


# 2026 DEMOCRATIC VOTER GUIDE

(Based on the Democratic Party Guide and My Own investigation and Thoughts)



## DEMOCRATIC VOTER GUIDE

Please use this guide to vote for Democrats on or before June 2 in San Diego County!

### FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. Rep., District 48: *Please vote for a Democrat*  
U.S. Rep., District 49: **Mike Levin**  
U.S. Rep., District 50: **Scott Peters**  
U.S. Rep., District 51: **Sara Jacobs**  
U.S. Rep., District 52: **Juan Vargas**

### STATE OFFICES

*The Democratic Party has not made endorsements in the following six statewide races. Please vote for the Democrat of your choice (as indicated on your ballot).*

Governor  
Lieutenant Governor  
Treasurer  
Insurance Commissioner  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Board of Equalization, District 4

Secretary of State: **Shirley Weber**  
Controller: **Malia Cohen**  
Attorney General: **Rob Bonta**  
State Senate, District 18: **Steve Padilla**  
State Senate, District 32: **Tiffany Tate**  
State Senate, District 38: **Catherine Blakespear**  
State Senate, District 40: **Mara Elliott**  
Assembly, District 74: **Sergio Farias**  
Assembly, District 75: **Gerald Boursiquot**  
Assembly, District 76: **Darshana Patel**  
Assembly, District 77: **Tasha Boerner**  
Assembly, District 78: **Chris Ward**  
Assembly, District 79: **LaShae Sharp-Collins**  
Assembly, District 80: **David Alvarez**

### SUPERIOR COURT

Judge, Office 31: **Jodi Cleesattle**  
Judge, Office 32: **Tia Ramirez**

### EDUCATION BOARDS

County Board of Education  
District 3: **Alicia Muñoz**  
District 5: **Rick Shea**  
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Board  
Area 5: **Mary Gwin**  
San Diego Community College Board  
District A: **Maria Nieto Senour**  
District C: **Craig Milgrim**

### COUNTY OFFICES

Board of Supervisors  
District 5: **Kyle Krahel**  
Treasurer–Tax Collector: **Larry Cohen**

### CITY OFFICES


Chula Vista Mayor: **Francisco Tamayo**  
Chula Vista City Council  
District 1: **Carolina Chavez**  
District 2: **Jose Preciado**  
San Diego City Council  
District 2: **Nicole Crosby**  
District 4: **Henry Foster III**  
District 6: **Kent Lee**  
District 8: **Antonio Martinez, Venus Molina, Rafael Perez, Gerardo Ramirez** (vote for one)

### BALLOT MEASURES


**Measure A: YES** - Empty Homes Tax (City of San Diego)  
**Measure H: YES** - Tri-City Medical / Sharp Affiliation

If a race or ballot measure is not listed here, either the Democratic Party has not taken a position or the item will not appear on the primary election ballot due to the number of candidates who qualified.  
Paid for by the San Diego County Democratic Party, 3934 Murphy Canyon Rd., Suite B103, San Diego, CA 92123.  
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. **Phone: (858) 277-3367**

REV. 4/28/25



**For details about voting options, registration, how to volunteer, and more, go to [sddems.link/info](https://sddems.link/info) or scan here:**



Por favor visite [www.sddemocrats.org/espanol](http://www.sddemocrats.org/espanol) para información sobre la elección.

SEE BELOW STATEMENT

Provided By: Greater Life Community Development Corp. (GLCD) Stephen Walters

# ***My Personal Picks for Statewide Races Overview***

## **Overall “Most Equity-Focused” Slate**

If the primary goal is advancing policies that most directly help underserved Black and Brown Californians Communities of Concern in this current political climate, many progressive and equity-focused voters would likely lean toward:

<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Candidate</u></b>
Governor	Xavier Becerra or Tony Thurmond
Lieutenant Governor	Michael Tubbs
Treasurer	Tony Vazquez
Insurance Commissioner	Jane Kim
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Richard Barrera
Board of Equalization District 4	Tom Umberg

These candidates are generally viewed as more supportive of:

- public education investment
- healthcare access
- labor protections
- criminal justice reform
- tax fairness
- housing affordability
- consumer protections
- immigrant and civil rights protections

In my comparison with more centrist or corporate-aligned alternatives.

# Governors Race

## 1. Xavier Becerra

### Strengths

- Probably the **deepest government experience** in the Democratic field:
  - California Attorney General
  - U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
  - Longtime member of Congress
- Built much of his career around:
  - healthcare access
  - immigrant rights
  - labor protections
  - consumer protections
- As California AG, he led lawsuits defending:
  - the Affordable Care Act
  - DACA protections
  - worker protections against the Trump administration.
- As HHS Secretary, he oversaw expansion of federal healthcare access programs affecting millions of lower-income Americans.

### **Why many see him as strong for underserved Communities of Concern**

- Strong ties to Latino and working-class communities.
- Long record in public-interest legal and health policy work.
- Viewed as a traditional coalition Democrat focused on social safety nets and access to government services.

### Criticisms

- Some progressives feel he is more institutional and incremental than transformational.
  - Critics say he has not generated strong grassroots enthusiasm compared with more activist-style candidates.
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## 2. Tony Thurmond

### Strengths

- Former social worker and current State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- One of the most explicitly equity-focused candidates in the race.
- Policy priorities include:

- affordable housing
- tax relief for low-income families
- public education funding
- Medi-Cal support
- Supports a proposed tax on billionaire wealth to help fund public services.

**Why many underserved advocates like him**

- His background as a social worker gives him credibility on poverty and youth issues.
- Strong focus on:
  - education equity
  - housing affordability
  - economic inequality
- Frequently supported by labor and education groups.

**Criticisms**

- Less statewide executive experience than Becerra.
- Lower name recognition and fundraising power.

**Overall Assessment**

**If the top priority are Communities of Concern specifically**

Different candidates stand out for different reasons:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Candidate Often Seen as Strong</b>
Healthcare access & immigrant protections	Xavier Becerra
Education equity & low-income family policy	Tony Thurmond
Corporate accountability & affordability issues	Katie Porter
Climate justice & economic reform	Tom Steyer

**Lieutenant Governor’s Race**

**Strongest Candidates for Under-Served Communities**

- 1. Michael Tubbs**

## Why he stands out

- Former mayor of Stockton and one of the most nationally recognized Black Democratic leaders in California.
- Strong advocate for:
  - guaranteed income programs
  - criminal justice reform
  - youth opportunity programs
  - economic mobility
- Became nationally known for Stockton's guaranteed income pilot focused on struggling working families.
- Often frames policy around poverty reduction and systemic inequity.

## Strengths

- Deep connection to underserved urban communities.
- Focus on practical anti-poverty solutions.
- Strong credibility with younger progressive and Black voters.

## Concerns

- Critics point to Stockton's continued challenges during his tenure.
  - Less statewide executive experience than some competitors.
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## 2. Steven Bradford

### Why many equity-focused voters support him

- One of the strongest records in Sacramento on:
  - reparations discussions
  - criminal justice reform
  - police accountability
  - workforce equity
- Long legislative history representing Black and working-class communities in Los Angeles County.

## Strengths

- Extensive legislative experience.
- Strong labor and civil-rights relationships.
- Seen as a serious policy-oriented leader.

## Concerns

- Less public visibility statewide.
  - Not as strong with younger progressive voters as Tubbs.
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# Overall Assessment

Priority	Candidate
Practical anti-poverty focus	Michael Tubbs
Legislative civil-rights experience	Steven Bradford

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## Treasurer Race

### Strongest Candidates for Underserved Communities

#### Tony Vazquez

##### Why he stands out

- Strong labor and Latino-community roots.
- Has emphasized:
  - fair taxation
  - working-family investments
  - public infrastructure
  - affordable housing financing.
- Experience on the Board of Equalization gives him direct tax-policy experience affecting communities of color.

##### Strengths

- Strong understanding of California taxation and public finance.
- Frequently aligned with labor and equity initiatives.

##### Concerns

- Lower statewide profile than competitors.
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#### Eleni Kounalakis

##### Strengths

- Significant statewide executive experience.
- Strong supporter of:
  - reproductive rights
  - public higher education
  - housing development

- climate investment.

### Concerns for equity-focused voters

- Seen as more establishment-oriented.
- Less directly associated with Black and Brown economic justice initiatives than Vazquez.

## Overall Assessment

### Priority

### Candidate

Working-class and tax equity focus

Tony Vazquez

Executive experience and statewide leadership

Eleni Kounalakis

For underserved-community priorities specifically, Tony Vazquez appears more directly aligned.

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