon in their busy lives. I'll fight to end loopholes so billionaires and corporations pay their taxes. I'm endorsed by respected leaders including: Treasurer Fiona Ma, current/former Congressmembers Sam Liccardo, Kevin Mullin, Anna Eshoo and Tom Campbell. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan and dozens of existing/retired state legislators. My priorities: Tax fairness. Government and corporate accountability. No sales tax on food. I'd be honored to earn your vote. www.JohnPimentel.com

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Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JohnPimentelCA> | Instagram: <https://instagram.com/johnpimentelforcalifornia>

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

DISTRICT 3



Mike Gipson | DEMOCRATIC

Assemblymember Mike Gipson is a proven leader with decades of experience fighting for working Californians. He is running for the Board of Equalization to fight for fairness, transparency, and accountability in our tax system. Mike will fight to close tax loopholes that wealthy insiders and powerful corporations exploit to avoid paying their fair share. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Mike has dedicated his life to public service. He has worked for service employee and public educator unions, as a local city councilmember, as a police officer, and is currently a member of the California Assembly. As Assemblymember, Mike has championed groundbreaking laws including protecting funding for expanded access to healthcare, education, and childcare, and investments in mental healthcare services, expanded resources for our firefighters, keeping ICE out of our schools, and a fairer tax system. Previously serving as Chief of

Staff to the former Board of Equalization Chairman, Mike currently serves as Chair of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, which oversees the Board of Equalization. On the BOE, Gipson will bring in the funds needed to support quality healthcare, strong schools, safer communities, and vital social services that sustain families and communities across our state. He knows that the middle class is being taxed too much, while the wealthy elites and insiders need to pay their fair share. Endorsed by nurses, construction workers, police, firefighters, classroom teachers and Democrats. By November 3rd, vote Mike Gipson for the Board of Equalization! Visit mikegipson.net

X: <https://x.com/mgipson2014> | Facebook: <https://facebook.com/MikeGipson4BOE>

Samuel P. Sukaton | DEMOCRATIC

No candidate statement.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

DISTRICT 4

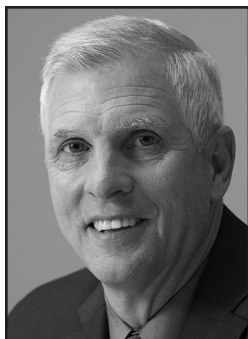


Denis Bilodeau | REPUBLICAN

Vote Denis Bilodeau for Board of Equalization. I'm running to *lower your cost of living*. Your electric bill, your gas bill, your water bill. The Board of Equalization assesses the property of California's regulated utilities, and that assessment directly affects your utility rates. When an assessment is wrong, it shows up in your rent and your utility bills. I'm Denis Bilodeau, P.E. • Licensed Civil and Traffic Engineer. • University of California, Irvine graduate. • Taxpayer Association President. • Mayor Pro Tem, City of Orange. • President, Orange County Water District. • Chairman, National Water Research Institute. I've spent 25 years fighting for ratepayers. I know how a wrong assessment lands on a working family's budget. The Board of Equalization also oversees the 58 county assessors. Your property should be assessed fairly, without inflation from errors or special interest loopholes. I signed the *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association*

Pledge to Save Proposition 13 and have their endorsement. I'll oppose the proposed car mileage tax. I've led a team that set affordable water rates, protected our watersheds from forever chemicals, balanced budgets every year, invested in our infrastructure, and delivered high-quality drinking water that met the highest safety standards in the country. As a City Councilmember, I've worked to keep our neighborhoods safe. I'll fight so working families can afford a home again with engineering precision and fiscal discipline. An *independent* voice for taxpayers. I care whether things work, not who gets credit. Please vote *Denis Bilodeau for Board of Equalization*.

P.O. Box 1871, Orange, CA 92862 | Tel: (858) 633-3352 | E-mail: INFO@BILODEAUFORBOE.COM
Facebook: Denis Bilodeau For Board of Equalization 2026 | Instagram: BilodeauForBoardofEqualization



Tom Umberg | DEMOCRATIC

I am running for Board of Equalization to be your watchdog—fighting to make our tax system fair and equitable for everyday Californians while ensuring that big monied corporations pay their fair share. The Board of Equalization provides accountability for billions of dollars in property taxes, funding vital local services including schools, hospitals, libraries, parks, and emergency response. I will be your voice for tax fairness, protecting homeowners, renters, and small businesses while standing up to wealthy interests who get around the rules. My record shows that I care about working families and know how to ensure accountability at the Board. In the State Senate, I wrote the “No Kings” law to prevent Donald Trump from appearing on the California ballot again and backed legislation demanding accountability from ICE while protecting civil rights for all Californians. As a federal prosecutor and Army JAG officer, I convicted politicians

and government workers of fraud, abuse and corruption, held corrupt foreign governments to account for human rights abuses, and investigated the Republican Party's intimidation of Latino voters with poll guards on election day. Recently, I authored Proposition 4 to crack down on the influence of special interests in our elections. As a small businessman, I understand the challenges our businesses and workers face. I am proud to be supported by the California Democratic Party, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, California Professional Firefighters, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, and labor unions representing healthcare workers, educators, and nurses. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

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The views and opinions expressed by the candidates are their own and do not represent the views and opinions of the Secretary of State's office. The order of the statements was determined by randomized drawing. Statements on this page were supplied by the candidates and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency. Each statement was voluntarily submitted and paid for by the candidate. Candidates who did not submit statements could otherwise be qualified to appear on the ballot.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (NONPARTISAN OFFICE)

- Serves as the state's independently elected nonpartisan voice for the public interest in the governance of the state's educational systems.
- Represents the public interest through advocacy with the Legislature and the Governor on areas of high public concern and recommendations for addressing identified challenges.
- Serves as a voting member of governing boards of the state's transitional kindergarten through higher education systems.



Richard Barrera

Democrat Richard Barrera led the reform effort that transformed San Diego Unified from a district in crisis to one that is First in Reading and Math among the nation's largest urban districts. As State Superintendent, Barrera will roll up his sleeves and work with the same energy and zeal to bring those reforms to every school in California. Barrera fought to protect students from the heartless Trump administration: keeping ICE out of schools, standing up for LGBTQ students, and ensuring kids are vaccinated against measles and other diseases. He will protect California from Trump/MAGA attacks on public education. An 18-year veteran of the San Diego Unified School Board (and current President), Barrera brought parents, educators and the community together to cut waste/bureaucracy and invest in students and the classroom. The result: Math and Reading levels soared to national highs on the "Nation's Report Card"

and San Diego Unified topped California's urban districts in Graduation Rates and College/Career Readiness. Barrera led four successful campaigns to repair 60-year-old schools, upgrade technology, and improve school safety with electronic door locks, single points-of-entry and updated emergency communication for neighborhood and charter schools. A UC San Diego graduate with a Masters from Harvard, Barrera earned endorsements from those most responsible for student success: 700,000+ classroom teachers, nurses, counselors, principals and staff represented by the California Teachers Association, California Federation of Teachers, United Administrators of Southern California and California School Employees Association. He is endorsed by Planned Parenthood, California Professional Firefighters, School Police Officers, and the California Democratic Party. "I am proud of what our students have achieved in San Diego and look forward to improving student success across California." BarreraforEdu.com

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Sonja Shaw

California's public schools are failing our children. Fewer than half can read or write at grade level. Girls' fairness is under attack, with female athletes losing medals and scholarships. Many even change in their cars before practice because they feel unsafe in locker rooms. This is unacceptable. As a mother of two daughters, I was elected President of the Chino Valley Unified School Board because parents demanded change. We delivered. When I took office, our district faced the same problems seen across California: poor grades, declining test scores, political distractions in classrooms, and girls losing fairness and privacy. We chose a different path. We refocused on reading, writing, and math. Protected girls' sports and private spaces. Cut bureaucracy. Directed resources back into classrooms. Student outcomes improved, and independent research recognized our district as a model for post-COVID academic

recovery. That success didn't come from Sacramento mandates. It came from parents standing up for common sense. As State Superintendent, I will bring that same leadership statewide as an advocate for students and families, standing up to politicians and special interests to protect the office's independence as voters intended. My plan is simple: restore high academic standards in reading, writing, and math; protect Title IX, ensuring fairness and safety for girls; cut wasteful bureaucracy; and demand fiscal transparency to ensure money reaches classrooms where it belongs, supporting our students and our great teachers. We've proven the blueprint works locally. Let's link arms to deliver for every child. Learn more at ShawForCA.com.

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