

Democratic Socialists of Orange County

2018 November Election Voter Guide

Voter Guide Summary: Pages 3-6

State Races.....Page 3
Central Orange County.....Page 4
West & Coastal Orange County.....Page 5
North & South Orange County.....Page 6

Commentary, Statewide Races: Pages 7-9

State Offices.....Page 7-8
State Propositions.....Page 8-9

Commentary, County Races: Page 10-11

Law Enforcement.....Page 10
Supervisor.....Page 10-11

Commentary, City Races: Pages 11-15

Anaheim.....Page 11-12
Santa Ana.....Page 12-13
Irvine.....Page 13-14
Orange.....Page 14
Tustin.....Page 14
Garden Grove.....Page 15
Yorba Linda.....Page 15
Fullerton.....Page 15
San Clemente.....Page 15

Editor's Note

Many of this year's most hotly contested congressional races are right here in Orange County. There are also many incredibly impactful statewide races across California and state legislative seats up for grabs. Thanks to the jungle primary system, all of those races have two candidates. In almost every case, a Republican against a Democrat. This voter guide is not for those races. If you're not sure, vote against the Republican (and yes, Steven Poizner is a Republican). If you live in Lou Correa or Tom Daly's district(s), write in whatever makes you happy.

This voter guide is for some of those lesser known, or "nonpartisan" races - the judges, city councilmembers, school board trustees, and propositions that directly affect the lives of all of us. Sometimes, they do so without us even realizing it. Now, because of the fractured nature of Orange County politics, not every race is represented or (briefly) commented upon. If we miss a race, feel free to email us at contact@ocdsa.org and we'll try to get back to you with some more information.

*-Josh
October, 2018*

Voter Guide Summary

Pink - a candidate or measure officially endorsed by OC DSA

Blue - we're pretty confident is a reasonably progressive candidate

Black - better than the alternative/we know less about them

State Races: **Intra-Party/Nonpartisan**

United States Senator: **Kevin De Leon**

Lieutenant Governor: See commentary

State Superintendent: **Tony Thurmond**

Board of Equalization, District 4: No recommendation

California State **Propositions**

Proposition 1: YES

Proposition 2: YES

Proposition 3: NO

Proposition 4: YES

Proposition 5: NO

Proposition 6: NO

Proposition 7: No recommendation

Proposition 8: YES

Proposition 10: **YES**

Proposition 11: NO

Proposition 12: YES

County Races: **Law Enforcement**

District Attorney: See commentary

Sheriff: Duke Nguyen

County Races: **Board of Supervisors**

Board of Supervisors, District 4: See commentary

County Races: **Water District**

Division 1: Linda Zamora

Division 7: Kelly Rowe

Municipal Water, Div. 1: Greg Diamond

Judges

Associate Justice - **Supreme Court**

Carol Corrigan: NO

Leondra Kruger: YES

4th Appellate District, **Division 1-3**

Cynthia Aaron: YES

William Dato: YES

Judith Haller: NO

Richard Huffman: NO

Patricia Guerrero: YES

Patricia Benke: NO

Joan Irion: YES

Richard Fields: YES

Art McKinster: NO

Douglas Miller: NO

Marsha Slough: YES

David Thompson: YES

Thomas Goethals: YES

Raymond Ikola: YES

Central Orange County

Anaheim City Races

Mayor: Ashleigh Aitken

Council, District 2: Duane Roberts (but see commentary)

Council, District 3: **Jose Moreno**

Council, District 6: Grant Henninger (but see commentary)

Measure J: NO

Measure K: NO

Measure L: **YES**

Anaheim School Boards

High School, Area 1: **Al Jabbar**

High School, Area 2: **Annemarie Randle-Trejo**

High School, Area 5: Anna Piercy

Elementary, Area 2: **Juan Gabriel Alvarez**

Elementary, Area 4: Norma Kurtz

Elementary, Area 5: **Ryan Ruelas**

Santa Ana City Races

Mayor: Sal Tinajero

Council, Ward 2: **Paul Gonzales**

Council, Ward 4: Roman Reyna

Council, Ward 6: Nelida Mendoza

Measure X: See commentary

Measure AA: **YES**

Measure Z: YES

Measure Y: YES

Rent Control: **YES**

Santa Ana School Boards

At-Large: Valerie Amezcuca

At-Large: John Palacio

Measure I: YES

Central Orange County

Irvine City Races

Mayor: No recommendation

Council, At-Large: **Farrah Khan**

Council, At-Large: **Kev Abazajian**

Irvine School Boards

Area 2: Sharon Wallin

Orange City Races

Mayor: No recommendation

Council, At-Large: **Betty Valencia**

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

Orange School Boards

Area 1: Andrea Yamasaki

Area 4: Kathy Moffat

Area 5: Kris Erickson

Area 7: Sean Griffin

Tustin City Races

Council, At-Large: **Sherry Loveland**
(write-in)

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

Measure CC: YES

Tustin School Boards

Area 5: Elias Teferi

Rancho Santiago Community College

Area 4: Larry Labrado

Area 6: Diane Singer

West/Coastal Orange County

Garden Grove City Races

Mayor: No recommendation

Council, District 1: No recommendation

Council, District 3: Thu-Ha Nguyen

Council, District 4: [Mark Paredes](#)

Measure O: YES

Garden Grove School Boards

Area 4: [Katelyn Brazer](#)

Huntington Beach City Races

Council, At-Large: [Shayna Lathus](#)

Council, At-Large: Kim Carr

Council, At-Large: Dan Kalmick

Council, At-Large: Darren Ellis

Huntington Beach School Districts

High School, At-Large: Diana Carey

High School, At-Large: Marty Salgado

High School, At-Large: Bonnie Castrey

Elementary, At-Large: Diana Marks

Elementary, At-Large: No recommendation

Elementary, At-Large: No recommendation

Ocean View School Districts

At-Large (3): Vote AGAINST [Gracey van der Mark](#)

Cypress City Races

Council, At-Large: Frances Marquez

Council, At-Large: Nettie Bryan

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

West/Coastal Orange County

Costa Mesa City Races

Mayor: Katrina Foley

Council, District 3: Andrea Marr

Council, District 4: Manny Chavez

Council, District 5: Arlis Reynolds

Newport Mesa School District

Area 2: Michelle Murphy

Area 4: No recommendation

Area 5: No recommendation

Area 7: Ashley Anderson

Westminster City Races

Mayor: No recommendation

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

Westminster School Boards

Area 2: Virginia Torres

Area 5: Jeremy Khalaf

Coast Community College

Area 1: Jim Moreno

North Orange County

Fullerton City Races

Council, District 3: Jesus Silva

Council, District 5: Ahmad Zahra

Fullerton School Boards

High School, Area 1: Regina Cuadra

High School, Area 4: Lauren Klatzker

High School, Area 5: Bridget Vornholt

Elementary, Area 3: Jennifer Harris

Elementary, Area 4: Shana Charles

Buena Park City Races

Council, District 1: Sunny Park

Council, District 2: No recommendation

Council, District 5: Connor Traut

Brea City Races

Council, At-Large: Blake Perez

Council, At-Large: Sean Thomas

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

Yorba Linda City Races

Council, At-Large: See commentary

North OC Community College

Area 6: No recommendation

South Orange County

Mission Viejo City Races

Council, At-Large: Mahmoud El-Farra

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

Council, At-Large: No recommendation

San Clemente City Races

Council, At-Large: Jackson Hinkle

(Endorsement currently under consideration)

Council, At-Large: Jake Rybczyk

Aliso Viejo City Races

Council, At-Large: Tiffany Ackley

Council, At-Large: Gary Pritchard

Laguna Niguel City Races

Council, Short Term: Deborah Townes

Dana Point City Races

Council, District 1: Amy Foell

Council, District 2: No recommendation

Council, District 3: No recommendation

South OC Community College

Area 2: No recommendation

Commentary on Selected Races

Statewide Races - Senator

Josh: I see a significant difference between **Kevin De Leon**, who has co-sponsored a universal healthcare bill in the California State Senate and shepherded the most ambitious climate legislation in the U.S. into California law, and the 85 year old Dianne Feinstein, who has refused to endorse any Medicare For All bill and has been a reliable vote for increased surveillance and war going all the way back to her strong support for the Iraq War and the Patriot Act.

Statewide Races - Lieutenant Governor

Josh: There honestly do not seem to be many policy differences between the two candidates, Ed Hernandez and Eleni Kounalakis. Hernandez has more union and state representative endorsements, while Kounalakis has a few high profile national endorsements and support from women's organizations.

On health care, probably the highest profile issues in the race, Kounalakis supports single payer while Hernandez merely calls for expanding access. However, Hernandez does have more detailed cost reducing policies and he did vote in favor of SB 562, California's most recent Medicare for All bill. I'm leaning ever so slightly towards Hernandez, but I may end up flipping a coin.

Statewide Races - State Superintendent

Josh: Marshall Tuck is a former charter school CEO and **Tony Thurmond** is a legislator who has sponsored bills to increase funding for early childhood education and has been endorsed by every teacher organization I can find. I don't think we need to say any more. Vote for Tony Thurmond.

M: Thurmond wants to offer scholarships for aspiring teachers and affordable housing. Realistically, the Superintendent of Public Instruction doesn't really have control of this. I think this might be a response to one of Marshall Tuck's policy proposal. The Superintendent does head the California Department of Education which helps oversee after school nutrition programs which Thurmond talks about supporting and Tuck has no mention of.

Meanwhile, Marshall Tuck cut a dual language immersion program at his elementary school despite the school having a 42% English language learner population at the time (now it's 50%). Marshall Tuck is registered Democrat; however, the California Democratic Party Vice Chair disavowed him by saying "Democrats must be 100 percent clear on this: Gingrich, DeVos and Trump have outlandish education policies based on a warped view of the world. The fact that

Tuck is okay with cozying up to some of the most despicable Republicans in the country speaks volumes about what his true priorities are.” He wants to offer a 0 interest loan to teachers that gets forgiven after they’ve completed their fifth year of teaching. It’s billed as free college however people can get kicked off of the loan forgiveness programs for minor form mistakes or mistakes by a loan or government agency.

Statewide Races - Board of Equalization, District 4

Josh: Mike Schaefer is a self-described “conservative Democrat” who “endorses” the far-right, anti-tax Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and Proposition 13. His opponent is a Republican who is endorsed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. I will not be voting for either candidate.

California Ballot Propositions

Nick: Yes on Prop 1. This is great way to ensure that more housing is created for vulnerable populations.

Yes on Prop 2. We need revenue to support our homeless residents and residents with mental illnesses. Plus, this tax is on incomes at or above \$1,000,000 so working class residents will be unaffected.

No on Prop 3. It doesn’t appear to be a strong way to address water issues in state. Also, arguments that it is a “pay to play” bill makes sense and that it will not hold those who receive the money accountable.

Yes on Prop 4. A Yes vote would allow hospitals who do much of the care and a large portion will specifically go to nonprofit hospitals that provide services to children who can qualify for governmental programs.

No on Prop 5. This proposition, if passed, will continue the problems of Proposition 13. Voters should vote no so that homeowner do not continue getting handouts from the state and cannot bring their assessment values with them as they move.

Josh: I completely agree. This is a shameless transfer of wealth from young renters to old, wealthy homeowners. This would pour gasoline on California’s already unacceptable levels of inequality.

Nick: No on Prop 6. We need to support this gas tax because it will both continue funding necessary infrastructure projects throughout the state and not require future gas tax increases to be voted on by a 2/3 majority.

Josh: What's more, the money from the gas tax isn't going to any new, wasteful projects (like the proposed 241 extension). It's all for desperately needed maintenance on our existing projects - exactly what the state should be prioritizing.

Nick: Yes on Prop 8. Patients should not be overcharged for necessary treatments and voting yes stops unfair pricing for people who receive dialysis treatment.

Yes on Prop 10! We must support any measure which can allow rent control in Californian cities. This proposition will be a great step forward for tenants rights in this state and allow cities to establish provisions which can help reduce displacement.

No on Prop 11. Workers deserve breaks! Do not let employers further exploit workers during their break times, vote no!

Yes on Prop 12. Will benefit animals at our farms and prevent cruelty.

Orange County Races

District Attorney

Josh: Here's what I wrote about these two candidates in June. "[Todd] Spitzer, who should be voted against solely for his anti-homeless record as a County Supervisor, is also notorious for an incident in which he attempted a citizen's arrest over a [theological dispute](#). He is not, to put it mildly, the type of person who should be trusted with the power of the District Attorney's office."

(Since then, Spitzer has been trying to appeal to Democrats with the message that he won't be as cartoonishly corrupt as Tony Rackauckas and he'll do a better job of prosecuting hate crimes. Whether you believe him is up to you. His performance on the homelessness issue as a Supervisor suggests he's better at grandstanding than following though.)

"As for Rackauckas, it's difficult to know where to start. He is most well-known, nation wide, for his culpability in the so-called "jailhouse snitch" scandal, in which "[informants have threatened defendants with violence to get the information they wanted, the lawsuit states, while other informants have been "paid handsomely — hundreds of thousands of dollars in some cases —" for providing information useful to prosecutors.](#)" You can read the whole story [here](#). It's very obvious that the DA's office needs someone radically different leading it."

Sheriff

M: Duke Nguyen for Sheriff-Coroner. His campaign has this in his statements "I will not sit back while our communities face systemic corruption, racism, and disenfranchisement of those whom are most ill prepared to help themselves."

His most specific policy proposal is the plan to create Mental Health Evaluation Teams (MET). In LA, the point of the teams was divert people from arrest to treatment centers. In a quote, an LA police Lieutenant who led a team said that for "low-grade misdemeanors we'll try to divert them to placement rather than an arrest." It was not discussed how consistently that was applied in the article. He did not say MET was a top priority and instead said that he plans to make community policing a top priority. He did not state he would end the Jailhouse informant program and instead said he would audit it.

Supervisor

Josh: Ugh. The Board of Supervisors has mostly been in the news over the past two years for its failures in dealing with the homelessness crisis in Orange County. The Democratic candidate for the board, therefore, is Doug Chaffee, the mayor of Fullerton who has [consistently voted against](#)

[supportive housing](#). If you want to vote against Tim Shaw, I get it, but I am struggling to think of one positive about Chaffee based on his track record.

City Races (Selected Commentary)

Anaheim - Ballot Measures

Nick: **No on J & K.** These are simply giveaways to a large hotel company, who will be given so much in subsidies that the projected amount brought in taxes will be less than not giving them the money in the first place.

Yes on L. For too long large corporations in the resort district, especially Disneyland, have benefitted from a friendly city council. This has allowed them to receive subsidies and further increase their profits. If a company receives subsidies from the city the must be required to pay their employees a living wage. This would help lower poverty among workers who make our biggest business runs.

Anaheim - City Races

Nick: Of all the mayoral candidates, **Ashleigh Aitken** presents herself as most left leaning. While she's no pinko, compared to many of her other candidates she firmly stands with organized labor and for affordable housing development. Overall, her platform is sound and her opponents are worse so I support Aitken for mayor.

2nd District: While I am worried about Brandman winning and Vanderbilt can be seen as safe bet, I hope **Duane Roberts** is able to get on the council because his platform makes him seem on the side of the working residents and not the special interests which run the city.

Josh: Roberts has the best platform by far. The case for Vanderbilt is that he has much higher name recognition and often votes against Disney subsidies. Meanwhile, Brandman will almost certainly always vote to give Disney and the hotels whatever they want. It's a tough call.

Nick: 3rd District: **Dr. Jose Moreno** has proven to be the council member who will fight best for the benefit of residents of this city. If you are voting in district 3 I highly recommend you vote for Moreno!

6th District: Of the three candidates, **Grant Henninger** will get my vote. O'Neil is a run of the mill Republican and most likely will be friendlier to business, especially big business, more than he will be with workers. Gaby, while very anti-Disney, also does not seem interested in larger

issues of inequality nor does she seem like she has a solid plan to reduce homelessness, especially with her support of the anti-camping ordinance. While Grant appears moderate, he does have a solid grasp of urban issues. My main concern is that he hasn't come publicly out against subsidies for the resort district, but he is running in district 6.

Josh: If Disney is your only issue - a somewhat defensible position - I could rationalize voting for Gaby. I think I agree with you, though. I took a peek through Henninger's campaign financial statements, and I didn't see much overlap with the donors to Disney candidates like Mitch Caldwell and Harry Sidhu. There's still a month left in the campaign, though.

Santa Ana - Ballot Measures

Josh: Measure X is a sales tax increase that would prevent the city from plunging deeper into deficit. On the one hand, avoiding municipal bankruptcy is generally good. On the other?

Virginia: A sales tax is a regressive tax and causes more hardship for those who can least afford an increase. According to [this article](#), the city is going to be in the red for \$10M in the next fiscal year due to rising labor costs (police pension), so a sales tax was brought up in council to rectify this. Sounds like the SA police have the council over a barrel, and the council needs to grow a spine. Vote NO.

Josh: It's difficult for me, because you know the first items to be cut if this fails are services for the most vulnerable, so I would want to vote yes. On the other hand, this just encourages more raises and hires that the city won't be able to afford in five years.

Measure AA would change the ward system to work more like a district system, in which city council candidates would be chosen by their district instead of by the entire city. There is no more important vote on the ballot to decrease the influence of money in Santa Ana elections than this one. Vote YES.

Virginia: Mayor Pulido (mayor since 1995) opposes this as he wants to put in council people who are his supporters voted in by his people throughout the city. Vote YES.

Santa Ana - City Races

Virginia: I would vote for **Sal Tinajero** for mayor with reservations. Miguel Pulido was elected in 1994 and has been elected every 2 years since. Seems like no one can move him out of his position. Pulido opposes the measure on the ballot to change the voting in wards currently which state that a candidate must be from that ward, but any voter from any ward can vote for him/her

to only those who are residents of the ward may vote from the field of candidates who run in that ward.

Josh: One of the ways I research candidates is to simply type their name into the Voice of OC search function and see what comes up. In the case of Pulido, it reveals a seemingly [endless litany of scandal and anti-democratic behavior](#). Vote **Tinajero**. He can't be worse.

City Council, Ward 2: **Paul Gonzales** seems like the best candidate to me. He supports a Housing First model, refused to [demonize needle exchanges](#), and has a solid list of endorsements. He's definitely more of a good government liberal than anything else, but that's much better than blatantly corrupt. David Penalzoa is the candidate of the police association, which will not relent until it has taken every dollar of the city budget from now until the end of time. Don't vote for him.

Virginia: My teacher friend, who lives and works in SAUSD, is voting for Paul. In Ward 4, Phil Bacerra has recently been accused of [domestic violence](#).

Josh: He's also the police association candidate. Vote for **Roman Reyna!**

Virginia: Ward 6: Don't vote for Cecilia Iglesias, who has a lot of Republican backing including Mimi Walters, Bob Huff and Janet Nguyen. She has been on the SAUSD board since 2012. She was the only dissenting voice on a SAUSD 2017 resolution to support DACA students in the district. She is a charter school/school choice advocate which she signifies with the yellow scarf she wears to meetings.

Josh: Maybe this seems unduly negative, but Paul Gonzales is the only candidate I can convince myself will be a net positive force on the council. The other two candidates for this ward, Mirna Velasquez and **Nelida Mendoza**, have been very vague on policy, but Mendoza has fewer bad endorsements, so vote for her, I guess.

A quick note on the school board vote - Amezcua and Palacio, as far as I can tell, are the only candidates not pushing charter schools.

Irvine

C.L. (Irvine Resident): Both [City Council candidates] **Keve Abazajian** and **Farrah Khan** have refused to take corporate money. That alone vaults them over the other Democrats, who are not as progressive and are beholden to developers. Anthony Kuo is Don Wagner's right hand man and we can't afford to have two Republicans in lockstep on the Council.

Virginia: My friend who is a homeless advocate in Irvine, says that **Kev Abazajian** (UCI Science Professor) is the only one running currently who publicly supported the homeless initiative Irvine for Everyone, has a much better understanding of Irvine traffic issues than all other candidates, and at his meet and greets has focused on substantive topics, not just pandering to the good people of Irvine. Another activist in Irvine strongly supports **Farrah Kahn** as she is not a puppet for the developers of Irvine.

I have seen [mayoral candidate] Don Wagner in action before Judge Carter's court regarding the issues with homelessness. Wagner promised Judge Carter that he would convene south county mayors and come back with some hard suggestions for spaces for the homeless in that area. They did meet but no decision was concluded, so Judge Carter has suspending anti-camping ordinances which had previously lead to the criminalization of homelessness.

Ed Pope seems to be a single issue candidate as a veteran and one who lead the No of B initiative on the June, 2018 ballot. This successful campaign would stop 5 Point Developers from switching the zoning of a veterans' cemetery at the Great Park.

Orange

Virginia: [Beatriz \(Betty\) Valencia](#) is my favorite. I have met her on a number of occasions and she attended Gayle McLaughlin's presentation to Los Amigos at my request recently. She is endorsed by Our Revolution So Cal. She is endorsed by Dr. Jose Moreno, city council member from Anaheim, which is a plus too.

Also, I DO NOT recommend Zachary Collins, who is obviously a charter school plant. He says on his own website that he supports a parent's right to choose (code words that Cecilia Iglesias and her yellow scarves use who have made themselves known at the Orange School Board Meetings.)

Tustin

Virginia: I have lived near here for over 30 years and have known **Sherri Loveland** for quite some time. She is the one I would vote for. She has many endorsements, including Delaine Eastin, Betty Yee, Beckie Gomez (presently on CC of Tustin but termed out), Sharon Quirk-Silva, Kimberly Ellis, and Josh Newman.

(Explanation of Measure CC: Transient Occupancy Tax - A yes vote on this would raise the occupancy tax for local hotels from 10 to 13%. This increase will add an estimated \$480,000 in annual revenue to the General Fund to be used for police, public safety, street maintenance, and parks and recreations.)

Garden Grove

Josh: This will be the first election held in Districts 1 and 4. In District 4, two extremely conservative candidates - incumbent Phat Bui, who hates taxes and loves the sound of his own voice, and former planning commissioner Joe Dovich - are both vying for the conservative Little Saigon vote, making it possible for the more progressive **Mark Paredes** to sneak in. Meanwhile, the race in District 1 is a complete trainwreck, with three different police officers running on what seem to be identical platforms. Incumbent **Thu-Ha Nguyen** seems to have the inside track in District 3, two years after winning that seat with nearly two thirds of the vote. Mayor Steve Jones is not facing a credible challenger.

Yorba Linda

M: Lourdes Cruz is endorsed by various local Democratic Party organizations. Her campaign issues are vague. It's general "nice parks, safe communities" campaign goals. There are no substantive goals. However, Yorba Linda voters are 52% Republican, 22.3 % Democrat, and 22% no party preference. If she has any chance at winning it's through appealing to the Democrat and no party preference voters.

Fullerton

Josh: I think [this news story](#) sums up the state of Fullerton politics in 2018. Hopefully, we'll have better things to write about in 2020. Anyway, make sure to vote for the teacher-endorsed slate of school board candidates we recommended above!

San Clemente

Josh: Let's end this voter guide on a positive note. DSA member and environmental activist [Jackson Hinkle](#) is running on a slate with fellow student **Jake Rybczyk** on a platform of ensuring safe storage of the nuclear waste generated by the plant at San Onofre, ending homelessness in the city, transitioning to a sustainable future, and opposing unnecessary toll roads. If you live in South County, this is a rare opportunity to help out genuinely progressive local candidates.