

2018 Primary Election Voter Guide

San Diego County

Vote on Tuesday, June 5, 2018

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

San Diego Indivisible Downtown
sdindivisible.com

Helpful Links:

[Register to vote by May 21](#)

[Find your polling place](#)

[Check if you're registered](#)



Important Races

Contests that are particularly important are marked with a red exclamation point.

About us

Inspired by the national Indivisible movement, San Diego Indivisible Downtown (SDID) is a grassroots volunteer group of over 1,400 members dedicated to resisting the Trump agenda. We are based in downtown San Diego, California and serve members throughout San Diego County.



Doug's analysis

The chair of the SDID Targeting Team, Doug Porter, has been writing about local politics for the past decade and has roots in San Diego's activist community going back four decades. He has written for Voice of San Diego, San Diego Free Press, OB Rag, Daily Kos, and Huffington Post. The analysis provided in this guide is based on his experiences interviewing candidates, connections with political consultants and contacts in activist organizations. Doug's commentary is not meant to be endorsements; merely insights for users to ponder. They are identified here as "**Doug's analysis**."

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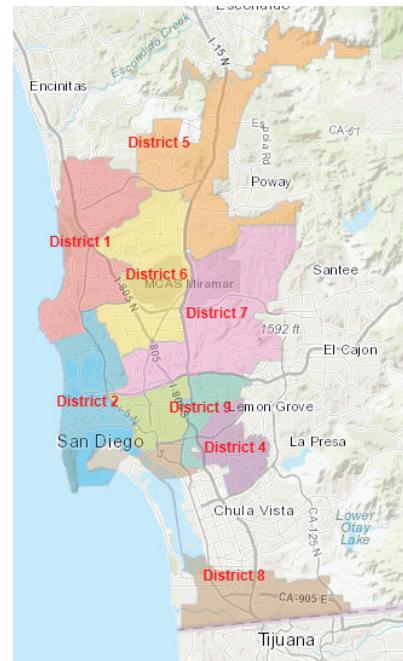
Don't forget to fill out this printable worksheet and bring it with you to the polls!

San Diego City Council

As members of the legislative branch of the City of San Diego, the City Council has the authority to introduce and pass ordinances and resolutions that make up the city's ruling documents. Each council member has the right to vote on all questions brought before the city council.

All council actions require an affirmative vote of five councilmembers to pass unless a greater number is required by other superseding law. With some exceptions, the mayor has the right to veto legislation passed by the council. This veto can be overridden by an affirmative vote of six members of the city council. (Tip: Most city programs for the homeless are decided through the council.)

City Council contests are technically non-partisan, which in reality means candidates can not list their party affiliation on ballots and in official voter guides. **According to San Diego City election law, the two candidates who receive the most votes move on to the general election in November.**



[San Diego City Council Districts Map](#)



Even number districts are up for election this year.

Odd-numbered districts vote on councilmembers in 2020.

City Council: District 2

District 2 is a coastal area, currently represented by Lori Zapf (R). Although this area has a mostly Democratic voting base, the district often elects Republicans due to poor turnout by younger voters.

Jordan Beane

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

Summary: Democrat; progressive; new to politics

Endorsements: [Run for Something](#); [PB Democratic Club](#); [Point Loma Democratic Club](#)

Additional info*: [official stance on issues](#); [Union-Tribune questionnaire](#); [Union-Tribune profile](#); attends La Jolla/PB Indivisible meetings

Doug's analysis: great candidate but lacks name recognition

Funds raised: \$38,037



Jennifer H. Campbell, MD

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

Summary: Democrat with service in San Diego County and California State Democratic Party; retired physician

Endorsements: [Democrats for Equality](#); [Clairemont Democratic Club](#); eight local [Democratic office holders](#)

Additional info: [Union-Tribune questionnaire](#); [Union-Tribune profile](#); [San Diego Free Press article](#) on careless comments about homeless

Doug's analysis: poor name recognition; many connections to local party leadership; fundraising prowess

Funds raised: \$85,529

Bryan Pease

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

Summary: Democrat; lawyer; activist and animal rights advocate

Endorsements*: nine local [Democratic office holders](#); Working Families Council

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [Union-Tribune questionnaire](#); [Voice of San Diego profile](#) from 2012 District 1 City Council race; [Wikipedia article](#) on 2016 City Attorney Race (Pease came in fourth, with 11% of the vote); Pease commissioned a [poll](#) showing he's the most popular Democratic candidate but this a "[push poll](#)," which is easy to manipulate

Doug's analysis: best name recognition of any Democrat in this race; has burned some bridges in local politics

Funds raised: \$48,450

*Revised on May 4, 2018

Continued on next page

City Council: District 2 (Continued)

Lorie Zapf (Incumbent)

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

Summary: Republican

Endorsements: [Republican Party of San Diego County](#)

Additional info: [San Diego Union Tribune questionnaire](#); [Critical Voice of San Diego article](#); [Wikipedia profile](#); [Ballotpedia profile](#)

Doug's analysis: favored to win due to name recognition

Funds raised: \$428,896; in addition, there is an Independent Expenditure committee that has amassed \$300,000 from the Chamber of Commerce PAC and the Lincoln Club in support of Zapf

City Council: District 4

District 4 encompasses the southeast part of the city. Historically, it has been a power base for black politicians, although Hispanics (41.5%) and Asians (23.9%) outnumber African Americans (19.8%). Winning candidates have been traditionally backed by a coalition of socially conservative black pastors.

Neal Arthur

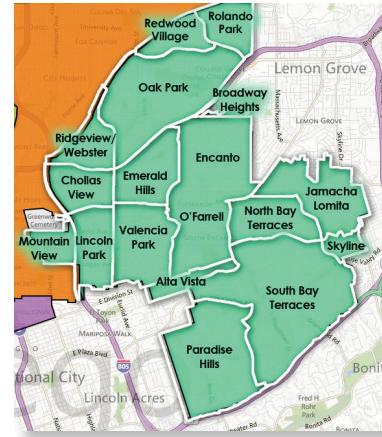
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Summary: Democrat; real estate developer; former chair of San Diego Housing Commission

Additional info: [San Diego Monitor News profile](#)

Doug's analysis: an economic development focused candidate; no chance of winning

Funds raised: \$12,400



Myrtle Cole (Incumbent)

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

Summary: Democrat; first African American woman elected to the San Diego City Council; first African American woman to serve as Council President

Endorsements: San Diego Democratic Party; early “friendly endorsement” by the [San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council](#); Building & Trades Construction Council; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Unite Here; Working Families Council (which may cause conflict with regular labor council); Congressman Juan Vargas; California State Senate President Pro Tem Toni G. Atkins; California State Senator Ben Hueso; California Assemblymember Todd Gloria; San Diego City Council Member Barbara Bry; San Diego City Council Member Georgette Gomez; San Diego City Council Member Chris Ward; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [Union-Tribune article](#) on Cole's re-election as Council President has noteworthy details; [Ballotpedia profile](#)

Doug's analysis: a shoo-in for winning the primary; I predict she will appear on the November ballot

Funds raised: \$123,553

Monica Montgomery

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

Summary: Democrat; lawyer; criminal justice advocate for ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties; Senior Policy Advisor for Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and Councilmember Myrtle Cole

Endorsements: Martin Luther King Jr. Democratic Club; SEIU Local 221; San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action; San Diego Progressive Alliance; San Diego County Women's Democratic Club; South Bay Democratic Club; San Diego Democrats for Equality; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [Voice & Viewpoint profile](#)

Doug's analysis: more politically progressive than Myrtle Cole; I predict she will appear on the November ballot

Funds Raised: \$33,473

City Council: District 6

District 6 encompasses the north-central part of the city. During the redistricting process in 2013, the boundaries were set in such a manner as to favor Asian-Americans. Read more about this race [here](#).

Chris Cate (Incumbent)

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

Summary: Republican; Filipino/Spanish; former Vice President of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association; [currently under investigation](#) by the State Attorney General's office regarding a confidential City Attorney opinion leaked to lobbyists for SoccerCity

Endorsements: [Republican Party of San Diego](#); Mayor Kevin Faulconer; San Diego Regional Chamber

Additional info: [Wikipedia profile](#); [Ballotpedia profile](#); [KPBS profile](#)

Doug's analysis: Cate is considered a rising star in the local GOP; incumbents are hard to beat, unless they get indicted

Funds raised: \$380,320; plus \$20,000 for Communities for Better Tomorrow by Chris Cate, donated by Allen Camasia of [StemImmune](#), a company subject to FDA enforcement actions for producing unauthorized stem cell treatments; in addition, there is an Independent Expenditure committee that has amassed \$300,000 from the Chamber of Commerce PAC and the Lincoln Club in support of Cate



Tommy Hough

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

Summary: Democrat; popular DJ on progressive rock stations for several years; co-founder of the San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action

Endorsements: [Democrats for Environmental Action](#); five local elected officials; Working Families Council (which prompted several well known progressives to withdraw endorsements)

Additional info: [Official stance on issues](#)

Doug's analysis: popular with both activist and traditional democrats; he's paid a lot of dues over the years

Funds raised: \$21,727

City Council: District 8

District 8 includes communities in the southern part of the city and is split in half by the cities of Chula Vista and National City. More than 75 percent of the District 8 population lives in the southern section and more than two-thirds of the population is Hispanic. Incumbent Councilman David Alvarez (D) is termed out. Republicans are at risk of rapidly becoming irrelevant in this district. There are long-standing fissures in local politics that go back so far, few people understand how they started.

Antonio Martinez

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

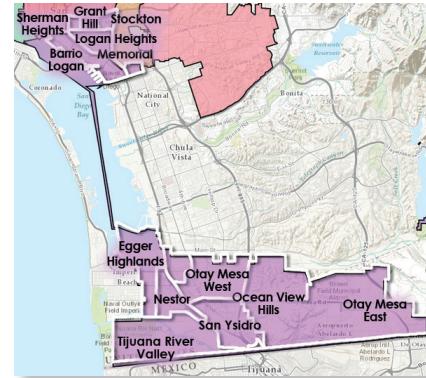
Summary: Democrat; at age 27 he ran and won a seat on the San Ysidro School Board, which has a history of corruption; he is generally thought of as a reformer, though he is the subject of a recall petition; he is a Director at the Imperial Beach Community Clinic

Endorsements: San Diego Police Officers Association; San Ysidro Teachers Association; Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters; San Diego Working Families Council; more than two dozen local politicians

Additional info: [Times of San Diego article](#)

Doug's analysis: he is the establishment/Latino/Liberal candidate who got into the race early; I project he will be on the November ballot

Funds raised: \$80,531



Vivian Moreno

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

Summary: Democrat; City Council policy advisor for termed-out incumbent Alvarez; serves on the boards of Border View Family YMCA and [MANA de San Diego](#)

Endorsements: Democratic Woman's Club of San Diego County; Councilman David Alvarez

Additional info: [San Diego Reader article](#) about her financial backers (Doug's tip: always take Reader writer Matt Potter with a grain of salt)

Doug's analysis: Moreno has an impressive door-to-door campaign underway; Councilman Alvarez has generously shared all the perks of his incumbency with her; I believe it's a toss up between her and Ramirez for the second spot on the November ballot

Funds raised: \$120,486

Christian Ramirez

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

Summary: Democrat; nationally and internationally recognized spokesperson on immigration and border enforcement issues; Director of Human Rights Programs for Alliance San Diego; serves on staff of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium and the Southern Border Communities Coalition

Endorsements: SEIU USWW, the union that represents low-wage immigrant janitors and black security officers

Additional info: [KPBS profile](#)

Doug's analysis: Ramirez appeared with Governor candidate Delaine Eastin at a "Berniecrat" event during the State Democratic Convention; Alliance San Diego wrote the book on grassroots electoral organizing in San Diego

Funds raised: \$48,730



San Diego County Board of Supervisors

San Diego County Board of Supervisors are the executive, legislative and (limited to zoning issues) judiciary branches of government rolled up into five seats. The State Constitution gives county governments responsibility for virtually all safety net monies, including those appropriated by the United States Congress.

Currently, there are all white Republicans on the board, and it has been that way for most of the past three decades. Newly enacted (by referendum) legislation means two will be termed out in 2018 and two more will follow in 2020. Democrats believe they have the opportunity to gain control of three seats over the next two elections.

County election law says any candidate getting over 50% of votes in the primary is declared winner and skips the general election. There will be a measure on the November ballot to change this. As of the next census, redistricting for the county will no longer be done by the Board of Supervisors.

Something to note: County Supervisors recently voted to eliminate evening public hearings on the nearly \$6 billion annual budget. This may limit public input significantly.

Doug's analysis: I hold that the government of the County of San Diego is the single biggest factor standing in the way of solving many of the social problems facing the region. Voters have an opportunity to do something about it, starting in June.



[San Diego County Supervisor Districts Map](#)

Districts 4 and 5 are voting this year. Districts 1, 2 and 3 will vote in 2020.



County Supervisors: District 4

District 4 includes central and western portions of the county (most of the City of San Diego). Incumbent Supervisor Ron Roberts is termed out.

Bonnie Dumanis

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

Summary: Republican; former judge; County District Attorney; ran for mayor in 2012 and came in last; reputation has been sullied by a [campaign finance scandal](#) involving a Mexican billionaire, some [reactionary actions](#) taken as DA, including [zealous prosecutions](#) of medical marijuana advocates and questions about [double-dipping on pensions](#)

Endorsements: San Diego County Republican Party; Lincoln Club of San Diego; San Diego Regional Chamber; ten law enforcement associations

Additional info: [Union-Tribune article](#) announcing candidacy; [Wikipedia profile](#)

Doug's analysis: critical [San Diego Free Press article](#); Dumanis is a prime example of a self-serving politician who routinely ignores the needs of her constituents in favor of the interests of her donors and special interests; she will certainly make it through to the general election, unless she somehow manages to win outright in June; I could not find evidence yet, but I predict significant Independent Expenditure money will be spent of her behalf

Funds raised: \$395,016

Nathan Fletcher

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

Summary: Democrat (left GOP in 2012); former Assemblyman; Marine Corps Counterintelligence Specialist; lost contests for San Diego Mayor in 2012 and 2014 special election; founded the Three Wise Men Foundation to help eliminate the stigma of post-traumatic stress; currently teaching at UCSD; married to Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, one of the most powerful women in Southern California politics

Endorsements: Labor Council; more than two dozen local elected officials; San Diego Democratic Party; San Diego Democrats for Equality; SEIU Local 221; SEIU USWW; IBEW Local 47; IBEW Local 569; United Domestic Workers (AFSCME Local 3930); San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council; CWA Local 9509; UA Local 230; San Diego County Firefighters Local 2881; Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters; National Electrical Contractors Association; League of Conservation Voters - San Diego

Additional info: [Voice of San Diego autobiographical essay](#); [Wikipedia profile](#); [Ballotpedia profile](#)

Doug's analysis: he's running to "change the status quo," with virtually the entire status quo of the Democratic Party backing him; I believe he's the most likely Democrat to make it past the primary; [San Diego Free Press article](#)

Funds raised: \$439,787

Continued on next page

County Supervisors: District 4 (Continued)

Omar Passons

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

Summary: Democrat; land use attorney; North Park activist; grew up in the foster care system; serves on the board of the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation; attends meetings of the La Jolla/Pacific Beach Indivisible chapter

Endorsements: Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association; Bike San Diego; Pacific Beach Democratic Club; seven community planning board members from around the city; four owners of craft beer companies

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [City Beat profile](#)

Doug's analysis: he is great human being, empathetic and thoughtful, the kind of person I would like to see more often in politics; organized labor does not love him due to his opposition to (some) prevailing wage laws; regardless of the outcome of this race, I expect he will remain active in local politics; [San Diego Free Press article](#)

Funds raised: \$270,849

Ken Malbrough

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

Summary: Democrat; retired Deputy Fire Chief from the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department; serves as District Delegate for the 79th State Assembly District; co-chair for the City of San Diego Consolidated Pan Advisory Board; chairperson of Encanto Neighborhoods Community Planning Group and O'Farrell-Ventura Park Town Council Chair

Additional info: [Official stance on issues](#); [Union-Tribune questionnaire](#); [Voice of San Diego podcast](#)

Doug's analysis: Malbrough has run a mostly low-profile campaign

Funds raised: \$22,235

Lori Saldaña

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

Summary: Democrat; Latina; feminist; college instructor; former Assemblywoman, served as Speaker pro Tempore and sponsored significant pieces of progressive legislation; left the Democratic Party in 2014 over the Mayor Filner sexual harassment scandal; ran for Mayor of San Diego under "no party preference" in 2016; returned to the Democratic Party in 2016; served on the original board of directors for San Diego Earth Day; was chair of the local Sierra Club chapter; has attended Indivisible Downtown meetings

Endorsements*: Delaine Eastin (candidate for CA Governor); Dolores Huerta (co-founder of United Farm Workers); Working Families Council, which has [proven to be controversial](#)

Additional info: [Times of San Diego article](#) announcing her candidacy and various controversies; [Wikipedia profile](#); [Ballotpedia profile](#)

Doug's analysis: Saldaña is the most progressive candidate on issues; she has burned a lot of bridges with the Democratic establishment; much of her campaign has focused on disparaging Nathan Fletcher

Funds raised: \$31,577

*Revised on May 4, 2018

County Supervisors: District 5

District 5 includes north San Diego County communities. The GOP has a sizable voter registration advantage in the district, with 38 percent of the electorate. Democrats have 30.4 percent, while another 25.9 percent do not belong to a political party.

Jacqueline Arsivaud

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

Summary: Democrat: San Dieguito Planning Group Board Member

Endorsements: former County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price; numerous conservation activists;
[See Facebook page for more](#)

Additional info: [Voice of San Diego Politics Report](#)

Doug's analysis: she is a long-shot candidate

Fundraising: \$29,656

Jim Desmond

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

Summary: Republican; Mayor of San Marcos

Endorsements: Bill Horn, termed-out District 5 Supervisor with far right political views; more than three dozen local elected officials; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [Union-Tribune article](#)

Doug's analysis: running to the far right for primary; loves land developers; likely to make November ballot

Funds raised: \$240,544

Michelle Gomez

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

Summary: Democrat; paralegal; community activist; originally filed to run for the 76th Assembly District

Endorsements: San Diego Democratic Party

Additional info: [Voice of San Diego article](#) mentioning her entry into the race

Doug's analysis: she could benefit from higher turnout in the 49th Congressional District race

Funds raised: \$5,040; Voice of San Diego suggested she would get support from the Service Employees International Union

Jerry Kern

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

Summary: Republican; Oceanside City Council Member

Endorsements: more than 18 local elected officials; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [Oceanside News article](#)

Doug's analysis: Libertarian-ish; will likely see support from marijuana lobby in May 2018; likely to make November ballot

Funds raised: \$130,017



What you need to know about other, less publicized county positions . . .

A smaller turnout and the older, more conservative profile of primary election voters have historically all-but-assured an indefinite tenure for county positions such as Assessor/Recorder/Clerk, Sheriff and District Attorney. Typically, when those in office are ready to retire, they simply quit mid-term, ensuring a carefully groomed deputy appointed by five white Republican County Supervisors will have the advantages of incumbency in the next election.

- **The 2018 county-wide contests with the most immediate impact on San Diego will take place in June, not November (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk, Sheriff and District Attorney).** This is the first election in memory where all three of these offices have been contested by self-avowed progressives.



San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk

This position will be decided in the June 5 primary election. This is one elected post encompassing three important government roles: Assessor, Recorder and Clerk. The office oversees nearly 500 employees who keep track of births, deaths, marriages and deeds. Most importantly, it appraises nearly 980,000 parcels of land in San Diego County so property taxes can be levied annually.

Ernest Dronenburg (Incumbent)

Summary: Republican; began career in public service on the State Board of Equalization (1978-1998); [federally investigated](#) for trading campaign donations for tax breaks; controversy around [refusing to issue same sex marriage licenses](#) following the California Supreme Court decision to end the ban; controversy surrounding more than [100 trips on the taxpayers dime](#) over the past five years at a cost of more than \$90,000; [under investigation](#) for late reporting of a \$5,000 donation to his re-election campaign

Endorsements: [San Diego County GOP](#)

Additional info: [2011 San Diego Union-Tribune profile](#)

Doug's analysis: Dronenburg is a dinosaur running the county's bureaucracy; just what we don't need

Funds raised: \$86,744 ([Personally loaned campaign](#) \$147,000 for the 2014 campaign)

Matt Strabone

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

Summary: Democrat; non-profit and ethics attorney; published political commentator and one-time legal counsel (on a single matter) to former President Barack Obama; was on a list of candidates endorsed by [Run for Something](#) as mentioned in a [Politico article](#); upon announcing his candidacy, Strabone stressed two things: a "culture of corruption" permeates county government, as evidenced by SANDAG's poor [choices](#) in the stewardship of the public trust and his role would be building public trust through transparency, accountability and best practices

Endorsements: two dozen local elected officials, ten Democratic Clubs, the Democratic Party of San Diego, the Labor Council (plus seven other unions), the Sierra Club, and League of Conservation Voters; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [Voice of San Diego article](#); [Times of San Diego article](#);

Doug's analysis: this guy is really good in every sense of the word; best interview I've done this year; also, the funniest guy on Twitter

Funds raised: \$106,067



San Diego County Sheriff

This position will be decided in the June 5 primary election. This office serves as the chief law enforcement officer for all unincorporated areas of San Diego plus 9 cities in an area the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. The Sheriff's Department includes approximately 2,600 sworn personnel, 1,600 professional staff and 1,000 volunteers working out of 18 substations. They oversee seven detention facilities with an average daily population of approximately 5,300 inmates and a budget of \$297 million. They also provide security for courtrooms throughout the county.

Bill Gore (Incumbent)

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

Summary: Republican; former FBI agent; appointed by his predecessor and approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 2009; an [epidemic of jail suicides](#) in recent years has attracted national attention; there have been multiple allegations of misconduct by sheriff's officers, including [15 women](#) claiming [inappropriate sexual conduct](#) by a deputy; his venture into politics includes [support for Congressman Darrell Issa \(R\)](#), who later tried to cash in that relationship via a sheriff's department clamp down on the weekly protests outside the Councilman's office in Vista

Endorsements: a dozen local elected officials, nine law enforcement associations, the Lincoln Club, four conservative Latino groups, and the California Restaurant Association. Not endorsed by the local Republican Party because he — allegedly — shows favoritism in granting licenses for concealed carry weapons; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [Union-Tribune article](#) on his political problems; [KPBS article](#) on political retaliation

Funds raised: \$279,494

Dave Myers

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

Summary: Democrat; 32 years in the sheriff's department; running a reform campaign aiming for more diversity in the department; aims to get out of the "business" of waging war on drugs; wants to build an agency responsive to the communities it serves instead of a political ideology; promises to "hold our deputies to the highest standards of ethics and provide the training and support necessary to achieve this"

Endorsements: San Diego County Democratic Party, 26 local Democratic clubs, Central Labor Council, Victory Council and more than 20 local elected officials; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); there is controversy over his stance on issuing permits for carrying concealed weapons; [San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention](#) is urging people to ask Myers to narrow his position (note: they are not asking people to vote for Gore instead); the endorsement of San Diego County Gun Owners [troubles some folks](#); [LGBT Weekly overview](#); [Union-Tribune article](#) on positions

Doug's analysis: this guy is the real deal and the law enforcement establishment is strongly opposing him; this race is a clear opportunity to effect positive change

Funds raised: \$162,683



San Diego County District Attorney

This position will be decided in the June 5 primary election. The District Attorney (DA) is responsible for prosecuting felony crimes committed in San Diego County. They also prosecute misdemeanor offenses occurring outside of the City of San Diego. The office has more than 300 prosecutors who file about 40,000 cases annually. In our current culture of incarceration, prosecutors have more power over more people than any other elected official.

The 2,400 elected prosecutors in the US are the gatekeepers of the justice system. In San Diego, the role of DAs as gatekeeper has a broader definition; it includes providing protection for some corrupt politicians and law enforcement officers. Look no further than the 155 cases county-wide of officer-involved shooting deaths in recent years, not one of which merited a prosecution.

Geneviéve Jones-Wright

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

Summary: Democrat; public defender with a dozen years experience in the local judicial system; supports a progressive criminal justice reform platform, including bail reform, reducing incarceration when appropriate, restorative justice and holding corrupt officials accountable for their actions

Endorsements: San Diego County Democratic Party, nine Democratic clubs, fifteen local elected officials, Public Defender Association of San Diego County, The People for Bernie, California Nurses Association, Unite HERE Local 30, and Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [The Real Justice PAC](#), fronted by activist Shaun King will be involved in this contest; [Voice of San Diego article](#) introducing her candidacy; [Times of San Diego article](#)

Doug's analysis: the fact that local 'lock'em up and throw away the key' types are panicked about her to the point they're claiming she's part of George Soros conspiracy tells you everything you need to know

Funds raised: \$200,175

Summer Stephan (Incumbent)

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

Summary: Republican; 28 years with the DA's office; appointed as part of a back room deal [engineered by her predecessor](#), Bonnie Dumanis when Dumanis decided to run for Supervisor; campaigning as "law enforcement's choice"; Seems to be moving away from aggressive marijuana prosecutions

Endorsements: San Diego County GOP; nine law enforcement associations; three conservative Latino groups; eleven local elected officials; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); [CBS8 article](#) on human trafficking; [Voice of San Diego article](#) on her appointment as interim DA

Doug's analysis: Stephan represents a continuation of decades of policies that have all-too-often protected political insiders and crooked cops

Funds raised: \$469,801

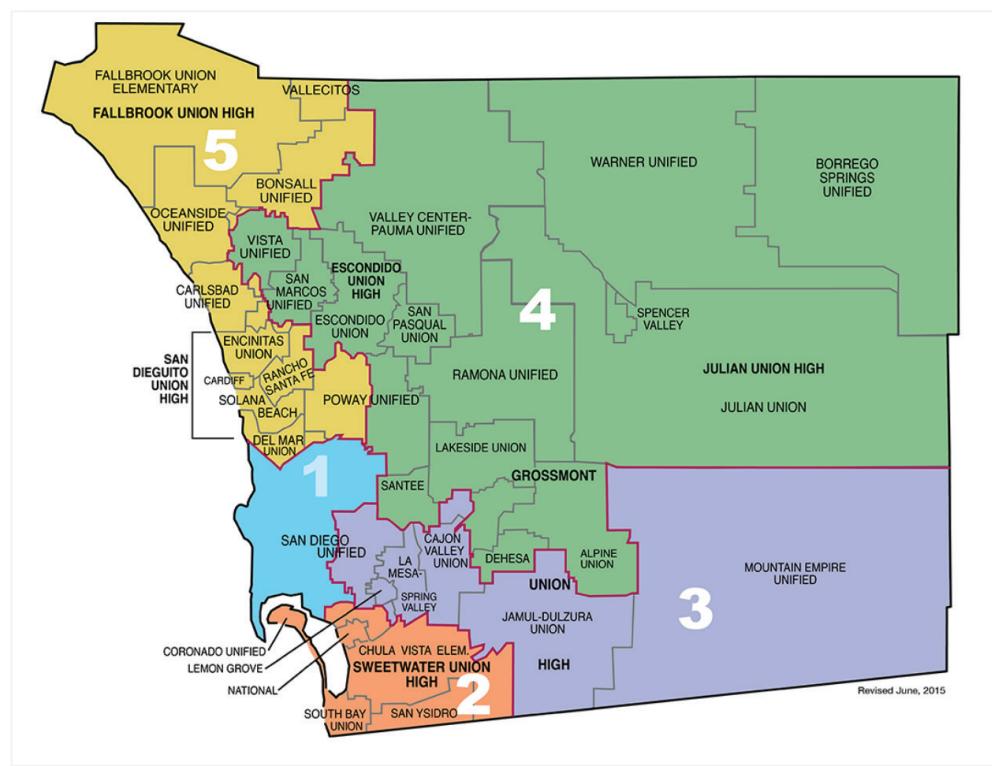


San Diego County Board of Education (SDCBoE)

The SDCBoE has been a battleground in recent years, with charter school advocates actively contesting each seat, backed by reform education billionaires. Neither of the incumbents would be considered charter school acolytes.

The San Diego County Office of Education has three major responsibilities. First, it educates the most vulnerable children in our community, including foster youth, homeless children and students in the juvenile justice system. Second, it provides services to San Diego County school districts. These include textbook selection, aid in implementing such curricular reforms as the Common Core, training updates for teachers and oversight of the budgets and spending plans of every school district in our county. The third responsibility is to act as a kind “appellate court” for student expulsions, inter-district transfers and charter school appeals.

[View map of Districts](#), along with bios of current Board Members.





SDCBoE: District 3

District 3 includes the southeastern part of the county, with a leg extending into southeast San Diego.

Eric J. Lund

[Facebook](#)

Summary: professor of business communications, Southwestern College; president of San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce

Doug's analysis: Facebook page includes anti-Muslim posts; likely to get funding from Charter School Lobby

Alicia Muñoz (Incumbent)

Summary: teaches English as a second language at Cuyamaca College where she is President of the Academic Senate

Endorsements: Democratic Party; supported by organized labor in the past

SDCBoE: District 5

District 5 covers coastal communities north of La Jolla.

Cheryl James-Ward

Summary: professor at San Diego State University; Chief of Academic Innovation for e3Civic High

Doug's analysis: she is a newcomer to politics with no prior public service

Rick Shea (Incumbent)

Summary: retired teacher and juvenile probation officer; previously served on the Encinitas City Council, Encinitas Fire Protection District, San Dieguito Water District, Cardiff by the Sea Sanitation District and North County Transit District

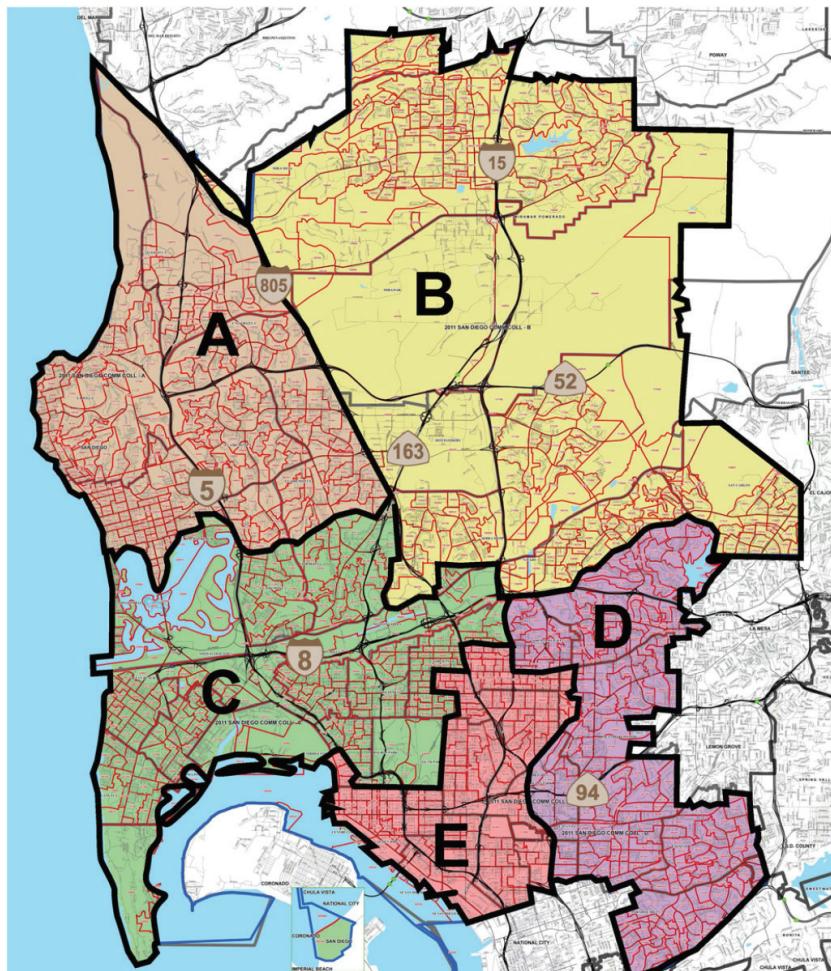
Endorsements: Democratic Party; supported by organized labor in the past

San Diego Community College District Board

The San Diego Community College District serves approximately 130,000 students annually through three two-year colleges and six Continuing Education campuses. The three colleges, San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, and San Diego Miramar College, offer associate degrees and certificates in occupational programs that prepare students for entry-level jobs, and arts and sciences programs that transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Board members in Districts A, C and E are up for election in 2018.

[View map of district boundaries.](#)



Community College: District A

District A includes University City, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and Bay Park.

Maria Nieto Senour (Incumbent)

Summary: retired professor, Department of Counseling and School Psychology, San Diego State University; first Latina elected to Community College Board; [Union-Tribune profile](#)

Endorsements: Democratic Party; supported by organized labor in the past

Diane Hickman

Summary: educator and health care professional

Janette Williams

Summary: faculty for University of California San Diego, Masters of Advanced Studies Program; has a PhD in philosophy

Community College: District C

District C includes Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Mission Hills, Mission Valley, Hillcrest, University Heights, Mission Village, Linda Vista, Midway, Old Town and Balboa Park. Incumbent Rich Grosch is retiring.

Aviva Angel

Summary: teacher; involved in setting up an urban kibbutz in San Diego, an intentional Jewish community where 25 families can share their customs

Lorena Casuto

Summary: adjunct professor at San Diego State University

Craig Milgrim

Summary: Democrat; professor at Grossmont College

John Watson*

[Website](#)

Summary: Democrat; developed program with community colleges to ease student transition to four-year degrees

Endorsements: San Diego Progressive Democratic Club

*Revised on May 9, 2018

Community College: District E

District E includes Golden Hill, North Park, City Heights, Logan Heights and Downtown. Incumbent Peter Zschiesche is retiring.

David Alvarez

Summary: Democrat; currently District 8 San Diego City Councilman, running for County Supervisor in 2020; [Voice of San Diego article](#) about his candidacy

Doug's analysis: running for the position to keep his name in the news: no website, no Facebook page, just his name on the ballot; he may also be running because the American Federation of Teachers thinks he'll be valuable as a promoter of the statewide campaign for no-tuition community colleges.

Fundraising: over \$100,000 parked in his future campaign for Supervisor

Sean Elo

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

Summary: Democrat; Director Campaigns and Policy, Mid-City Community Advocacy Network; [Voice of San Diego op-ed](#) on homeless college students

Endorsements: San Diego Democrats for Equality

Doug's analysis: One of San Diego's up and coming young Democrats; I project he will be on the November ballot

Funds raised: \$8,062

Rafael Perez*

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

Summary: Democrat, instructor at Cuyamaca College, Commissioner for City of San Diego (Citizen's Equal Opportunity Commission)

Endorsements: Nora Vargas (Trustee, Southwestern College); 100% Planned Parenthood rating

Doug's analysis: Perez is walking precincts and has yard signs throughout the district

Funds raised: \$5,124

*Revised on May 4, 2018



San Diego County Superior Court

Most races for Superior Court positions (45 out of 47) are uncontested. Normally, it is considered a career ender for a practicing lawyer to run against an incumbent judge. Right-wing extremists trying to get on the bench (or already on it) are an exception.

Superior Court: Office #28

Herbert Exarhos (Incumbent)

[Website](#)

Summary: [Ballotpedia profile](#); [was on County DA's blackball list](#) for sentencing irregularities

Vicki Rothman

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

Summary: Attorney; once worked for [law firm of Judge Gary Kleep](#) (See next page)



Superior Court: Office #37

This is a unique contest. Democrats, Republicans and the legal community all want the incumbent replaced by a sane person.

Matt Brower

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

Summary: Deputy District Attorney

Endorsements: San Diego Democratic Party; Progressive Democratic Club; North County San Diego Latino Democratic Club; Escondido Democratic Club; Fallbrook Democratic Club; Lake San Marcos Democratic Club; Rancho Santa Fe Democratic Club; 15 elected Democratic officials; virtually every law enforcement support group in the region; [see campaign page for more](#)

Doug's analysis: This guy is the obvious establishment pick to replace Kreep

Gary Kreep (Incumbent)

Summary: right-wing incumbent; elected by mistake in 2012; [Ballotpedia page](#) explains all his censures by various entities; [City Beat article](#) explains the rest

Doug's analysis: racist, misogynist, birther and grifter . . . want me to tell you how I really feel?

Steve Miller

[Website](#)

Summary: Retired Federal Prosecutor

Tim Nader

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

Summary: Democrat; Deputy Attorney General

Endorsements: Tom Homann LGBTQ Law Association, Eastlake-Bonita Democrats, San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and 16 local Democratic elected officials; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#)

Doug's analysis: looks to be the more liberal candidate in this contest

Victor Torres

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

Summary: Lawyer

Endorsements: San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council; San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, MABPA (Mexican-American Business and Professional Association), San Diego Chapter; National Latino Peace Officers Association; Democratic Freedom Caucus, California Chapter; [see campaign page for more](#)

Additional info: [official stance on issues](#); helped lift the ban on [feeding the homeless in El Cajon](#) in early 2018

Doug's analysis: several of these candidates are good, but I'm leaning towards Torres as a person of color who has "walked the walk" in the Latino community

More about us

Everything we do is powered by passionate volunteers. Indivisible has registered hundreds of voters in San Diego County and we've had a strong presence at all major protests and marches since the 2016 inauguration. From political art projects to meeting with elected officials, there's something for everyone to contribute. Join us by attending a monthly member meeting or signing up for our weekly newsletters at sdindivisible.com.



Methodology

All information in this guide was sourced from public records, including: local media, city and county records, official social media pages and campaign websites of candidates. Links to many of our sources are embedded throughout the guide. All research was conducted by volunteer members of SDID. This guide is not comprehensive. Our goal is to provide readers with an overview of important local races and candidates. We have included certain biographical information on candidates where the circumstances of the race in question make such information relevant. *Revised: May 9, 2018*

Races covered here

None of the Congressional or State Assembly Districts in the City of San Diego, Central and South County are competitive in this election and are not outlined here. All have incumbent Democrats not facing serious opponents. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Money

Only major candidates (\$5k+ in contributions) are listed. Dollar amounts noted are cash contributions only, as of April 27, 2018.

Issues

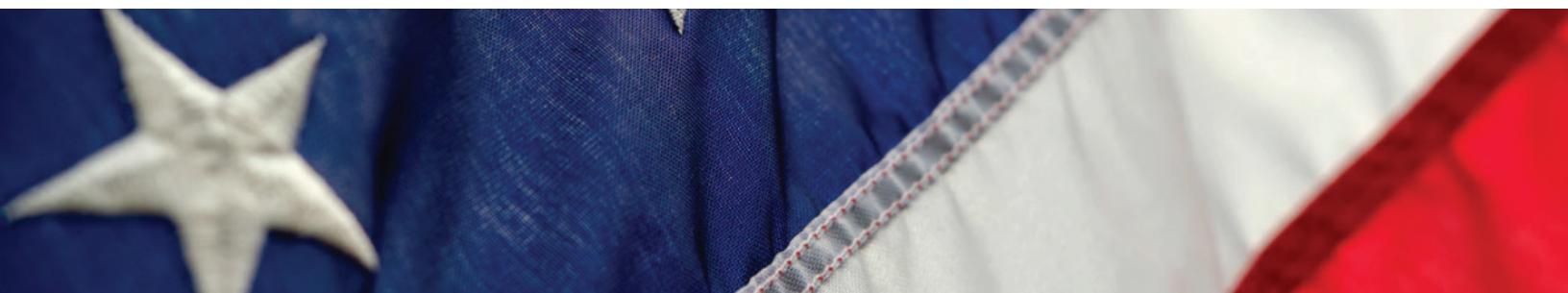
Some candidates haven't shared official campaign positions on their website. Others give platitudes so general as to be useless in differentiating for other candidates. This guide provides links to issues pages where possible.

Endorsements

Democratic Party, club and individual union endorsements are important because they generate people willing to canvass for that candidate.

A nod from many elected officials may simply mean the candidate has done a good job of networking.

It should be noted that Working Family Council (a breakaway group from the Central Labor Council) endorsements are controversial with many progressive activists. The group's President, Mickey Kasparian, has been at the center of lawsuits concerning sexual misconduct, gender discrimination and harassment. The lawsuits have been settled and the final resolutions are unknown due to non-disclosure agreements.



"Bring to the Ballot Box" Worksheet

Complete this worksheet and take it with you to the polls on Tuesday, June 5.

Make sure you're [registered to vote](#) by May 21 and know where your nearest [polling place](#) is located.

Office	Who will you vote for?
San Diego City Council <i>Only if you live in districts 2, 4, 6, or 8</i>	
 San Diego County Board of Supervisors <i>Only if you live in county districts 4 or 5</i>	
 San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk	
 San Diego County Sheriff	
 San Diego County District Attorney	
 San Diego County Board of Education <i>Only if you live in SDCBoE district 3 or 5</i>	
San Diego Community College Board	
 San Diego County Superior Court	

San Diego Indivisible Downtown

sdindivisible.com | facebook.com/groups/sdindivisible | sdindivisible@gmail.com