The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in shades of blue, red, and white.

# **2020 Primary Voter Guide**

**Indivisible San Diego Persist**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020  
7:00AM to 8:00PM**

**VOTE**

[sdindivisible.com](https://sdindivisible.com)

## 2020 Primary Voter Guide - San Diego, CA

### About us:

Inspired by the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible San Diego Persist is a grassroots coalition dedicated to resisting the Trump agenda. Find us on our [website](#) or on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), & [Instagram](#).

### The Team:

The March 2020 voter guide was compiled by Doug Porter with contributions from volunteers Ed Hayden, Kathy Archibald, Aruna Raj, Sara Kennedy and Steve Bailey. Graphics were created by Julia Willis.

### What you will find in this guide:

- You'll have the opportunity to read a short overview on each candidate and ballot measure and we've provided links for further research if you're so inclined.
- Information used was sourced from public documents and media accounts. Opinions expressed are just there to give readers a better idea of what candidates stand for.

### What you won't find in this guide:

- We're not endorsing in this primary, mostly because there are too many contests with more than one quality candidate.
- We have focused on local races and have not included presidential candidates, as there is already so much information available on the presidential race. Indivisible National has published a [scorecard](#) for insight on the questions asked of each presidential candidates, and how they scored the response of each.
- Because of late filing deadlines, not all financial information in this guide may be up to date. We used "funds raised" rather than "cash on hand" because it's a better measure of support.

### Most importantly...

We want to make sure you vote in the **March 3, 2020** California Primary. We want you to vote *all the way down the ballot*, because tomorrow's leaders are today's not so major candidates. Here's a [helpful link](#) with answers to your questions about the process of voting.



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Along with helping you navigate this voter guide, this page can be printed for notes to take to the polls.

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## 49th Congressional District

### Mike Levin (Democratic Incumbent)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** First-term Democrat in a seat long held by Republicans. Has endorsed the Green New Deal and other progressive legislative proposals.

**Organizational Endorsements:** California Democratic Party, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, 17 Democratic Clubs, Equality California (EQCA), League of Conservation Voters (LCV), NARAL Pro-Choice America, Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), Planned Parenthood Action Fund, California Labor Federation (CLF), San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council, Orange County Labor Federation, + 23 Individual unions.

**Additional info:** Levin's work as an environmental attorney and clean energy advocate were cornerstones of his 2018 campaign. He gained notoriety for sending an illustrated book titled "Climate Change for Beginners" to then-Congressman Rep. Darrell Issa. This time around, the National Republican Congressional Committee says Levin is one of 55 targets for their "Freedom or Socialism" campaign.

**Analysis:** Levin shouldn't take anything for granted, but the overall picture for him in 2020 looks promising. His frequent town halls in the district, work on veterans issues, and foundation of voter support built for him in 2018 should equal success.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$1,923,957.08

### Brian Maryott (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Maryott is Mayor of San Juan Capistrano. He also ran in 2018, finishing eighth overall and behind two other Republicans in the primary.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Deputy Sheriff's Association of SD County. California Republican Party, Republican Parties of Orange and San Diego County, Lincoln Clubs of Orange and San Diego County.

**Additional info:** Running for Congress to restore "common-sense representation" to the 49th Congressional district. Formerly a financial planner.

**Analysis:** Democrat Hillary Clinton carried the 49th in 2016, and there are indications that GOP voters are not all enthused about President Trump, which won't help turnout.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$826,731.96

## 50th Congressional District

### Marisa Calderon (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Marissa Calderon is Executive Director of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, and a graduate of Emerge America's program, which recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office.



**Summary:** A late entry into the race, she originally filed to run in the 53rd Congressional District. She's running on what she calls pocketbook issues, i.e., housing affordability, immigration, and health care.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Adelante California,

**Additional info:** Calderon lives outside the district.

**Analysis:** Lots of people were puzzled by her late entry in the race, but what's even more puzzling was her endorsement by former candidates Josh Butner and Patrick Malloy, "who together received the majority of votes cast for Democrats in the primary election in the 50th" despite losing to Campa-Najjar in 2018.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$0

## Ammar Campa-Najjar (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** In 2018 Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar waged an uphill campaign against incumbent Duncan Hunter, coming within 4 points in a district that favors Trump by 15. Activists have been canvassing the 50th Congressional District for months now, focusing on El Cajon, where strategists believe a boost in turnout could put him over the top come November.

**Organizational Endorsements:** [Indivisible](#), Democratic Party of San Diego + 15 Democratic Clubs, Democracy for America, California League of Conservation Voters, End Citizens United, Equality California, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council + 4 other unions.

**Additional info:** In 2012, Ammar served as Deputy Regional Field Director for the Obama campaign, overseeing Southern California's grassroots operations.

**Analysis:** Campa-Najjar looks to be a good bet to be on the November ballot, in large part because of the number of Republicans vying for the seat.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$1,772,368.41

## Jose Cortes (Peace and Freedom)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** As an activist, he has participated in local campaigns for rent control, the closure of the for-profit concentration camps, and an end to the criminalization of the homeless and poor.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Calls himself a proud Chicano socialist.

**Analysis:** Not showing enough support to register on polls.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$0

## Carl DeMaio (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former San Diego City Councilman and radio talk show host. Lost in races for House of Representative (49th District) and Mayor of San Diego.

**Organizational Endorsements:** California College Republicans.

**Additional info:** DeMaio is a gadfly/reformer, not especially beloved by the GOP.

**Analysis:** He's polling at 3rd, just behind Darrel Issa, pumping out negative ads at his Republican competitor.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$2,437,146.31

## Helen L. Horvath (No Party Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Sees a role for an independent in Congress, able to shut out the partisan politics and focus upon the community's needs.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Seems to be liberal on social issues, believes that climate change is real, and buys into the pre-Trump conservative point of view about government debt.

**Analysis:** Longshot campaign.

**Funds Raised as 12/31/19:** \$0

## Darrell Issa (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former 49th District Congressman who resigned in the face of an Indivisible-led movement against his reactionary politics is now angling for a seat in a more red district.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Riverside Republican Party, National Right to Life.

**Additional info:** Issa has a large fortune, can spend unlimited amounts on ads calling Carl DeMaio a "Never-Trump liberal" and making a deal about his sexuality.

**Analysis:** Likely to make a November runoff against Ammar Campa Najjar.

**Funds Raised:** n/a (Entered race after last reporting period ended)

## Lucinda KWH Jahn (No Party Preference)

~~[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)~~ No Website or Social Media

**Summary:** Lives in Escondido, calls herself an Entertainment Industry Professional.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** [2010 credit](#) for production crew on Beautysleep Symphony (Comedy).

**Analysis:** Not a serious campaign.

**Funds Raised as 12/31/19:** \$0

## Brian W. Jones (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Currently State Senator (38th District), former Santee City Councilman, CA State Assemblymember.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Deputy Sheriffs' Association of SD County, SD Police Officers Association, El Cajon Police Officers Association, Peace Officers Research Association of California, SD Off-Road Coalition, California Republican Assembly.

**Additional info:** Has an A rating from the National Rifle Association, voted against legislation regarding vaccine exemption limitations.

**Analysis:** Has name recognition, popular with local elected officials in East County.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$150,667

## Henry Alan Ota (No Party Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Small farm advocate promises to not seek reelection or spend any time campaigning and asking for money to keep his position in Congress if elected, then goes on to say 4 years is his term limit. (Congressional terms are 2 years).

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Says he will use Blockchain technology to engage all registered voters in the 50th on each and every bill in Congress to determine how he cast votes.

**Analysis:** Vanity campaign.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$0

## Nathan “Nate” Wilkins (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former United States Navy SEAL, recent Congressional Innovation Fellow at the United States House of Representatives Energy & Commerce Committee.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** “I expect to be persecuted for my beliefs, but I will not separate my relationship and belief in God from politics”.

**Analysis:** Not a viable candidate; no name recognition.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$0

## 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

### Juan M Hidalgo, Jr. (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Retired Marine who lost to incumbent in 2016 (73-27%) and 2018 (71-29%).

**Organizational Endorsements:** Imperial County Republican Committee, Republican Party of San Diego County, Combat Veterans for Congress (PAC), Veterans in Defense of Liberty, Mountain Empire Gun Owners Association, San Diego East County Conservatives.

**Additional info:** Was featured speaker at the GOP’s LEXIT rally, where a few Latinos claimed they were leaving the Democratic party.

**Analysis:** Not a chance.

**Funds Raised as 12/31/19:** \$0

### Juan C. Vargas (Incumbent Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** His political career started in 1993 as a San Diego City Councilman., moving on to the State Assembly in 2000, and the State Senate in 2010. He ascended to the House of Representatives in 2012 as part of the political shuffle following San Diego Bob Filner’s election.



**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego County Democratic Party, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council.

**Additional info:** Vargas has been active in promoting the cause of refugees and immigrants.

**Analysis:** Democrats have a 3 to 1 edge in voter registration in the 51st District.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$328,426.60

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

### Nancy L. Casady (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Championing for the Green New Deal. Retired after 20 years as general manager of OB's People's Food Coop. Appointed by Jerry Brown to CA State Food and Agricultural Board.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** [Long history of environmental activism and San Diego politics.](#) [Has organized San Diego Climate Change rallies](#) and attended Al Gore's climate training. She and her husband are officers of the [La Jolla Democratic Club](#).

**Analysis:** Without the funds or endorsements to challenge Peters' household name in this district, she will likely only provide an incentive for climate activists to hold his feet to the fire without an actual challenge.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$7800.88

### Ryan Cunningham (No Party Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Background as public finance banker. Ultra conservative and libertarian views.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Running on immigration enforcement and reducing urbanization of SD, isolationism, free market health care, reducing taxes and deficit, protection against "[tyranny of the government](#)" and sewage from Mexico. Provides social media critiques of Republican DeBello for his soft immigration stance and being "low energy". Calls Democrat Peters "Sneaky Scott". Retweets Breitbart.

**Analysis:** Alt-right choice. Catering to Trump crowd.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$12,040.00

### Jim DeBello (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) / | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former CEO of software company Mitek, when asked about climate change, says "[There is science on both sides.](#)"

**Endorsements:** [Republican Party of San Diego County](#), CAGOP, Pete Wilson.

**Additional info:** Conservative in the role of government, moderate in social issues. Says of Trump "[I don't like the rhetoric but I like the results.](#)", [Co-inventor of mobile check deposit software](#), "21<sup>st</sup> century Republican" (who is skeptical of climate change).

**Analysis:** Recent entry with low name recognition and fundraising in a blue district puts him at a significant disadvantage to incumbent Peters; limited competition in the primary could easily give him the second spot in November.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$279,250.00

## Scott Peters (Incumbent Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Moderate, “practical” Dem representing District 52 since 2013. Background in environmental law.

**Organizational Endorsements:** American Nurses Association, County Democrat Party + 3clubs, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, Downtown San Diego Partnership, End Citizens United, Equality California, International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Southern California District Council, Laborers’ International Union of North America, League of Conservation Voters, Mexican American Business and Professional Association, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Organization for Women PAC, New Democrat Coalition, Peace Officers Research Association of California, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, San Diego Municipal Employees Association, San Diego Police Officers Association, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**Additional info:** [Voice of San Diego background article from 2014](#). He is the only SD area rep in Congress [not supporting Green New Deal](#), due to its college and jobs guarantees. [Supported USMCA](#).

**Analysis:** Well-known Democrat with wide-ranging endorsements, and more than \$2 million cash on hand. Likely to dominate this now solidly blue district, even with some critical of his unwillingness to support more fundamental, structural changes like the GND.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$1,032,680.29

## 53rd Congressional District

*Incumbent Susan Davis is retiring*

## John Brooks (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former Air Marshal; retired Interior Department employee; first African American to graduate from the University of Montana with a degree in wildlife biology.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Website displays a high level of awareness about climate change, the need to adapt to rapidly developing workplace technologies (including universal basic income), and the corrosive impact of dark money in politics.

**Analysis:** Long-shot candidate

**Funds Raised as of 1/21/20 :** \$0

## Jose Caballero (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Veteran for peace; Berniecrat at heart (in the best sense of the word).

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** [Hero’s Promise](#) platform sets him apart; a seven-point bill of rights focused on active duty military and veterans.

**Analysis:** Long-shot candidate with a good message.

Funds Raised as of 12/31/19: \$19,508.31

## Joseph Fountain (No Party Preference)

Website | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Special education teacher.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Website includes positions on three issues: “Complete Federal Legalization of Recreational Marijuana, Immigration-No Person is Illegal, and End Federal Withholding of Income Taxes.”

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

Funds Raised as of 1/21/20: \$0

## Fernando Garcia (No Party Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Small business owner of the green economy (solar) persuasion.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Positions are hybrids of liberal and libertarian policies.

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

Funds Raised as of 12/31/19: No filing with Federal Election Commission.

## Janessa Goldbeck (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Ex-Marine, a policy wonk, and an out queer woman, born and raised in San Diego.

**Organization Endorsements:** Progressive [VoteVets](#) Group

**Additional info:** Website has most detailed list of progressive policy ideas of all the candidates.

**Analysis:** Surprisingly strong campaign team.

Funds Raised as of 9/30/19: \$100,756.67

## Georgette Gomez (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** First LGBTQ Latina elected San Diego City Council President, environmental activist.

**Organization Endorsements:** California Democratic Party, California Federation of Teachers, LGBTQ Victory Fund, California Labor Federation, UNITE HERE, National Union of Healthcare Workers, Laborers International Union, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, BOLD PAC, Equality PAC, SEIU California, California Young Democrats, AAPI Democrats, Poder PAC, Equality California, Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC.

**Additional info:** Very progressive agenda, known for her ability to reach compromise

**Analysis:** Best name recognition, very likely to be on the November ballot.

Funds Raised as of 9/30/19: \$201,263

## Sara Jacobs (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Strong finish as a candidate in the 49th Congressional District in 2018, policy wonk, served in policy positions at the U.S. State Department during the Obama Administration, UNICEF, and the United Nations.

**Organization Endorsements:** Equality California, Run Women Run!, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, American Postal Workers Union Local 197, Tri-State Maxed Out Women PAC, Martin Luther King Jr. Democratic Club of San Diego, Eastlake-Bonita Democratic Club.

**Additional info:** Has deep pockets; grand daughter of Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs.

**Analysis:** Strong contender for second spot on November ballot.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$316,092.09

## Eric Kutner (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Policy and strategy consultant in numerous areas such as national security, education, health care, business, science and technology.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Bills himself as a moderate Democrat.

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$0

## Annette Meza (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Latina educator born and raised in the district.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Bills herself as a Christian Democrat, favors a green new deal “that all parties can agree on.”

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$0

## Michael Oristian (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Software Developer, Musician, Entrepreneur.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Ideas include repealing the Affordable Care Act, including political ideology in equal employment opportunity laws, and supporting charter schools.

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$0

## Famela Ramos (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Hospice nurse and anti-abortion activist.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Originally filed to run in 52nd district, switched when incumbent announced her retirement.

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19 :** \$46,811.88

## **Suzette Santori (Democrat)**

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Retired Navy veteran, active in environmental causes.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Progressive agenda includes ending manufactured wars, immigration reform, earning a living wage, college and university tuition free, and Medicare for All.

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$0

## **Chris Stoddard (Republican)**

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Marine combat veteran; real estate agent.

**Organization Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Supports a woman's right to choose, and believes "we are destroying our planet and there won't be anything left for my grandchildren."

**Analysis:** Extremely long-shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$0

## **Joaquín Vazquez (Democrat)**

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Experienced policy advisor, community organizer, and unapologetic progressive.

**Organization Endorsements:** San Diego Border Dreamers, We the People March San Diego, La Raza Lawyers Association.

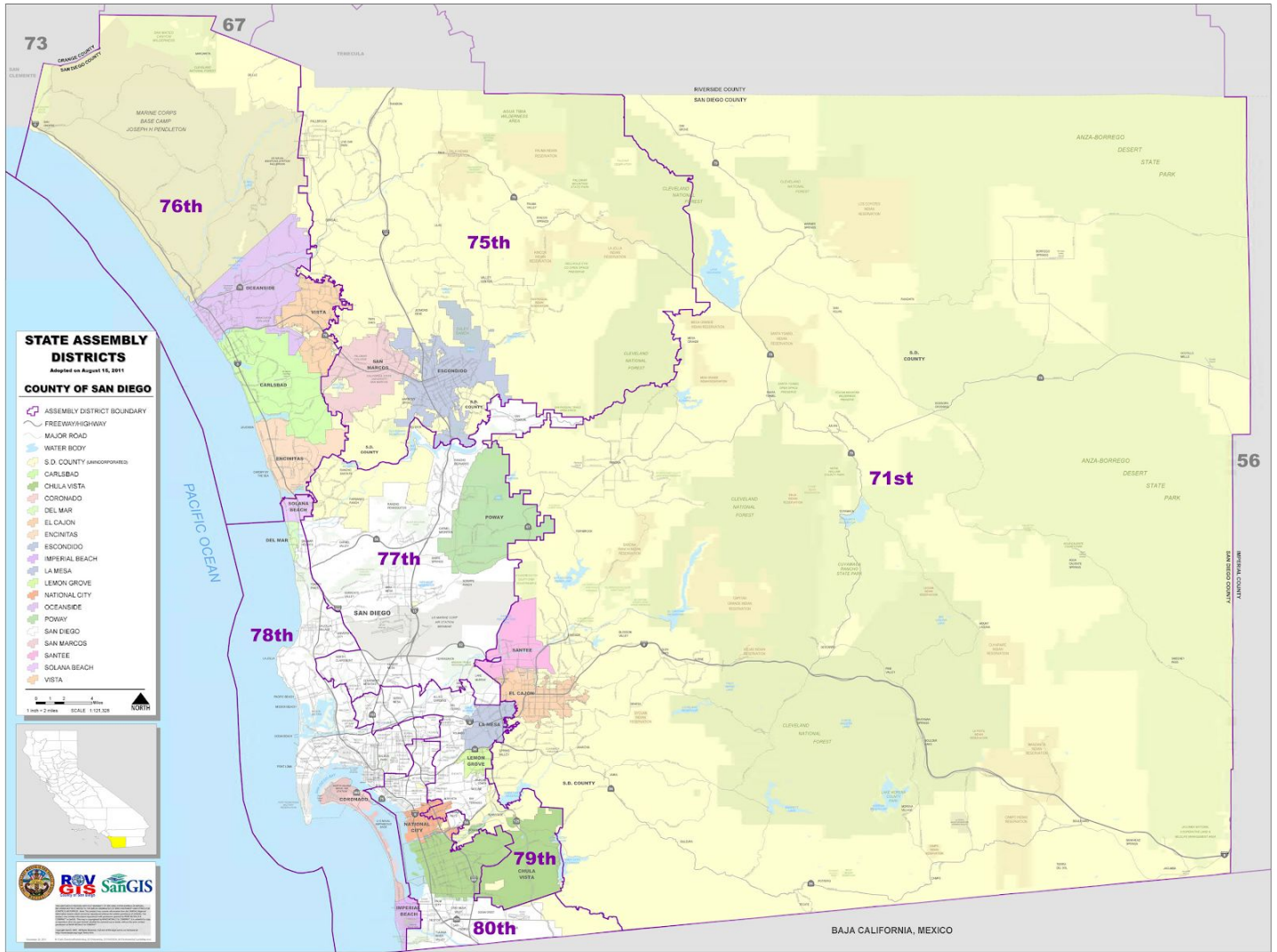
**Additional info:** Supports Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, ending homelessness, Housing and Education for All, a federal jobs guarantee, transportation justice, immigration reform and banning private prisons, while #PuttingPeopleFirst.

**Analysis:** Long shot candidate.

**Funds Raised as of 9/30/19:** \$10,425.43

# California State Assembly Districts

See the detailed map of all our local State Assembly districts [here](#). If you are unsure, check your district [here](#).





## 71<sup>st</sup> State Assembly District – (El Cajon, Ramona, Borrego Springs, etc.)

### Liz “Elizabeth” Lavertu

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Democrat, involved in local progressive causes and organizations.

**Endorsements:** [San Diego County Democratic Party](#), [Run Women Run](#), [San Diego Democrats for Equality](#)

**Additional info:** Running on improving public schools, health care, housing and environment. Co-Chair of the Spring Valley Community Planning Group. Was a [Bernie Sanders delegate](#) for CA’s 53<sup>rd</sup> CD in 2016.

**Analysis:** Great candidate but low name recognition in a district that is +9% Republican; it will be an uphill battle.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$0

### Randy Voepel (Incumbent)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Republican, former [Santee mayor](#). Vietnam veteran, worked as insurance broker.

**Endorsements:** [San Diego County Republican Party](#), [Various Santee and El Cajon Councilmembers](#). Deputy Sheriffs’ Association.

**Additional info:** Conservative running on cutting taxes and red tape with a history of bizarre and insulting statements on topics like climate and Muslim countries as in this [2016 Guardian article](#). His recent public comments and social media appear more humane and helpful.

**Analysis:** Incumbent Republican in a red district may not be a shoe-in but has the clear advantage.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$100,836.35

## 75<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District (Escondido, Temecula, etc.)

### Marie Waldron (Incumbent)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Republican [minority leader](#) of the State Assembly. Background in business, Escondido City Council.

**Endorsements:** [San Diego County Republican Party](#), 2018 endorsements include [California Pro-Life Council](#), [NRA](#).

**Additional info:** [2018 SD Union Tribune Q & A on Issues](#), : [Has been effective in some bipartisan efforts](#), but also champions [gun rights, anti-abortion and other](#) conservative causes and policies. Supported Escondido [2006 immigrant rental ban](#) that was subsequently cancelled by the city after lawsuits from the ACLU and others.

**Analysis:** Well-known in North County San Diego politics for decades, in a +10% Republican district, she’s the one to beat.

**Funds Raised as 12/31/19:** \$475,009.02

### Roger Garcia (Democrat)

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Person with same name shows up on a Bernie Sanders group list from Temecula.

**Endorsements:** None

**Additional info:** No website & FB page has many feel-good puppy posts.

**Analysis:** No chance.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$0

## Karen “Kate” Schwartz (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Behavioral health care provider for 34 years.

**Endorsements:** [California Democratic Party](#), [Run Women Run](#), [Fallbrook Democratic Club](#).

**Additional info:** Supports climate and transportation initiatives like SANDAG’s [5 Big Moves](#), creative affordable housing [solutions](#), and providing [quality and accessible healthcare](#) to all Californians. Elected to [Fallbrook Regional Health District Board](#).

**Analysis:** Low name recognition will make for an uphill battle in the general election, but a solid foundation to show up on the ballot.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$1,349.00

## 76th State Assembly District

### Tasha Boerner Horvath (Incumbent Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former Encinitas City Council member.

**Endorsements:** Run Women Run, Equality California, San Diego County Young Democrats, Emily’s List, San Diego Democratic Party, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council.

**Additional info:** Stood with newly-elected County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher in demanding Tri-City Medical Center reinstate services rendered by behavioral health beds. Not long thereafter a deal was announced to build a new stand-alone psychiatric hospital to replace the units.

**Analysis:** She occupies a vulnerable North County seat previously represented by a Republican. State Democratic lawmakers pitched in enough money to make her #2 in fundraising in the first half of the year to ensure she can keep it. Has been an effective legislator, chances for re-election are good.

**Funds Raised as of 1/29/20:** \$767,072.49

### Melanie Burkholder (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former Secret Service agent turned mental health counselor. Has Phd.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Republican Party, California GOP.

**Additional info:** “Doctor” Burkholder appears regularly as a guest on the KUSI morning show, doling out advice for seasonal issues, like summer parenting and holiday season mindfulness. Court said she couldn’t use Doctor on the ballot.

**Analysis:** Given that there are only two people in this contest, this line up will repeat in November.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** \$39,453.00

## 77th State Assembly District

### Brian Maienschein (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Incumbent who switched from GOP to Democrat in 2019, Former San Diego City Councilman.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Democratic Party, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council.

**Additional Info:** He's big on mental health, education, and animal rights legislation. Republicans are angry at him for being sane.

**Analysis:** Has the advantage of incumbency, a fat political war chest, and being down ballot in a year where the President dominates the news. This contest will repeat in November.

**Funds Raised as of 1/29/20:** \$1,452,609.63

## June Yang Cutter (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Attorney/businesswoman. Calls herself an "Opportunity Republican" who believes that California's best days are ahead.

**Endorsements:** California Republican Party, Republican Party of San Diego County, California Women's Leadership Association PAC, Associated Builders and Contractors – San Diego, San Diego Asian Americans For Equality, Asian American Freedom PAC, New Majority – San Diego, Associated General Contractors – San Diego, Lincoln Club of San Diego.

**Additional info:** Says she will strongly support more lanes on freeways, highways and roads; supports rollbacks of reforms in ballot measures concerning incarceration, and "standing up to special interests".

**Analysis:** Not much name recognition, contest will repeat in November.

**Funds raised as of 1/23/20:** \$205,499.39

## 78th Assembly District

*Incumbent Todd Gloria is running for Mayor of San Diego*

## Sarah Davis (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** California licensed midwife and lactation consultant, small business owner.

**Endorsements:** Democratic Socialists of America, San Diego Chapter.

**Additional info:** "[Queer single mom of an amazing young daughter](#)," promises to use the reproductive justice lens to analyze every bill; will advocate for paid family leave, access to midwives, primary health care providers, and care for seniors.

**Analysis:** Early poll shows her as a strong candidate, good name recognition, opposes bike lanes on 30th Street, a big issue in North Park.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** \$64,331.80

## Micah Perlin (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Climate change activist with a vision encompassing criminal justice reform, affordable housing, and voting rights.

**Endorsements:** Point Loma/OB Democratic Club (rated acceptable).

**Additional info:** Supports public financing for elections, Green New Deal, universal preschool.

**Analysis:** Well known in progressive activist circles, beyond that, not so much.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** \$30,058

## Chris Ward (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego City Councilman, formerly chief of staff for State Senator Marty Block, party establishment favorite.

**Endorsements:** Equality California, California League of Conservation Voters, San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council + 18 Unions/Locals, San Diego Police Officers Association, California Legislative LGBT Caucus, Victory Fund, Consumer Attorneys of California, California Association of Psychiatric Technicians, California Association of Professional Scientists, California State Retirees, Association of California State Supervisors, Unity League of San Diego, California Democratic Party + 7 Democratic clubs.

**Additional info:** Campaigning on childcare/paid family leave, homelessness, climate change, and education.

**Analysis:** Solid name recognition; Will be one of the top two on the November ballot.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** \$526,471.42

## 79th Assembly District

### Carmelita Larrabester (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Real estate broker and motivational speaker.

**Endorsements:** Republican Party of San Diego County.

**Additional info:** 2016 run for City Council in Chula Vista ended when the city clerk was unable to verify 20 signatures on her petition.

**Analysis:** Since she is the GOP-endorsed candidate, will come in second and reappear on November ballot.

**Funds raised as of 1/24/20:** Has not filed with Secretary of State; could mean very low contributions.

### John Moore (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Retired businessman, served in the Air Force and has volunteered for several San Diego area Republican campaigns.

**Endorsements:** None available; website left over from 2018 campaign claims he's endorsed by County Republicans (Not true).

**Additional Info:** Seems obsessed with sex education, crime, and water supply.

**Analysis:** Not actively campaigning.

**Funds raised as of 1/24/20:** Has not filed with Secretary of State; could mean very low contributions.

### Shirley Weber (Democratic Incumbent)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former college professor, known for tenacious campaigns aimed at righting things perceived as wrongs; legislation in the last session on police use-of-force is considered groundbreaking.

**Endorsements:** Democratic Party of San Diego

**Additional info:** She doesn't campaign much, but when you're named Person of the Year (Union-Tribune) and Voice of the Year (Voice of San Diego) it's probably enough to get you re-elected.

**Analysis:** Won re-election by more than 2 to 1 in 2016; don't think it will be any different this time.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** \$233,122.06

## 80th Assembly District

### Lorena Gonzalez (Democratic Incumbent)

Website | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** A dynamic legislator with a national reputation for speaking out in what she believes in; regularly gets legislation done in the face of massive opposition.

**Endorsements:** Democratic Party of San Diego, San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council

**Additional Info:** Actively pushes for pro-worker legislation; hated by Chamber of Commerce-type lobbyists everywhere. Has already declared for Secretary of State position in 2022.

**Analysis:** Controversies over AB5 (gig workers) and scorn from vaxxers won't make a dent in the primary vote. Will have to run again in November.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** \$582,989.00

### Lincoln Pickard (Republican)

Website | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Lincoln Pickard is a perennial Republican candidate who has yet to best 30% in any contest, including two previous stabs at this assembly seat and a San Diego City Council bid against David Alvarez.

**Endorsements:** Nope.

**Additional Info:** Has a pinned tweet that reads: "Banning Muslims is not Anti-American. It was routine before 1952. The Koran & Sharia law call for overthrowing the U.S. Constitution."

**Analysis:** Because he is a member of the local GOP central committee, which endorsed another candidate, Pickard is unable to campaign on his own behalf. Will come in third out of three.

**Funds raised as of 1/24/20:** Has not filed with Secretary of State; could mean very low contributions.

### John J. Vogel (Republican)

Website | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** County of San Diego employee.

**Endorsements:** Republican Party of San Diego.

**Additional Info:** Lost in two previous attempts at running for office--South Bay Irrigation District (2016) and Assembly District 79 (1994).

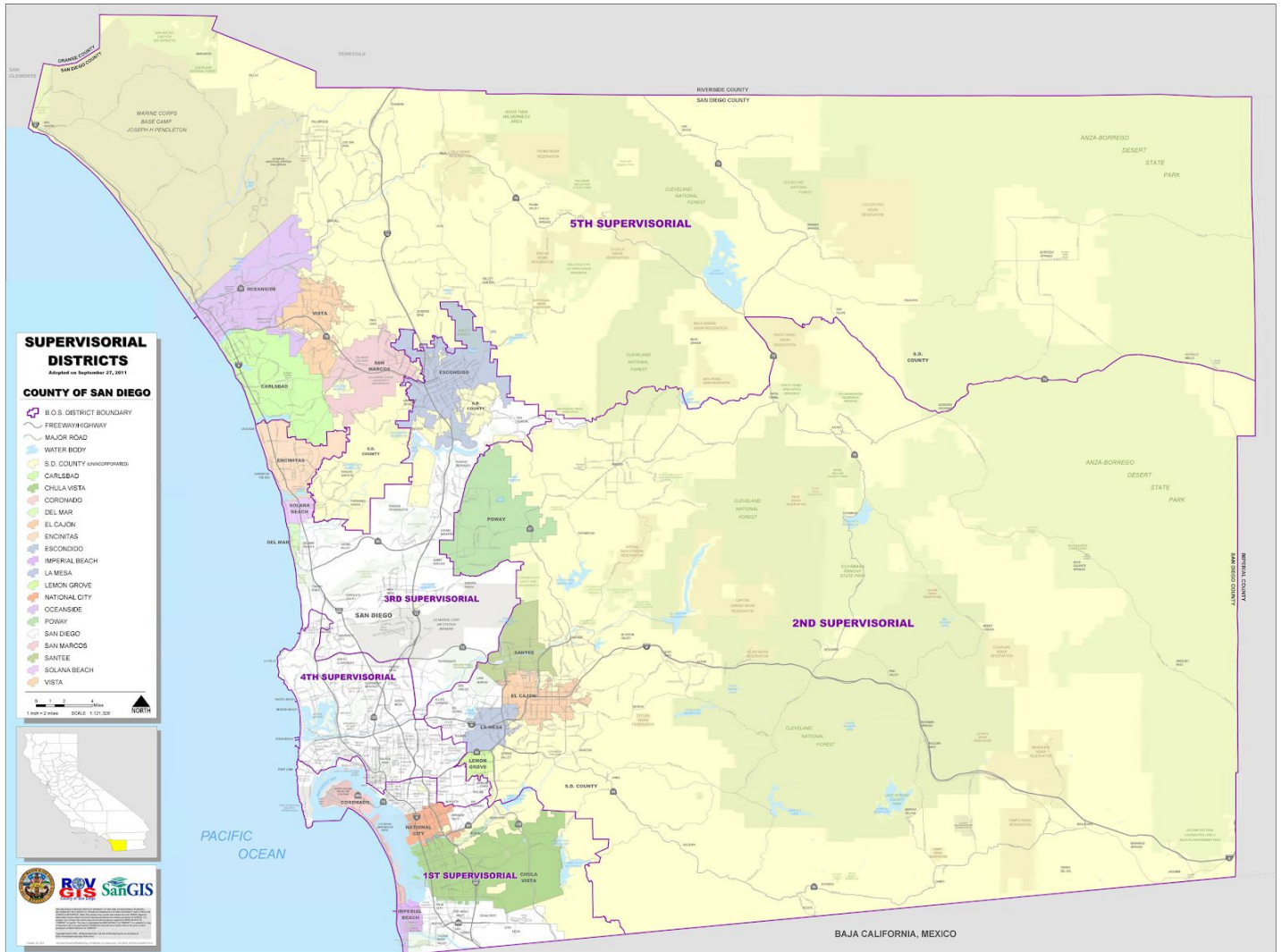
**Analysis:** Will appear again on the ballot in November. Republicans also hoping to use anti-AB 5 sentiment to their advantage in Gonzalez's district. He has made a "full and immediate" repeal of AB 5 the centerpiece of his campaign.

**Funds raised as of 1/24/20:** Has not filed with Secretary of State; could mean very low contributions.

# San Diego County Board of Supervisors

See the detailed map of all our local County Board of Supervisors districts [here](#).

If you are unsure, check your district [here](#).





## County Board of Supervisors – District 1 (Point Loma, Coronado, Chula Vista, IB etc.)

### Henry Belisle

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** No information available.

**Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Website has minimal information.

**Analysis:** No chance.

**Funds Raised 12/31/19:** \$0

### Rafael Castellanos (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego Port Commissioner, business and real estate attorney.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Sierra Club, Longshore Workers Union – ILWU Local 29 + 5 local unions, San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action + 3 other Democratic Clubs, Sierra Club, San Diego Deputy Sheriffs' Association, Chula Vista Police Officers Association, San Diego Harbor Police Officers Association, La Raza Lawyers Association, San Diegans Against Crime, SD Deputy District Attorneys Association, SD County Probation Officers Association, Environmental Health & Justice Campaign, Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors, Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce of SD.

**Additional info:** Focusing on economic opportunity, housing and environment. Championed the Port's Climate Action Plan. Proposed '[Hope & Home' plan](#) to invest in infrastructure to create affordable housing. Faced a [2010 sexual harassment accusation](#) that ended in the accuser releasing him from claims. [2020 Union Tribune Q & A](#). [2015 Voice of San Diego article and podcast with great background](#). [Self-authored commentary in UT on climate change](#).

**Analysis:** Competitive and large field; he has a solid base, good name recognition, good chance to be in the top two.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$339,958.94

### Alex Galicia (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Navy and Army National Guard veteran, owner of a plumbing business, 20 years in travel industry.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Republican Party of San Diego County.

**Additional info:** None available

**Analysis:** Even though he seems to be the only Republican in the race, with next to no funding and name recognition, and multiple well-known competitors, he will have no chance.

**Funds Raised as 12/31/19:** \$1924.50

### Ben Hueso (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former City Councilmember, Assemblymember, now State Senator.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local 230.

**Additional info:** Previous business and community redevelopment experience; appointed to Coastal Commission while on the City Council. Serves on senate environmental, bi-national affairs, etc. committees. Advocated for clean-up of Tijuana River Valley, and against [Trump's "sanctuary state" law](#). [Apologized for 2014 DUI](#). Has been

criticized for [past misleading statements](#) and [receiving \\$24,000 from loan providers prior to lending practices vote. 2020 Union Tribune Q & A.](#)

**Analysis:** Very competitive race – he may struggle to get in the top two.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$210,401.00

## Camilo Marquez

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** n/a.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Realtor.

**Analysis:** No website or social media presence. No chance.

**Funds Raised:** \$0

## Sophia Rodriguez (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego County Human Services Specialist.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** BA in History from UCSD, was homeless for a time. [Familiar with county issues](#) as a county worker, wants to increase connection of low income families with housing and [food programs](#). Also focusing on transit, increasing minimum wage, pro-immigration, etc. [2020 Union Tribune Q & A.](#)

**Analysis:** Interesting, fresh perspective, but lack of experience, name recognition or specific new policy suggestions within a crowded field will make it difficult for this newcomer to get on the November ballot.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$7,232.00

## Nora Vargas (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Democrat, currently a VP at Planned Parenthood, [Southwestern College Governing Board member.](#)

**Organizational Endorsements:** Planned Parenthood Action Fund of the Pacific Southwest

Democratic Woman's Club of SD County + 5 Democratic clubs, SD National Organization for Women, California School Employees Association Chapters 386 & Chapter 724, Run Women Run, Environmental Health & Justice Campaign, Engage San Diego Action Fund.

**Additional info:** [2020 Union Tribune Q & A.](#) Wants to prioritize protecting the vulnerable and providing necessary services for those in transition while keeping the county solvent. Community organizer; progressive on social justice, healthcare, education. Innovative ideas on [food insufficiency](#). [Advocates for big picture](#) on housing crisis and cross-border sewage issue. Says she understands the idea behind Measure A ("SOS"), but says it is not the right answer – [the county should be responsible but also held accountable.](#)

**Analysis:** Solid background, experience, endorsements and funds. Has a good chance to be in the top two.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$213,175.00

## Tony Villafranca - No Political Preference

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Realtor, [anti-abortion](#) anti-[LGBT](#), social media promotes [conspiracy theories](#).

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Has [run for offices](#) in SD, not been elected. Social media theme is “Gods, Guns, Babies. Vote Trump, Vote Pence, Vote Villafranca.”

**Analysis:** Reactionary, anti-LGBT views and social media lies will hopefully ensure a fate similar to his past runs.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$2,068.00

## County Board of Supervisors – District 2

(La Mesa, Ramona, Julian, Pine Valley, etc.)

*Incumbent County Supervisor Dianne Jacob is leaving office after 28 years because of term limits.*

### Joel Anderson (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former State Assemblymember and State Senator.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego County Republican Party, San Diego County Gun Owners.

**Additional info:** Authored and championed numerous state bills, including bipartisan efforts such as Iran divestment, data privacy, refugee protections as well as numerous solidly conservative ones. History of [campaign finance violations and creative loophole usage](#). [2011 “Legislator of the Year” at Koch-funded corporate interest group ALEC, early Trump supporter](#). Advocated for 2014 expulsion of Senate Democrats indicted for crimes such as corruption, perjury but [supported then-indicted Rep. Duncan Hunter "100 percent"](#) in 2019. [Reprimanded for saying he wanted to 'bitch slap' a lobbyist in a bar](#) in 2018. [Self authored article](#) highlighting bills aimed at homelessness, mental health advocacy.

**Analysis:** Well-known legislator with a long history of questionable integrity and documented violations, may have the clout and funding to be the top dog.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$149,108.82

### Brian Sesko (No Political Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** [Realtor and general contractor](#), rancher.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a

**Additional info:** [Lakeside Community Planning Group Chair](#). Concerns per website include BOS night meetings for public access, reducing county government and regulations, funding explanations, more sheriff presence in schools and cooperation with ICE.

**Analysis:** Slim chance.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$0

### Kenya Taylor (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Marriage and family therapist, San Diego NAACP Executive Committee member.

**Organizational Endorsements:** [Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest](#), [Democratic Woman's Club of San Diego County](#), [San Diego County Democratic Party](#), [SD Environmental Dems](#).

**Additional info:** Membership Chair of the [Black Women's Institute for Leadership Development](#). Focused on [mental health](#), [economic opportunity](#), and [progressive solutions](#) to economic, health and other issues like green jobs, early intervention, long-term homelessness solutions. Opposes Cottonwood and El Monte sand mines.

**Analysis:** Virtual unknown with not much funding in a district with about [13,000 more](#) Reps than Dems. With possible high Dem turnout in March, she has a chance to squeak through if Reps are split on the remaining choices.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$27,753.91

## Steve Vaus (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Republican, current mayor of Poway. Background as recording artist ([aka Buck Howdy](#)).

**Organizational Endorsements:** Deputy Sheriffs' Association of SD County, El Cajon Police Officers' Association, Fraternal Order of Police SD, SD County Probation Officers Association, SD Against Crime, SD Deputy District Attorneys Association, Associated General Contractors, Associated Builders & Contractors, SD Lincoln Club.

**Additional info:** Active in the Poway community for decades, Chair of SANDAG. Running on [safety from crime and fire, fiscal conservancy, good roads, allowing development where appropriate](#), and being [accessible to the community](#). Gun rights advocate, as in his [2016 song "Come and Take It"](#). Generally praised for his response to [the 2019 shooting at Poway synagogue](#), questionably criticized [by some for response to Poway boil water advisory](#). Mysteriously [conceded the endorsement of the San Diego County Republican Party](#). Accused of opaque accounting with his [Christmas benefit concert](#).

**Analysis:** Good ol' local boy without the baggage Anderson has, with solid financial backing and slick presentation, he could very well lead the pack.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$399,852.00

## County Board of Supervisors – District 3

(Encinitas, Carmel Valley, Escondido, Tierra Santa, etc.)

## Olga Diaz (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Escondido City Councilmember, Interim Dean of Counseling at Palomar Community College.

**Organizational Endorsements:** A dozen local Democratic clubs, Escondido Firefighters Union, Run Women Run, IBEW Local Union 569, Ironworkers Local 229, UA Local 230, San Diego County Probation Officers Association, San Diego Deputy District Attorneys Association, San Diegans Against Crime, Teamsters 911 San Diego, Engage San Diego Action Fund, Climate Defenders Action Fund.

**Additional info:** Hard-working and progressive voice for [climate action](#), housing, health care, immigrant rights and transportation, who is willing to [look at both sides of an issue](#), but will ["not lose my humanity"](#). [Experience on various community boards](#). Entered politics in 2006 [when a short-lived immigrant rental ban](#) heightened already-strained race relations in Escondido; she weathered insults as a [coffee shop owner](#), ran for City Council and lost in 2006, then won a seat in 2008. [Supports Measure A \(SOS\)](#). [2019 Q & A and endorsement with progressive news site Allianza North County - Part 1 & Part 2](#).

**Analysis:** Plenty of local experience, familiarity and good fundraising give her a solid shot.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$165,699.32

## Kristin Diane Gaspar (Incumbent Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Former Encinitas City Councilmember and Mayor, businesswoman.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Republican Party of San Diego County, San Diego Asian-Americans for Equality, SD County Medical Society, SD Deputy Sheriff's Association, North County Association of Realtors.

**Additional info:** Opposes SANDAG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) citing feasibility, and SANDAG biking and mass transit initiatives over fiscal concerns. [Strong anti-union messaging](#). [Opposed opening satellite voting offices to alleviate long lines](#). Joined with Trump and appeared on FOX to advocate the SD Supervisors joining [lawsuit against CA "sanctuary" law](#), and voted to [green light Trump's handling of asylum seekers](#). Advocate for trafficking victims, but multiple concerns over [lack of transparency and possible conflicts of interest](#).

**Analysis:** Registered Dems now surpass Reps by [25,000](#) voters in District 3. She will likely make the general as Dem votes are split in the primary, but will face a challenge in November.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$379,450.11

## Terra Lawson-Remer (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Economist, [community organizer](#), environmental attorney.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council + 7 local labor unions (Incl. SEIU, which represents County workers), SD County Democrats for Environmental Action + 10 Democratic clubs, LGBTQ Victory Fund, Equality California.

**Additional info:** Worked as a Senior Advisor in the Obama Administration on environmental regulations as well as for Amnesty International. [Honored for work on economic and social rights](#). Spearheaded "Flip the 49<sup>th</sup>" to help stop the Trump agenda. [Research Fellow at UCSD](#). Advocates for strong [Climate Action Plan](#). Authored numerous articles such as [this one on global governance and natural resources](#).

**Analysis:** Grew up in San Diego, made the news in 1997 as plaintiff in successful challenge of SD curfew law, no experience in local government, but the breadth and depth of her experience elsewhere, plus her funding prowess make her the one to beat overall.

**Funds Raised thru 12/31/19:** \$251,175.70

[plus \$243,000.00 for Independent committee via 'friends of TLR sponsored by Laborers Local 89]

## City of San Diego - Mayor

### Barbara Bry (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** City Councilmember, former high-tech entrepreneur and journalist.

**Endorsements:** Uptown Democratic Club, Run Women Run, Save San Diego Neighborhoods.

**Additional info:** Advocates for regulations on [short term rentals](#) and [scooters](#) (such as a ban on boardwalks), SDSU West, transparency, and a global approach to homelessness. [Opposed SB 330](#) over concerns of neighborhood growth and losing local control. Opposed to [SB 50](#) (increasing housing density) and [AB5](#) ('gig workers' bill). [Founded Run Women Run](#), which encourages women to run for office, and [Athena](#), empowering women in STEM fields. [Championing CCA](#), which allows the city renewable energy options. Despite all the talk, she and Todd Gloria have much in common on [housing development decisions](#). [2019 Union Tribune Q & A podcast](#).

**Analysis:** She has a solid chance to be in the top two, in a heavily Democratic demographic, but some Republicans she could have courted may now shift to Sherman, who entered relatively recently.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$529,000

### Todd Gloria (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Democrat, current State Assemblymember and [Majority Whip](#), former City Councilmember, Interim Mayor.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego Democratic Party + 9 Democratic Clubs, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council + 9 Union Locals, California Restaurant Association, Engage San Diego Action Fund, Equality California, National Latino Peace Officers Association, San Diego Climate Defenders Action Fund, San Diego County Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Hotel-Motel Association, San Diego Police Officers Association, Victory Fund.

**Additional info:** Advocates for a [global approach to homelessness](#), with a focus on housing solutions like [AB2372](#), which he introduced. Supports SANDAG's proposed [5 Big Moves](#). Has [championed transparency, increasing minimum wage, and aggressive climate action](#). Backed CA bills to support [the Green New Deal, transit, and recycled water](#). Authored the current [City Climate Action Plan as Interim Mayor](#) and supported [CCA](#). Has been criticized for poor attention to detail in handling a [campaign finance issue](#), for which he [paid a \\$200 fine](#). Despite all the talk, he and Barbara Bry have much in common on [housing development decisions](#). [2019 Union Tribune Q & A Podcast](#).

**Analysis:** The front runner in polls and fundraising, he will be the one to beat.

**Funds Raised as of 1/18/20:** \$1,085,293

### Rich Riel ("Hogwash Party"-- Not Recognized in CA)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** [Anti-establishment candidate](#).

**Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** History of [suing the city](#). Encourages looking to private sector and City Council to solve problems [instead of the Mayor](#).

**Analysis:** No chance.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$16,674.00 (mostly self-funded)



## Scott Sherman (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** City Councilmember, boater, former insurance company owner.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Republican Party of San Diego County.

**Additional info:** Running on accountability, common sense, more police and fiscal stability. Anti-bike-lane. Championed Linda Vista Skate Park, and supportive of SD River Park. Supports property rights, and fought against short-term rental ban. Running on reducing regulations to spur housing and increasing enforcement of crimes by the homeless. Championed Measure D, increasing independence of the city auditor. [2018 Voice of San Diego Podcast](#).

**Analysis:** As the only Republican candidate, has a good chance of being in the top two, though Democrats outnumber Republicans by a 2 to 1 margin, so it's definitely not a guarantee.

**Funds Raised as of 2/1/20:** \$170,329

## Gina Appelbaum Singh (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Democrat, media host, Family Nurse Practitioner.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Was a write-in candidate for mayor in 2016 receiving [zero votes](#). [2016 qualification statement](#). Facebook page mentions universal health coverage, global warming and ending homelessness.

**Analysis:** No chance.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$0

## Tasha Williamson (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Co-founder of the San Diego Compassion Project, activist.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Started the [Compassion Project](#) to supporting families of homicide victims, for which she won a [California Peace Prize](#). Advocate for [police accountability and transparency](#), including being [arrested while protesting at a City Council meeting in National City](#), subsequently [suing the city for excessive force](#), a claim supported by video footage. Founded Urban League's [Block by Block](#) program which helps young people find alternatives to gangs. Spoke at 2019 Women's March, where she [announced her candidacy](#) for mayor. Critical issues are [homelessness, violence and having the mayor serve all people](#). Supports an option of [prayer in schools, and is critical of the Democratic Party for a lack of response to racism and inequality](#). [2019 Union Tribune Q & A podcast](#).

**Analysis:** Honorable work and background, but very slim chance compared to other better-known and more experienced candidates.

**Funds Raised as of 12/31/19:** \$675.00

## San Diego City Attorney

### Cory Briggs (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** A high profile attorney who has sued developers and several public entities, including the city of San Diego over regulatory and environmental issues. He often represents nonprofits in litigation. Was a subject of a series of critical stories by [inewsourc](#) about his relationships with non-profit plaintiffs. Nothing came of it.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Save San Diego Neighborhoods, Downtown Democratic Club.

**Additional info:** [Union-Tribune interview](#). A [major critic](#) of incumbent City Attorney Mara Elliott, who he accuses of consistently giving the city bad legal advice and lacking transparency. Has current lawsuits pending against the city including one to recover trash collection fees from commercial businesses like Airbnb and URBO who use the single family houses as part of their business plan (single-family homes used as a residence are not subject to trash collection fees). Has also sued the city over the use of smart street lights for failure to disclose records those lights generate. The city [disputes the claims](#).

**Analysis:** Politics aside - one either likes him or doesn't. He has spent his career suing government entities. Can he now change stripes and defend them? Brings to mind how former city attorney Mike Aguirre stirred the pot during his term of office. Put another way, can a critic write a play? Or do his criticisms of Mara Elliott justify a rewrite? Significant self funding; over \$100,000 loaned to his campaign.

**Funds Raised as of 1/25/20:** \$63,946.00

### Mara Elliott (Incumbent Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego's first woman city attorney. Stated priorities include preventing gun violence, protecting victims of abuse and sex trafficking, safeguarding taxpayer dollars, holding polluters accountable and defending consumers and seniors. Gauging her effectiveness in these endeavors is hard to objectively establish.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego County Democratic Party, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, Run Women Run, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, National Women's Political Caucus, Emily's List, San Diego City Firefighters.

**Additional info:** She has been an effective advocate for utilizing gun restraining orders in domestic violence cases.

[Union-Tribune interview](#).

**Analysis:** Has maintained her broad base of Democratic support for retention as city attorney. Will face Cory Briggs again in November.

**Funds Raised as of 1/25/20:** \$304,695.90

### Pete Mesich

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Mesich has civil and criminal law experience including litigation, land-use and environmental law, in private practice as well as a deputy city attorney. His stated goal is to get politics out of the city attorney's office. His philosophy is that the city attorney should be more of a legal advisor than a political leader.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

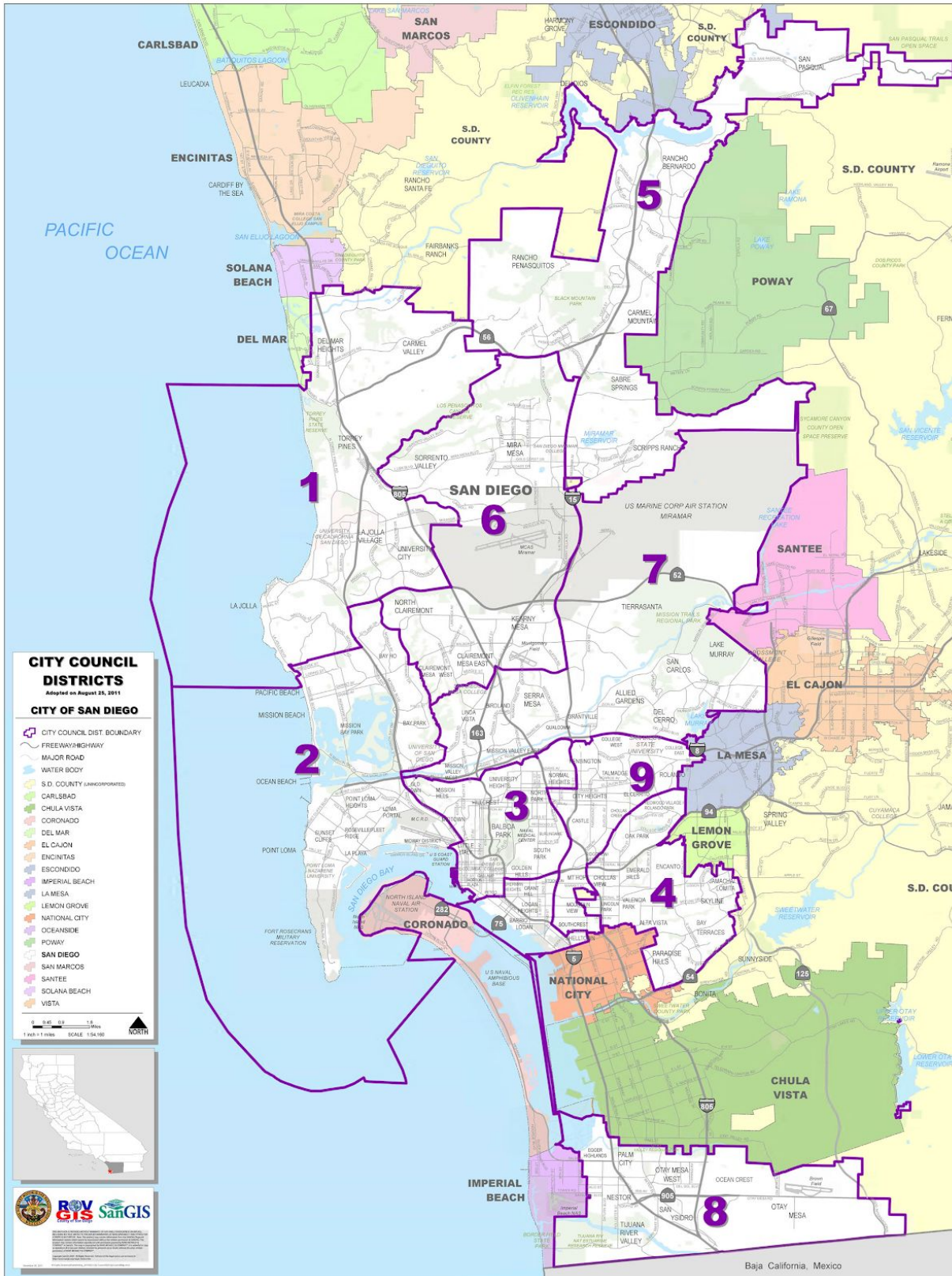
**Additional info:** The City Attorney's Office has lost over 100 deputy city attorneys in the past six years; "When politics play a role in a municipal law firm, the legal work, and law firm management, is not the priority of the office. Attorneys become cautious, and don't seek promotion, where attention to themselves could be negative, or the next city attorney may purge them." [Union-Tribune interview](#)

**Analysis:** Without meaningful endorsements or political backing it is hard to see how this dark horse candidate can win. He does have significant experience in the operations of the City Attorney's office.

**Funds Raised as of 1/25/20:** \$0

# San Diego City Council

See the detailed map of all our local City Council districts [here](#). If you are unsure, check your district [here](#).



## City Council District 1

*Incumbent Barbara Bry is running for Mayor*

### Aaron Brenan (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego Firefighter and Naval Reserve Officer.

**Organization Endorsements:** San Diego Police Officers Association, San Diego City Firefighters Association, Local 145, Municipal Employees Association, Veterans Democratic Club of San Diego, San Diego State University College Democrats.

**Additional Info:** Elected trustee on the La Jolla Town Council. [Union-Tribune Interview](#)

**Analysis:** Running a strong campaign. “The system is broken and buying an indoor skydiving building and calling that success for helping homeless people is not the answer.”

**Funds Raised as of 1/30/20:** \$76,590.08

### Joe LaCava (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego native, civil engineer by trade; participated in local politics by sitting on more than 20 civic boards, planning groups and commissions; active in social and environmental causes.

**Organization Endorsements:** Save San Diego Neighborhoods, Sierra Club San Diego, National Electrical Contractors Association, San Diego City Lifeguards, Teamsters Local 911, San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action.

**Additional Info:** Knows local government nuts and bolts. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Good name recognition, activist support.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$96,053.20

### Will Moore (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Small business attorney, social justice advocate

**Organizational Endorsements:** Carmel Valley Democrats, YIMBY Democrats, La Raza Lawyers Association, San Diego Blue Dream Democrats.

**Additional info:** Founding member of Business For Good – an organization of small business owners working for policies that improve our community. Has also served on the boards of the San Diego Leadership Alliance, The Urban League Young Professionals, and the American Constitution Society. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Deep connections in business and professional circles, has cred with activists. Self funding \$47,000 in addition to contributions

**Funds Raised as of 1/18/20:** \$95,289.60

### Sam Nejabat (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Small businessman who wants to give back to the community.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.



**Additional info:** Recently appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to the Board of Directors overseeing the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Grew up in San Diego after his family fled Iran in 1979, worked in the Obama Administration.

[Union-Tribune Interview.](#)

**Analysis:** Running strong door-to-door campaign. Self funding \$100,000 in addition to contributions.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$161,736.00

## Harid Puentes (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Tech executive; leadership role with the CONNECT program, which seeks to provide resources for startup business via mentorships, education, collaboration, and access to capital. He's the tech candidate.

**Organizational endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Experiences include working as a management consultant for venture capitalists and entrepreneurs in London, marketing for a startup trying to tackle the student debt crisis by turning it into a digital game and serving as regional director for a global non-profit.

**Analysis:** Campaign doesn't appear to be going anywhere. [Union-Tribune Interview.](#)

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$30,692.00

## Louis Rodolico (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Environmental journalist and pro-bono activist. Retired from a career as a California-licensed architect in 2015.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Past projects included hospital projects, renovation of the Grant Hotel in San Diego and bringing the Viejas Gymnasium to completion. [Union-Tribune Interview.](#)

**Analysis:** Not likely to get many votes.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** Filed document saying he'd raised less than \$2000.

## James P. Rudolph (Democrat)

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Business attorney, born and raised in San Diego. Dad opened Harry's Coffee Shop in La Jolla in 1960.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Worked at the U.S. Agency for International Development and Department of State, as human rights officer. [Union-Tribune Interview.](#)

**Analysis:** Calls himself a more moderate Democrat than the others.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$1,250.00

## Lily Zhou (No Party Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Restaurant entrepreneur, produced Chinese television program, the first one to be available on mobile phones.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Doesn't believe in minimum wage. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Not grounded in reality; campaign statements are platitudes.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$3707.22

## City Council District 3

### Toni Duran (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Worked in the local state Assembly and Senate offices of Toni Atkins, including housing issues, as well as issues concerning women, veterans, the LGBTQ+ community, human trafficking, and arts and culture.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Run Women Run.

**Additional info:** Advocating for creation of a new mechanism for community and neighborhood feedback, namely a Neighborhood Leadership Group (NLG) to ensure residents are able to fully understand and participate in important issues far in advance of when decisions are made. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Word on the street is that her door-to-door campaign is working hard to persuade voters.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$51,971.60

### Adrian Kwiatkowski (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Advocate & lobbyist whose role in shaping policy with non-profits has touched just about every San Diegan.

**Organizational Endorsements:** n/a.

**Additional info:** Past advocacy efforts include Clean Needle Exchange, Strong Mayor-Council Form of City Government, Smoke-Free Beaches and Parks Ordinance, VA San Diego Aspire Center for Veterans with PTSD & Traumatic Brain Injury, La Jolla Harbor Seal Popping Season Beach Closure and Guideline Rope. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Campaign appears to be going nowhere. Significant amount of self funding through contributions & loans.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$56,807

### Michelle Nguyen (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Military reservist recruited to run for office by local Republican Party.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce, San Diego County Gun Owners, San Diego Republican Party.

**Additional info:** Background in contract negotiations and management. Was unavailable for Union-Tribune Interview, [Interview at "San Diego News Desk"](#), a media creation of the San Diego GOP.

**Analysis:** There aren't many Republican-inclined voters in the third district.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$4,550



## Chris Olsen (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Worked for San Diego's Independent Budget Analyst and is a faculty member at SDSU lecturing on fiscal policy.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Bike San Diego, YIMBY Democrats, Downtown San Diego Partnership.

**Additional info:** Plan for homelessness is three-pronged, housing-first, including: Rapidly re-housing the newly homeless who have suffered a financial setback or medical emergency, permanent supportive housing and long-term, needs-based assistance for the chronically homeless, and bringing services and housing directly to people citywide. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Is up against a lot of NIMBYism in the neighborhood of the third district. Significant amount of self funding through contributions & loans.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$31,123.00

## Stephen Whitburn

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Non profit manager currently with Red Cross. Volunteer work has included serving on advisory panels for the City and County of San Diego, the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation Board of Directors, the Greater San Diego Business Association Advocacy Committee, and as Vice Chair of the North Park Planning Committee.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego County Democratic Party +11 Democratic clubs, San Diego Unity League, National Union of Healthcare Workers, Municipal Employees Association, SD Police Officers Association, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Unite Here Local 30, Laborers' Union Local 89.

**Additional info:** Has run for office twice, losing to Todd Gloria in 2008 by a narrow margin for the D3 Council seat, and in 2010, coming up short in an attempt to unseat County Supervisor Ron Roberts. Significant amount of self funding through contributions & loans [Union-Tribune interview](#).

**Analysis:** Institutional support and name recognition all but guarantee a spot on the November ballot.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$90,185.00

## City Council District 5

*Incumbent Councilmember Mark Kersey is termed out.*

## Joe Leventhal (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Attorney with national law firm Dinsmore, served as City of San Diego Ethics Commissioner. Worked as an aide to former Vice President Dick Cheney.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Republican Party of San Diego, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Asian Americans for Equality, Associated Builders and Contractors of San Diego, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association.

**Additional info:** Proposing Safe Schools Initiative tasking community planning groups with examining the areas within a half-mile of all K-12 schools in the City with the goal of increasing safe access. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** This could be an uphill contest as Democrats now outnumber Republicans in D5. The GOP is going all-out to keep this seat.

**Funds raised as of 1/23/20:** \$205,847.00

## Simon Moghadam (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Restaurant owner, calls himself “Fiscal conservative, social liberal, and intellectual independent.”

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Has a unique perspective on governance, driven in part by a lack of knowledge about the particulars of issues. Speculated in UT interview that Father Joe is a chubby guy in a wheelchair getting rich off the homeless. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Won't do well enough to make it to the general election.

**Funds raised as of 12/31/19:** Filed paperwork saying he expects to raise less than \$2000.

## Marni Von Wilpert (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** San Diego Deputy City Attorney, served in the Peace Corps. Says she's running to put “People over politics.”

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council, San Diego City Firefighters Association, Local 145, San Diego Municipal Employees Association, Laborers International Union, Local 89, National Latino Peace Officers Association, National United Healthcare Workers, Run Women Run, Sierra Club San Diego, Bike SD, San Diego County Democratic Party + 11 Democratic clubs.

**Additional info:** Founded a legal clinic, with the Mississippi Center for Justice, to combat discrimination, assist people living with HIV/AIDS and help people lift themselves out of poverty. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** She will make it to the general election in November, has much activist support.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$122,805.90

## Isaac Wang (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Technology worker, says he cares less about ideology and more about making sure the city studies nationwide best practices and implements solutions that work.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None listed.

**Additional info:** Understands the limited future for cars as we know them now, sees retail malls disappearing soon, says they could be replaced with housing. Self described YIMBY [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** A visionary urbanist whose chances at getting elected this time around aren't great. Somebody to watch in the future. Self funding with \$15,000 in loans.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$14,858.00

## District 7

*Incumbent Scott Sherman is termed out.*

## Raul Campillo (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** A young candidate who has two years as an elementary school teacher, three plus as a law associate and two years presently as a deputy city attorney. A Harvard Law School graduate who worked on the Obama and Hillary campaigns. His political connections are obviously strong.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego County Democratic Party + 7 Democratic clubs, Sierra Club, San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council + 5 local labor unions, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, San Diego Municipal Employees Association, San Diego Deputy City Attorneys Association, The Unity League, San Diego La Raza Lawyers.

**Additional info:** One of only four attorneys assigned to obtain Gun Violence Restraining Orders in court in the city of San Diego, helping enforce the state's "Red Flag" laws. [Union Tribune Interview:](#)

**Analysis:** Raul is the young establishment favorite who may be looking beyond this entry level office. Democrats now have a 13 point lead in voter registration in this district, and the party has gone all in for this candidate. Will be on the November ballot.

**Funds raised as of 1/29/20:** \$121,574.38 (This amount includes an unusual and very large 56% from out of state and out of San Diego County sources, not obviously connected to the D7 race or issues.)

## Monty McIntyre (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Monty is a lawyer since 1980 and a long time mediator. He lives in Tierrasanta. He is a past president of the San Diego County Bar Association active in his community.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None listed.

**Additional info:** Campaign slogan is "Because City Hall Must Do Better." [Union-Tribune interview:](#)

**Analysis:** Monty is the more low-key moderate mature non-political candidate; unlikely to make it past the primary.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$73,742.00

## Wendy Wheatcroft (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Has a 15-year career, which includes being an elementary school teacher, progressive leader and community advocate for groups like [Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America](#), and in the founding of the country's largest local gun violence prevention coalition ([San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention](#)). She is recognized for her zeal and dedication in the things she believes in by leaders at every level of government.

**Organizational Endorsements:** SDSU College Democrats, Run Women Run!, National Women's Political Caucus, Moms in Office, Black Mountain Democratic Club, BIKESD.

**Additional info:** A truly progressive platform of big ideas for gun violence prevention, housing/homeless, environment, transit/infrastructure. [Union-Tribune interview](#)

**Analysis:** Wendy Wheatcroft is the gutsy mom gun safety progressive advocate leader. Wendy has proven leadership skills and some impressive backing. Will this be another successful year for women candidates over privileged and connected men? Has a *chance* of being on November ballot, matched against another Democrat because of strong door-to-door effort.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$123,805.90

## Noli Zosa (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Founder of Dirty Birds restaurants, has served on 17 city and community boards, commissions, and boards.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego Republican Party, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Southern California Rental Housing Association, San Diego County Lincoln Club, San Diego Asian Americans for Equality, California Restaurant Association, National Electrical Contractors Association, Associated Builders and Contractors (SD Chapter), New Majority San Diego Chapter.

**Additional info:** Has significant support from Asian-Americans in the region. [Union-Tribune interview](#)

**Analysis:** Republican party considers his candidacy a good opportunity. Biggest early fundraising numbers of any city council candidate. Likely to be on the November ballot.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$202,372.00

## District 9

*(Incumbent Councilwoman Georgette Gomez is running for Congress)*

### Kelvin Barrios

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Director of Policy for LiUNA (Laborers) Local 89, Former Council Rep/Policy Advisor for Georgette Gomez.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, LiUNA Local 777, SEIU Local 221, Unite Here Local 30, Operating Engineers Local 12, National Union of Healthcare Workers, San Diego Democrats for Equality, Blue Dream Democrats.

**Additional info:** He's the candidate of organized labor, they are knocking on doors for him.

**Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

**Analysis:** Georgette Gomez has endorsed her former employee; it's likely some support is coming thru union-funded PACs. Likely to make the November ballot, despite [admitting and paying fine](#) for unlawfully buying food and clothes with money he controlled as a campaign treasurer in 2016 and 2017.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$33,595.60

### Sam Bedwell (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Grew up as a military brat, has lived all over the world. Has a law degree from Cal Western. Signed up to run as write-in candidate in 2016; received zero votes.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** "I am running to empower residents, not special interests." **Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

**Analysis:** Will do better than he did in 2016.

**Funds raised as of 1/23/20:** \$7,929.71

### Johnny Lee Dang (No Party Preference)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Attended City Council meeting in May, 2019 where discussion was about increasing tourism market budget to \$46 million a year. He objected. City Council ignored him, so he decided to run for office.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Parents fled Vietnam. **Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

**Analysis:** Very long-shot candidate.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$10,709.25

## Sean Elo (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Board Trustee, San Diego Community College District.

**Organizational Endorsements:** Sierra Club, YIMBY Democrats, La Raza Lawyers Association, San Diego Young Democrats, AAPI Democratic Club.

**Additional info:** Says he wants to transform San Diego from "America's Finest City" for some to a world-class city for all. A strong progressive platform. **Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

**Analysis:** Don't underestimate Sean Elo. He's big on door-to-door campaigning.

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$13,544.60

## Andrew Gade (Republican)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Small businessman, owns San Diego Tint, which tints car windows.

**Organizational Endorsements:** San Diego Republican Party.

**Additional info:** Platform is very vague. **Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

**Analysis:** A Republican in District 9 has no chance these days.

**Funds Raised as of 1/21/20:** \$0

## Ross Naismith (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** MusicTeacher/Non-Profit Executive.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** On Community Planning Group Board representing Rolando Village, serves on the Board of Directors for the United Nations Association of San Diego, President of the House of Scotland International Cultural Cottage in Balboa Park for 2 years. For almost 5 years he served as President and Pipe Major of the House of Scotland Pipe Band, also of Balboa Park.

**Analysis:** For this year, anyway, we don't have to worry about having bagpipes play at City Council meetings.

**Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

**Funds raised as of 1/18/20:** \$2000

## Alex Soto (Democrat)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Unmanned Maritime Systems Manager.

**Organizational Endorsements:** None.

**Additional info:** Mixed martial arts competitor. **Union-Tribune Interview (Not published yet)**

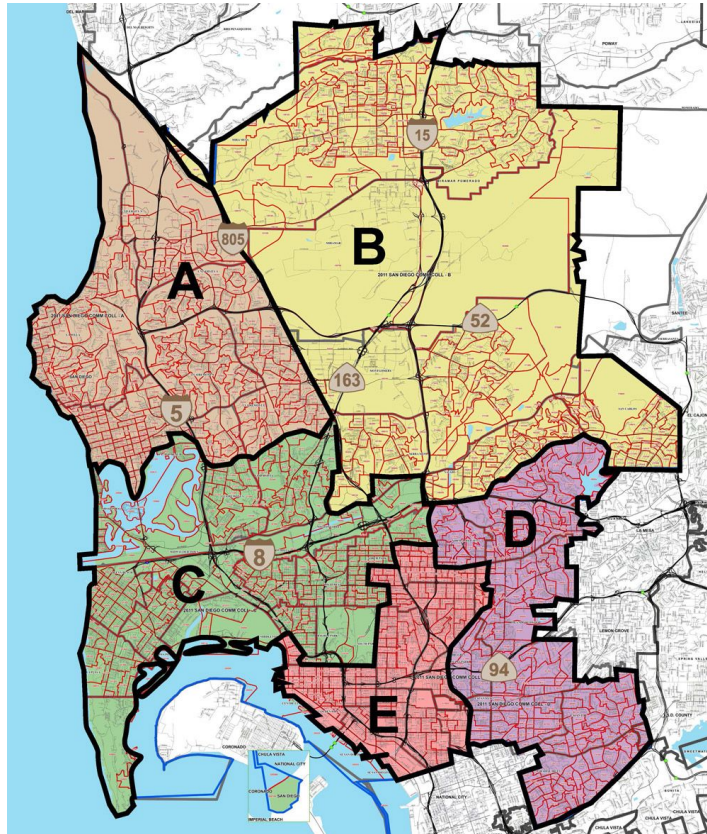
**Analysis:** Long shot candidate.

**Funds raised as of 1/21/20:** \$0



# San Diego Community College Trustees

See the detailed map of all our local Community College Trustee districts [here](#).



## Community College Trustees District B

### Daniel Piedra

[Website](#)

**Summary:** Republican, Lawyer, nonprofit leader, and former educator. Executive Director of the [Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund](#). This org seems to take up cases against “agendas purported by secular progressives”.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Republicans.

### Bernie Rhinerson (incumbent)

[Facebook](#)

**Summary:** 7 years in the position. Non-partisan. Elected 2012, 2016 with a 30+ year career in public relations and public affairs including adjunct professor of public affairs at SDSU. Involved in several public and community service activities.

**References:** <https://portfolium.com/brhinerson>.

**Endorsements:** Democratic Woman’s Club.

## Community College Trustees District D

### Alex Loupe **WARNING!**

**Summary:** Alexander Loupe is a San Diego area member of the white nationalist “[American Identity Movement](#),” the group formerly known as [Identity Europa](#). Since late 2017, this Southern California racist and anti-Semite has put up white supremacist propaganda in San Diego and at college campuses across Southern California, while holding a day job as a custodian with the San Diego Unified School District.

**Reference :** <https://rosecityantifa.org/articles/alex-loupe/>

### Mike Palomba

[Twitter](#)

**Summary:** Good number of articles, opinions with a conservative bend at [San Diego News Desk](#), the local GOP “News Outlet”.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Republican Party.

### Mary Graham – Incumbent

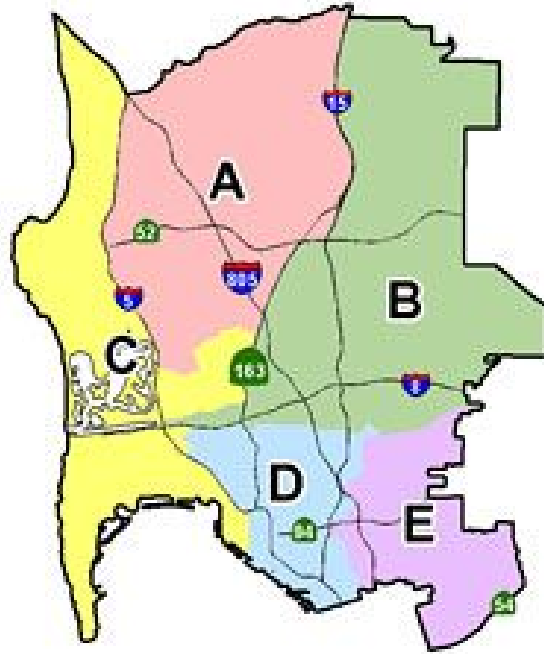
**Summary:** Elected to this office in 2008, 2012, 2016 English Professor at Cuyamaca.

**Endorsements:** Democratic Woman’s Club, RunWomenRun.

## San Diego Unified School Board Trustees

See the detailed map of the School Board Districts and corresponding schools [here](#).

If you are unsure, check your district [here](#).



## District A - Clairemont, University City, and Mira Mesa

### Sabrina Bazzo

[Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

**Summary:** Democrat, Health Educator, parent. Recipient of Golden Service award – highest level Volunteer award from CA PTA, Miramesa Town Council award. Top priorities include equal opportunities for students, increase funding for public schools, strong parent voice on school board.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Education Association, American Federation of Teachers.

### Stephen Groce

[Website](#)

**Summary:** Democrat, MBA with management experience in retail, private sector. Parent, entrepreneur, volunteer. Running on transparency and budget oversight, build collaborative relationships.

**Endorsements:** The Administrators Association of San Diego City Schools, Clairemont Democratic Club, Martin Luther King Democratic Club, National Organization of Women- California, Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

### Crystal Trull

[Website](#)

**Summary:** Educator, non-profit consultant, parent. Running on accountability, prioritize resources, excellence, sustainable programs, partnering with communities.

**Endorsement:** Republican Party of San Diego.

## District E - Southeast San Diego

### Lawana Richmond

[Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

**Summary:** Educator, researcher, UCSD professor with project management skills.

### Sharon Whitehurst Payne - Incumbent

[Website](#)

**Summary:** Educator, Administrator, Active in Rotary club.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Education Association.

# Superior Court Judges

## Department 18

C. J. Mody

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Mody is a 17-year career prosecutor in the district attorney's office; says he is “law enforcement’s choice” for judge. Lacks civil or private practice experience and highlights is law and order campaign in his publications.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Republican Party, San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephen, San Diego Deputy District Attorney’s Association, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulkner, San Diego City Councilmember Chris Cate, San Diego County Supervisors Gregg Cox, Jim Desmond, Kristin Gaspar and Dianne Jacob.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 222519 admitted 12/4/2002.

**Analysis:** The Republican establishment has gone all in on supporting this candidate. However his overwhelmingly one-sided law and order campaign legitimately raises the question of his impartiality in criminal cases. His worldview seems clearly entrenched in the Republican philosophy.

## Roberta Winston

[Webpage](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Impressive 32-year legal background, including judicial law clerk position, a wide scope of litigation and trial experience, plus professional recognition as 2019 attorney of the year award from IASIU ( International Association of Special Investigation Units ), San Diego top lawyer 2013-2019 by San Diego Magazine, and the highest rating from Martindale Hubbell of AV Preeminent. She is a specialist in white-collar crime, insurance fraud and consumer fraud matters.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 128642, admitted 6/17/1987.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Democratic Party, Lawyers Club of San Diego, State Senator Toni Atkins, Todd Gloria, San Diego City Councilman Chris Ward, Susan Peinado, President Democratic Woman’s Club of San Diego, Run Women Run!

**Analysis:** Of the two candidates, Roberta Winston is the more experienced lawyer with progressive ideals for this position.

## Department 22

### Steve Miller

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Steve Miller ran for judge in 2018 and lost. In his publications he stresses his 27-year career as a prosecutor and the fact that his father, Ed Miller, a Democrat, was the longtime San Diego County district attorney (24 years). Has worked in all of the principal San Diego County prosecutorial offices including California Attorney General, San Diego City Attorney, San Diego District Attorney, and US Attorney. He recently retired.

**Endorsements:** La Mesa Police Officers Association, Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce. Received the endorsement of Superior Court Judge Matt Brower, who he lost to in the last election. There are 10 other Superior Court judges who have endorsed him, as well as San Diego County Treasurer Dan McAllister.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 138020, admitted 12/7/1988. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** A qualified Democratic candidate, however the Democratic endorsement for this department went to one of his opponents, Alana Robinson.

## Mark Skeels

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Career prosecutor with San Diego District Attorney and San Diego City Attorney. Resume does not include private practice experience or noteworthy community activities.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Republican Party, Latino American Political Association of San Diego, Deputy City Attorneys Association, San Diego Asian Americans for Equality, County Supervisor Diane Jacobs, State Senator Brian Jones, Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey, El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells. Honorable David Brown + 13 other local judges.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 209766. Admitted 12/1/2000. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** A one-sided resume for someone running for judge--all criminal prosecutions.

## Alana Robinson

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Federal prosecutor since 1990; father immigrated from Hong Kong as a teenager and maternal grandparents were from Mexico; fluent in Spanish. Has taught trial advocacy courses at the National Advocacy Center for over 15 years. Girl Scout troop leader; volunteers to teach fifth grade students through project LEAD (Legal Education And Decision-making). Serves on the San Diego County Bar Association legal ethics committee and as an ethics advisor in the federal prosecutors office in San Diego.

**Endorsements:** San Diego County Democratic Party, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego, Korean American Bar Association of San Diego, The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, California Police Chiefs' Association + 8 other law enforcement groups, Todd Gloria + 5 other big name politicians, Honorable Yvonne Esperanza Campos + 18 other local judges.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 137979, admitted 12/7/1988. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Superior education, experience and endorsements appear to make her the most qualified candidate for this Superior Court department.

## Department 30

### Paul Starita

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** 16 years as an Assistant United States Attorney, which includes prosecuting criminal and civil cases in that office; four years as an adjunct faculty member at the University of San Diego School of Law; served four



years as a military judge and was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. 30 years of active and reserve status with the US Marine Corps with the rank of Colonel.

**Endorsements:** County Supervisor Diane Jacob, Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood (retired), Lawyers Club of San Diego, Honorable Matt Brower + 7 other local judges.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 219573, admitted 5/30/2002. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** His qualifications are good, his endorsements lean Republican, although the Republican Party has not endorsed a candidate for this department.

## Tim Nader

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** A wide range of experience in legal and political matters; Mayor of Chula Vista 91-94, Board member Southwestern Community College 2010-present. Legal experience includes Deputy Attorney General, State of California; San Diego County District Attorney's office, where he handled criminal and civil matters.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Democratic Party, Lawyers Club of San Diego, State Senator Toni Atkins, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, City Attorney Maria Elliott.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 106093, admitted 12/3/1982. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Second time around for this well-qualified lawyer could mean success in a field of four candidates.

## Peter Murray

[Website](#)

**Summary:** San Diego Deputy District Attorney, Deputy Attorney General, Private Attorney, Veteran Naval aviator.

**Endorsements:** Former San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith; Barry Leonard & Dave Grosch, Poway City Council; Poway Mayor Steve Vaus Mayor, Congressman Scott Peters, Honorable Peter L. Gallagher + 7 other local judges.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 149641, admitted 12/5/1990. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Difficult to get a true fix on this candidate's worldview.

## Mike Murphy

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** 23 years as Deputy California Attorney General.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Deputy District Attorneys Association, San Diegans Against Crime, Sheriff Bill Gore, former District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, Supervisor Greg Cox, radio talk show host Carl DeMaio, Honorable Louis Hanoian + 7 other local judges.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 178384, admitted 12/4/1995. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Carl DeMaio as an endorser tells you all you need to know.

Superior Court Judge Department 36

## Shawn McMillan

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** Successful private practice trial attorney for 20 years. Honors include outstanding trial lawyer award from consumer attorneys of San Diego. Running as an outsider claiming, "civil justice system is broken." Is proud that he has never worked for a public agency or government. Practice includes cases against Child Protective Services.

**Endorsements:** None listed.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 208529, admitted 11/3/2000. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Calls himself a libertarian in UT interview; Facebook page includes posts on civil rights cases AND "Guns Rights" protests.

## Michelle Ialeggio

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Summary:** 15 years in San Diego County District Attorney's Office, including Family Protection Unit and as ethics advisor. 12 years as a guest lecturer at University San Diego School of Law; two years as adjunct professor. Impressive number of awards and volunteer activities.

**Endorsements:** San Diego Democratic Party, City Attorney Maria Elliot, District Attorney Summer Stephen, California Women Lawyers, Run Women Run, Crime Victims United, La Raza Lawyers San Diego, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, Tom Homann LGBT, Korean American Bar Association San Diego, Filipino American Bar Association San Diego, The Lincoln Club of San Diego County, The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, San Diego Asian Americans for Equality (SDAAFE), Lawyers Club of San Diego, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Local 619, Latino American Political Association (LAPA) of San Diego, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, San Diego Democrats for Equality, Honorable Harry Elias + 42 other local judges.

**Additional information:** State Bar # 234546, admitted 12/9/2004. [Union-Tribune Interview](#).

**Analysis:** Top of the list of all qualified judicial candidates running this year.

# Ballot Measures - County Wide

## Measure A

Measure A is about the approval process for future developments in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County requiring changes to the General Plan for development.

**The language on the ballot reads:** *Shall this Initiative be adopted for the purpose of amending the San Diego County General Plan to require voter approval for General Plan amendments that increase residential density for property designated by the General Plan as Semi-Rural or Rural?* The full text of the measure is available [here](#).

<p>A "yes" vote on Measure A <b>supports</b> requiring voter approval for amendments to the County's General Plan increasing population density in semi-rural and rural areas.</p>	<p>A "no" vote on Measure A <b>opposes</b> requiring voter approval for amendments to the County's General Plan increasing population density in semi-rural and rural areas.</p>
<p><b>Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside</b> are supporters of Measure A.  <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Twitter</a></p> <p><i>Those in favor gathered over 107,000 signatures to place the initiative on the ballot.</i></p> <p><b>Organizational Endorsers of Yes on A include:</b> More than 30 conservation, environmental, labor, and progressive activist organizations.</p> <p><b>Yes on A talking points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevents Sprawl Development</li> <li>• Stops Backroom Political Deals</li> <li>• Gives a Voice to the People</li> <li>• Promotes Smart, Affordable Development</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis:</b> Developers have regularly run roughshod over the County's General Plan, thanks to sympathetic County Supervisors. This measure is posited as a defense against such actions in the future. Contrary to what is being said, low-income developments are excluded from its provisions.</p> <p><b>Funds Raised thru 1/18/20:</b> \$158,750.20*</p> <p>A substantial portion of the funding came from Endangered Habitats League, mostly funded by the politically progressive Kohlberg Foundation.</p>	<p><b>Planning Today for San Diego's Future</b> are opponents of Measure A.  <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Twitter</a></p> <p><b>Organization Endorsers Against Measure A include:</b> Both major political parties, chambers of commerce, law enforcement, low income housing developers and construction unions.</p> <p><b>No on A talking points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The measure is flawed with too many loopholes, and it sticks taxpayers with picking up the tab for costly elections.</li> <li>• The measure isn't fair. It would give voters in places like La Jolla and Carlsbad the right to decide housing issues in rural communities in North, South and East County. It's unfair to rural communities that voters in cities get to make decisions that affect their quality of life.</li> <li>• Ventura County adopted measures just like Measure A in the late '90s, which led to an exodus of families and jobs because home prices soared and businesses...</li> <li>• The wealthy, out-of-state backers of Measure A wrote it to protect the Golden Door Spa, which campaign finance records show has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to Measure A</li> </ul>

- Proponents of Measure A claim it would protect our backcountry, or rural lands, but it will do no such thing because that area already is off limits to development from now until the end of time. Almost all that land is occupied by the military or state and national parks.
- Copycat measures similar to Measure A will surface in cities across our region if voters approve this countywide measure in March. That's exactly what happened in Ventura County.
- Measure A will cause more San Diegans to live in overcrowded housing and pay higher rent.
- Measure A would further restrict supply, reducing the number of affordable homes across our region.
- The measure is environmentally and socially irresponsible. It would force more San Diegans to move to Riverside County, where homes are affordable, and commute back to San Diego for work.

**Analysis:** Measure A is part of a larger battle over land use in the county. The big money behind opponents of the measure are almost exclusively involved in the building and development industries for the simple reason that they don't want to fight the court battles implied with Measure A.

**Funds raised thru 1/18/20 (by multiple groups):**  
\$1,454,110.00

**Note:** It sure would be great if all this pro & con money went to support elected officials with a bit of common sense.

## Measure B

Measure B is about the Newland Sierra housing development, which County Supervisors approved by way of amending the County’s General Plan. The Supervisors are seeking public affirmation of their decision by placing this on the ballot.

**The language on the ballot reads:** “*Shall the San Diego County General Plan Amendment PDS2015-GPA-15-001 approved by the Board of Supervisors for the development of the Newland Sierra Project, be approved? The existing General Plan allows 99 homes and up to 2,000,000 square feet of commercial with open space. General Plan Amendment PDS2015-GPA-15-001 would authorize up to 2,199 homes and 1,777,684 square feet of commercial. The approved Newland Sierra Project includes a planned community of 2,135 homes, a school site, 81,000 square feet of retail, 36 acres of parks and 1,209 acres of open space.*” The full text of the measure is available [here](#).

<p><b>A "yes" vote supports amending the county's General Plan to authorize the development of the Newland Sierra Project</b>, which will include over 2,000 homes, a school, retail space, parks, and open space.</p>	<p><b>A "no" vote opposes amending the county's General Plan to authorize the development of the Newland Sierra Project</b>, which will include over 2,000 homes, a school, retail space, parks, and open space.</p>
<p><b>Yes on B for a Better Choice</b> are the supporters of the measure  <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Twitter</a>  <b>Organizational supporters include:</b> 10 Chambers of Commerce, the San Diego Republican Party, a couple each unions, activist groups. And, of course, the developers of the Newland Sierra project.</p> <p><b>Yes on B Talking Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Attainable Housing</b> - Yes on B, the Better Choice Measure, helps alleviate the housing crisis by providing housing for San Diego’s workforce and their families. More than 60 percent of the homes will be affordably-priced for working families making around or less than the area's median income.</li> <li>● <b>A Commitment to Sustainability</b> - Yes on B, the Better Choice Measure, will be one of the most environmentally sustainable master-planned communities in San Diego County.</li> <li>● <b>Open Space</b> - Yes on B, the Better Choice Measure provides what is most needed in the community -- homes and open space -- by guaranteeing 61% permanently protected</li> </ul>	<p><b>No on Newland Sierra</b> is the opposition to the measure  <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Twitter</a>  <b>Organizational supporters include:</b> The San Diego Democratic Party + 12 Democratic clubs, 8 activist organizations, 18 environmentals/conservation groups.</p> <p><b>No on B Talking points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>We need more affordable housing in San Diego</b>, but Newland Sierra will do nothing to solve the crisis. Two-thirds of the homes in the Newland Sierra development require at least a six-figure income to afford.</li> <li>● <b>Politicians let Newland developers change the rules</b> to build 20 times more homes than previously allowed under the County General Plan..</li> <li>● <b>Traffic is terrible and Newland Sierra will make it worse.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis:</b> There seem to be an awful lot of people who think this development is a bad idea for the environment. The people who count the most in this bunch are the billionaire owners of Golden Door Spa,</p>

open space. The plan leaves 1,209 acres of the property as public open space, along with 36 acres of parks and 19 miles of trails. \*An additional 19% will remain undeveloped as a fire buffer around the developed areas.

**Analysis:** Newland Sierra bought rural land cheap, got it upzoned, and stands to collect about a billion dollars (gross) when all is said and done. Yes, there will be houses there. No, “attainable” isn’t the same as “affordable.”

**Funds raised thru 1/18/20 (by multiple groups):**  
\$7,764,752.00 (Not a typo)

who would like to keep the area surrounding their luxe resort relatively pristine. So there you have it: it’s billionaires versus billionaires.

**Funds raised the 1/27/20, mostly from Golden Door Spa related entities: \$3,800,000.00**



# Ballot Measures - City of San Diego

## Measure C

**Measure C qualifies as a citizen's initiative**, meaning signatures were gathered to put it on the ballot. Supporters are hoping that a court ruling that says a simple majority is needed to pass citizen-initiated measures stands up under appeal. This a a "wink,wink" citizen's initiative in that it is asking for something San Diego Mayors and City Councils and hotel owners have been seeking for many years. A coalition of business and labor that's threatened to fall apart many times is providing the financial and grassroots support. The hope is, by bundling Convention Center expansion with monies for homelessness and road repair, a supermajority vote will eliminate the need for court battles. Although San Diego passed a measure limiting citizen-initiated measures to general election ballots, the mayor and city council prevailed via an "emergency" loophole to get it on a primary ballot.

Summary: Measure C provides for an increase in the hotel visitor tax to raise funds for

1. expansion of the downtown convention center (59% of funds),
2. undefined homeless programs and services ( 41% of funds first year and then drops to 31% thereafter)
3. street repairs ( 10% after first year ).

The measure includes bond limits for the projects of \$850 Million towards the convention center, \$750 million for homeless programs and projects and \$400 million for road repair.

The full text of the initiative is available [here](#)

<p><b>A "yes" vote supports authorizing the city to increase the tax levied on overnight lodging guests</b> with a tiered range from 1.25% to 3.25%, with revenue dedicated to expanding the San Diego Convention Center, improving streets and related infrastructure, and funding programs to reduce homelessness.</p>	<p><b>A "no" vote opposes authorizing the city to increase the tax levied on overnight lodging guests</b>, thereby leaving the city's hotel tax rate at 10.5%.</p>
<p><b>Yes on C! For a Better San Diego</b> are the supporters of the measure.  <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Twitter</a></p> <p><b>Organizational supporters include:</b> The San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, the Regional Chamber of Commerce, 8 business groups, 3 homeless service providers.</p> <p><b>Yes on C talking points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Reduce Homelessness</b> - San Diego's first-ever dedicated funding for homeless services</li> <li>● <b>Create Jobs</b> - The Convention Center is an economic engine for San Diego</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opposition to Measure C</b>                  No Internet Presence</p> <p><b>Opposition to Measure C is essentially a one-man effort.</b> Homeless advocate &amp; philanthropist Michael McConnell.</p> <p>His mailers and digital ads on Measure C claim it is full of uncertainty and loopholes and no guarantee that the money will be spent as intended. The measure also raises the philosophical question of is this another Charger Stadium deal and should the government be so involved in supporting private business interests.</p>

- **Street Repair** - Dedicated funding for fixing our streets
- **Ironclad Taxpayer Protections** - Built in transparency, accountability & criminal penalties for abuse

**Analysis:** Rather than calling this the “citizens initiative” it might be more upfront to label it the déjà vu initiative as it is a retread of several past attempts by hotel owners and developers to gain funds through a tax increase of the hotel visitor tax. Raising the tax on tourist may not seem like a bad idea but begs the question of why not use that increased revenue for general fund purposes to benefit directly the citizens of San Diego rather than the tourism industry.

**Funds raised thru 1/27/20:** \$2,199,065 (Mostly hotel and tourism related companies)

## Measure D

**Web page:** none found

**Summary:** Measure D changes the way the city auditor is selected. Currently the mayor appoints the city auditor for a 10-year term with approval of the audit committee and confirmed by the City Council. This change would remove the mayor from the process and have the audit committee select at least three qualified candidates to refer to the CCouncil for approval. The term for the new auditor would be reduced to five years with one possible additional five-year term. Also there is a new position of interim auditor to hold office as auditor when the office is otherwise vacant.

**Endorsements:** This measure had the support of all City Council members.

**Additional information:** No known opposition -- simple majority vote needed to pass.

**Analysis:** This change seems to make sense to take the mayor out of the loop on the selection of the person charged with auditing the city.

**Funds raised:** \$0 No paperwork filed