



# CLIMATE VOTER GUIDE

2024 ELECTION

# Mission Statement

Our goal in creating this voter guide was to provide a comprehensive overview of unbiased information on upcoming local California elections, as well as the presidential election, through the lens of climate change. This guide will provide concise, factual information on the presidential race, the U.S. Senate race, one State Assembly race, Congressional races in Districts 30, 34 and 37, and California state Propositions 2, 4 and 5.

For each race and proposition, we investigated the candidate or platform, their endorsements and their funding sources. We hope this guide provokes well-informed political decisions on who and where your vote is going and the impact that vote will have on the climate.

Between back-to-back hurricanes, raging wildfires and violently chaotic weather patterns across the nation, communities and livelihoods are bearing the brunt of climate change on a daily basis. Few parts of our lives remain untouched by the shifting environment. Our guide will hopefully equip voters with the information they need to make informed decisions.

We believe it is important for every voter to have a basic understanding of the politics around policies that affect climate change. We believe voters should know what their representatives plan to do for their constituents and the planet. Our information has been thoroughly researched, fact-checked, and sourced to make sure voters have a clear and unbiased picture of exactly what is on the ballot this November when it comes to climate change.

**1**

## Federal

### Presidential

The presidential race is between incumbent Vice President Kamala Harris (D) and former President Donald Trump (R).

### VP

The vice-presidential race will be between Ohio Senator J.D. Vance (R) and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz (D). Vance is a first-term senator and Walz is the first vice-presidential candidate to be a governor since Sarah Palin in 2008.

### CA Senate

Representative Adam Schiff (D) and former professional baseball player Steve Garvey (R) are facing off in California's 2024 Senate race. The winner will succeed the late Senator Dianne Feinstein.

**2**

## U.S. House

The House of Representatives is the lower chamber of Congress, working with the Senate to create and enact federal laws, establish the national budget, and vote on policies impacting all Americans. Elections for the 435 voting seats occur every two years, with representatives serving two-year terms. Representation is based on state population.

### District 30

Democrat Laura Friedman faces Republic Alex Balekian to succeed Congressman Adam Schiff.

### District 34

In California's 34th Congressional District, covering most of downtown and East Los Angeles, Democratic incumbent Jimmy Gomez is facing challenger David Kim, a fellow Democrat.

### District 37

In California's 37th District, which includes Culver City and parts of West and South Los Angeles, the U.S. House race pits Democratic incumbent Sydney Kamlager-Dove against Juan Rey, an unaffiliated candidate.

**3**

## State Assembly

The California State Assembly is the lower house of the state legislature, working alongside the State Senate to draft and pass legislation, set state spending levels, and vote on public policy matters affecting Californians. Races take place every two years.

### District 57

In California's 57th District, Democrats Sade Elhawary and Efren Martinez face off for the Assembly seat.

**4**

## Propositions

### Prop 2

Proposition 2 would authorize the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to provide money to schools in California for new facilities and renovations.

### Prop 4

Proposition 4 would authorize the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to address climate change.

### Prop 5

Proposition 5 would lower the voter approval threshold from two-thirds to 55% for local governments to issue bonds for affordable housing and public infrastructure.

# VOTER INFO





## Federal: Why these races?

### Presidential

We chose the presidential race because of the importance of the position and to examine the differences between candidates on climate action. Republican candidate Donald Trump, during his speech at the Republican National Convention, advocated for increased domestic oil drilling, stating, "Drill, baby, drill." On the other hand, Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, as vice president, cast the tie-breaking vote on the Inflation Reduction Act, marking the largest clean energy policy in U.S. history.

### VP

We chose the vice-presidential race because the vice-presidential candidates offer different views on climate change. The vice president could serve as a pivotal tie-breaking vote in the Senate, making whoever wins the vice presidency an important factor in the future of climate legislation in Congress.

### CA Senate

We chose the CA Senate race because it will play a pivotal role in shaping national climate policy. With California at the forefront of the country's environmental legislation, the outcome of this race will impact how these crises are addressed at both the local and federal levels.



Kamala Harris says she “will unite Americans to tackle the climate crisis.”

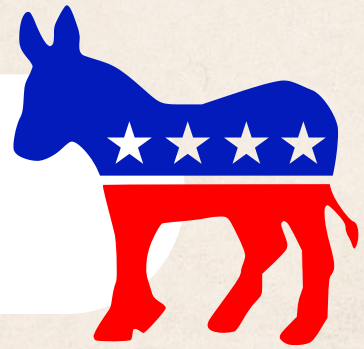
Harris was one of the original co-sponsors of the [Green New Deal](#) while in the Senate (2017-2020) and called climate change an “existential threat” to humanity during a 2019 speech at the [New Hampshire Institute of Politics](#).

**“Climate change is real, and it is posing an existential threat to us as a community.”**

**@ THE NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS, 2019**

The Biden-Harris administration introduced stronger limits on emissions from cars and power plants. The [Inflation Reduction Act](#), implemented under Harris’ tenure as vice president, invested trillions of governmental funds in clean energy efforts. Harris [supported the allocation](#) of billions to fund climate and clean energy projects across America by “providing \$20 billion to a national network of nonprofits, community lenders and other financial institutions to fund tens of thousands of climate and clean energy projects across America.” This [initiative](#) is part of the goal set by the administration to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

KAMALA HARRIS (D)

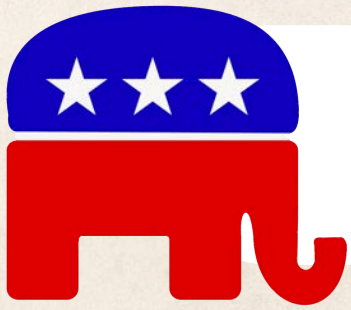


Harris has changed her position on fracking, a [technique](#) used to extract oil and natural gas from rock formations opposed by many environmental activists. In 2019, during her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, Harris supported a ban on fracking. However, Harris now says she will not ban fracking. “My position is that we have got to invest in diverse sources of energy so we reduce our reliance on foreign oil,” [said Harris](#).

As California's Attorney General from 2011-2017, Harris [sued](#) major oil companies like BP subsidiaries for leaks in their underground fuel storage tanks and ConocoPhillips for air quality violations at their gas stations. She also [launched an investigation](#) into oil company ExxonMobil’s framing of climate risks in 2016, but no lawsuit was filed after. In a 2016 criminal case against the Plains All-American Pipeline, Harris won a [major indictment](#) over an oil spill in Santa Barbara. The company paid millions in fines, according to Politico.

Harris’s presidential campaign has [received](#) \$9,216,656 from the League of Conservation Voters, \$4,634,401 in funding from Climate Power and \$3,817,875 from the Environmental Defense Fund, all environmental climate-based organizations.





DONALD TRUMP (R)

Presidential

Republican nominee and former president Donald Trump has solidified his stance in support of the fossil industry and against environmental protection policies this election season.

[Trump's platform](#) outlines his intentions to lift previous restrictions on energy production, terminate the Green New Deal and cancel Biden's Electric Vehicle Mandate.

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED  
FROM OIL AND GAS

**\$14,000,000**

[OPENSECRETS.ORG](https://www.opensecrets.org)

During his presidency, Trump [reversed more than 100 environmental policies](#), including regulating power plant emissions, vehicle emission standards, and oil and gas restrictions. In 2017, Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the globally recognized [Paris Climate Agreement](#), making it the only one of 195 countries to take such a step. These policies caused significant backlash in the international community, [including the United Nations](#).

Trump has expressed skepticism about the reality of climate change and champions the economy over the environment, [citing concerns](#) about the costs of climate mitigation efforts and the financial deficits of diverging from domestic oil and gas production. Leah Sarnoff reported for [ABC News](#) that when accepting his nomination at the Republican National Convention, Trump used the phrase “drill, baby, drill,” rallying for an increase in oil drilling and fossil fuel production.

**“We will drill, baby, drill.”**

[@ THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION, 2024](#)

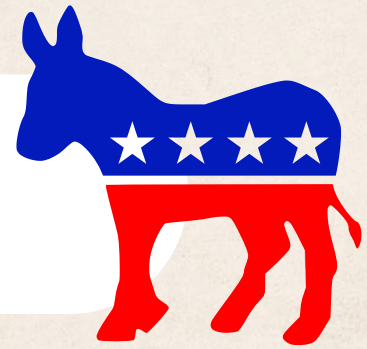
Trump has [expressed confusion over renewable energy methods](#), stating, “When it doesn’t blow, we have a little problem,” when referencing renewable wind power at a campaign rally in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Additionally, Trump recently [downplayed the severity of climate change](#) while visiting Georgia post-Hurricane Helene.

Trump criticized the push towards an all-electric vehicle market, stating that electric vehicles will negatively impact the American automotive industry. Trump has also voiced concerns over the costs, range and feasibility of transitioning to an all-electric market. This comes in conjunction with Trump’s endorsement from Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who has driven the electric automotive industry to all-time highs.

According to [OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org), as of September 2024, Trump’s Presidential campaign has raised a total of \$283 million, [\\$14 million](#) of which came from the oil and gas industries.



VP



TIM WALZ (D)

## AMOUNT OF ENERGY IN MINNESOTA TO BE PRODUCED FROM CARBON-FREE SOURCES

**80%** by 2030

**32%** by 2040

### MINNESOTA COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

During the Vice-Presidential debate on October 1, when asked about climate change, Walz said, “Reducing our impact is absolutely critical... You can do that at the same time you're creating the jobs that we're seeing all across the country.” He also [highlighted the economic benefits](#) of clean energy and called for the U.S. to prepare for climate change. On the other hand, Walz emphasized that oil and gas provide jobs for Americans, and said the U.S. should not stop producing fossil fuels, which suggests a slower policy of shifting away from pollutants than climate activists would hope.

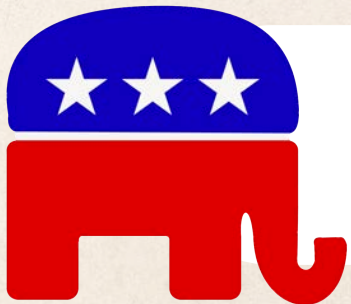
Minnesota governor and vice presidential candidate Tim Walz has positioned himself as a fighter against climate change during his time as governor. According to [the Guardian](#), in 2019 Walz created a climate crisis sub-cabinet and advisory board in his administration, which included a plan to cut half of carbon emissions by 2030. Contemporary reporting says he “signed [legislation](#) in 2023 requiring 80% of Minnesotans’ energy to be produced from carbon-free sources by 2030, and 100% by 2040.” “He gets that climate action isn’t about politics, it’s about protecting our small towns and cities,” said Gina McCarthy, Biden’s former EPA administrator, in a statement. “It’s about creating safer and healthier communities for our kids and grandkids to grow up in.”

However, during his tenure in the House, Walz voted to [approve the Keystone XL](#) crude oil pipeline, a project that faced decade-long opposition from environmentalists and indigenous activists. As governor, he [approved the construction of Line 3](#), a separate pipeline running through the state carrying Canadian tar oil.

**“The solution for us is to continue to move forward, that climate change is real. Reducing our impact is absolutely critical.”**

**@ THE CBS VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, 2024**





JD VANCE (R)

VP

J.D. Vance hails from Ohio, [which ranks sixth in the country in gas production and is the eighth-largest consumer of coal.](#)

While serving in the Senate in 2020, Vance made a [speech at Ohio State University](#), saying “We of course have a climate problem in our community,” and added that using gas and coal is an “improvement over dirtier forms of power but isn’t exactly the sort of thing that’s gonna take us to a clean energy future.” [Additionally, he criticized the U.S. for being slow to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.](#)

However, in the past few years, Vance has changed his tune on climate change.

**FUNDING RECEIVED FROM OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY SINCE 2019**

**\$340,289**

**THE GUARDIAN**

“I’m skeptical of the idea that climate change is caused purely by man ... It’s been changing, as others pointed out, it’s been changing for millennia,” Vance said at the [American Leadership Forum](#) in 2022. “They [environmentalists] think climate change is caused by carbon emissions, then why is their solution to scream about it at the top of their lungs?”

According to OpenSecrets and reported by [The Guardian](#), Vance has received “\$340,289 from the oil and gas industry in campaign contributions since 2019 and is among the top industry benefactors so far this [2024] election cycle.”

**“You'd want to restore as much American manufacturing as possible and produce as much energy as possible in the United States of America.”**

**@ THE CBS VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, 2024**

In the recent vice-presidential [debate](#), he doubted the scientific consensus that carbon emissions cause climate change and suggested a solution is increased manufacturing.

“Let's just say that's true, just for the sake of argument, so we're not arguing about weird science,” Vance said at the debate. “The answer is that you'd want to restore as much American manufacturing as possible and you'd want to produce as much energy as possible in the United States of America.”



## CA Senate

Adam Schiff was first elected as a U.S. Representative in 2001, representing Los Angeles' 27th district. Schiff was the head impeachment manager in the first impeachment of President Donald Trump. Before serving in Congress, Schiff was elected to represent the [21st district](#) in the [California State Senate](#).

Schiff has said “the climate crisis is the greatest existential threat to our state, nation and planet,” [according to the Los Angeles Times](#).

In August 2024, Adam Schiff introduced H.R. 5435, or the [Standardized Calculation of Operational Polluting Emissions \(SCOPE\) Act](#), to encourage corporate transparency on environmental impacts. The bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish voluntary guidelines for companies to calculate and disclose their indirect Scope 3 emissions, which are emissions that are outside of the company's direct control.

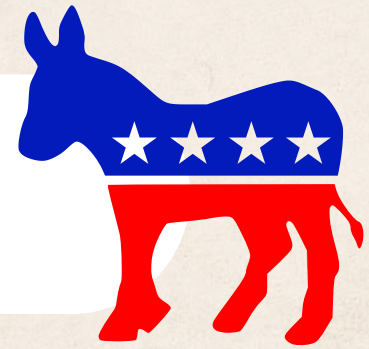
“The SCOPE Act would incentivize more companies to provide standardized disclosures of their emissions up and down the value chain,” [says David Shadburn](#), the Senior Government Affairs Advocate of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV).

## PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTING RECORD

# 98%

[LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION OF VOTERS \(LCV\)](#)

ADAM SCHIFF (D)



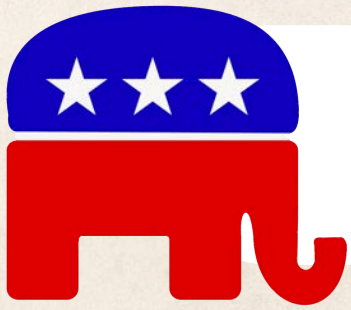
The [LCV awarded Schiff](#) a 98% pro-environment voting record overall, with a perfect 100% in 2023. But Schiff's Democratic opponents in the primary raised questions about the congressman's fundraising sources.

Representative Schiff may have prosecuted big oil companies before he came to Congress, but when he got to Congress he cashed checks from companies like [British Petroleum] — from fossil fuel companies,” Schiff's opponent Rep. Katie Porter [said at a debate in January](#) 2024. [According to Politico](#), in 2004 and 2006 Schiff took \$2,000 from the BP North American Employee PAC. Now, his top donors include the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Edison International, one of the nations top electric power distributors. He received \$110,659 from AIPAC, and \$55,550 from Edison International.

In October, Schiff told [CNN](#): “I favor banning fracking, and I strongly believe that the pathway to attacking climate change is to wean ourselves off of fossil fuels.”

Schiff's campaign did not respond to requests for comment, but the campaign did direct Annenberg Media to [Schiff's climate plan](#), which he released in February. The plan includes ending federal subsidies for fossil fuel production, setting an “ambitious” decarbonization date for aviation and passing the Green New Deal.





STEVE GARVEY (R)

CA Senate

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Steve Garvey is a former professional baseball player, playing as a first baseman for both the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1969–1982 and the San Diego Padres from 1983–1987. This is Garvey's first political campaign.

While Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump and J.D. Vance have called climate change [“a hoax”](#) and [“weird science,”](#) Garvey has taken a different approach.

In a Feb. 16 interview with [KCRA-TV](#), he said that “I believe it’s [climate change] real” and “we have to look at ways for cleaner energy.”

Garvey expanded on his concerns in a Oct. 7 explainer on [KPBS and CalMatters](#). “Here in California, we see the effects of climate change with persistent drought, increased wildfires and sea level rise,” said Garvey.

On [his campaign website](#), Garvey said that there should be “a transparent, gradual transition to renewable energy sources that protects jobs and the economy.” In a Jan. 12 [interview with the Orange County Register](#), Garvey said that while “immediate and effective action” needs to be taken on climate change, this needs to be balanced with “economic sustainability.”

However, Garvey’s [campaign website](#) does not use the phrase ‘climate change,’ instead dividing environmental strategy into two sections — “energy policy” and “water policy.”

Under “energy policy,” Garvey listed three proposals: “overhaul energy regulations,” “fix Inflation Reduction Act’s flawed energy tax credits” and “increase leases for drilling on federal lands.” Garvey also expresses his support for increased drilling for oil and natural gas [on his website](#).

For his “water policy,” he has listed two proposals: reforming the federal water permit system and removing the Biden administration’s regulations of “bodies of water.”

As of data released on Sept. 21, Garvey’s campaign has raised \$10,931,707, with \$55,334 contributed by the energy sector and \$152,295 contributed by the agribusiness sector, according to [OpenSecrets.org](#).

Garvey’s campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED**  
**\$10,931,707**  
**[OPENSECRETS.ORG](#)**



## U.S. House: Why these races?

### District 30

We chose the District 30 House race because of the environmental policies at stake for Californian citizens. Some of the big issues in this race include environmental legislation, transportation, and housing policy, all of which candidates Alex Balekian and Laura Friendman have distinct takes on.

### District 34

We chose the District 34 House race because it is close to the USC area. The candidates, David Kim and Jimmy Gomez, are both Democratic party candidates who find common ground in their climate change policies. These policies aim to combat climate change in California and the U.S. as a whole.

### District 37

We chose the District 37 House race because the district is home to USC. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, the incumbent, and Juan Rey both view climate change as a key issue, each offering very distinct solutions to address it.



## U.S. District 30

Laura Friedman is running as the Democratic candidate in California's 30th Congressional District. She was elected to the State Assembly in 2016 and currently represents California's 44th district. Friedman served as the mayor of Glendale from 2011-2012 and is endorsed by the 30th district incumbent Congressman Adam Schiff. According to her campaign website, her top three issues are homelessness and affordable housing, climate change, and protecting vulnerable communities.

### TOP ISSUES

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

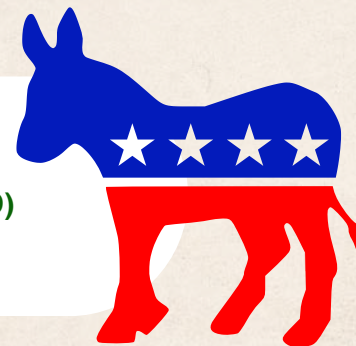
Climate Change

Protecting Vulnerable Communities

### CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

[Friedman's website](#) says one of her primary legislative priorities is combating climate change. She was selected to serve as the Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, a member of the Assembly Select Committee on Urban Development to Combat Climate Change, the Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Biodiversity, and Chair of the bicameral Environmental Caucus in Congress.

LAURA FRIEDMAN (D)



[She has also passed several pieces of climate legislation.](#) In 2023, Friedman authored AB 3232, which intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from commercial and residential buildings by 40% by 2030; she co-authored legislation that will require all packaging in California to be recyclable or compostable by 2032; and has signed legislation into law that will help modernize water management to prevent future droughts and eliminate water waste.

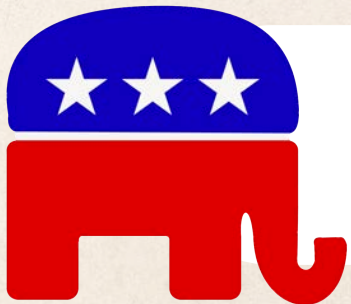
Friedman is endorsed by ten environmental organizations, including California Environmental Voters and the Center for Biological Diversity Action Fund. According to [OpenSecrets](#), as of October 18, 2024, her campaign raised \$1,654,401 with \$1,091,647 coming from large individual contributions. [These include](#) \$948,312 from ActBlue, \$10,823 from EMILY's list, and \$10,000 from Women's Political Cmte.

### TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

**\$1,654,401**

[OPENSECRETS.ORG](https://www.opensecrets.org)





ALEX BALEKIAN (R)

U.S. District 30

Republican Alex Balekian is running for California's 30th Congressional District. He is an intensive care physician from Glendale with no background in politics. In an exclusive interview, Balekian said his top three issues of focus are crime, homelessness, and term limits. As for climate change, Balekian said that a stronger and more reliable energy grid should be built to strengthen nuclear energy.

"If we're going to call for alternative energies, let's innovate and make them cheaper and more accessible to the average person," Balekian said during his interview. He supports bolstering nuclear energy to reduce energy prices—without relying on fossil fuels—and named France as a model for implementing nuclear energy safely as a primary energy source.

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

\$295,507

[OPENSECRETS.ORG](https://www.opensecrets.org)

TOP ISSUES

Crime

Homelessness

Term Limits

INTERVIEW

When asked about climate-related issues specific to his community, Balekian mentioned Los Angeles public transportation and its current safety issues. Balekian said, "The way that I would make my neighborhood better with climate change is, rather than doing new things to create new bus lines, the existing ones can be made safer by addressing the homelessness issue." He stated that making current public transportation safer will encourage more individuals to use the lines currently in place. This will lead to a reduction in vehicle exhaust emissions which will mitigate air pollution in Los Angeles.

Balekian is not endorsed by any environmental organizations and according to [OpenSecrets](https://www.opensecrets.org) as of October 18, 2024, he has raised \$295,507. Of this amount, \$251,565 was donated by large individual contributions: including AJR Trucking, Rooter Hero Plumbing and Air, and \$30,106 was candidate self-financing.



## U.S. District 34

Current Democratic U.S. Representative Jimmy Gomez has been serving as California's 34th Congressional District's representative since 2017 and is running again in this election cycle against Democrat David Kim. Previously, the incumbent represented Congressional District 51 from 2012-2017. From 2013-2014 he served as [State Assembly Majority Whip](#).

## PERCENT OF MONEY RAISED FROM PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

# 48.07%

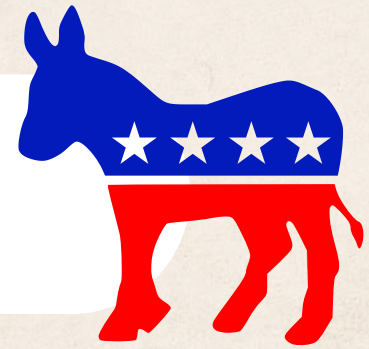
[OPENSECRETS.ORG](https://www.opensecrets.org)

Gomez's campaign staff said that Gomez believes that "the climate crisis is an existential threat." In April 2019, Gomez successfully worked to get the House Appropriations Committee to allocate [\\$2.73 billion](#) toward the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project. In 2020, Gomez and his colleagues announced the first federal funding for the L.A. River since the 2017 fiscal year with an [investment](#) of \$1.857 million by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Gomez has raised [\\$1,482,573](#), receiving \$712,715 from PAC contributions, which equates to 48.07% of the money he has raised.

"Jimmy does not and will not accept corporate PAC money," said his campaign staff in an email. "Jimmy has never taken money from oil companies." According to Open Secrets, his [top industry](#) is Pro-Israel and his [top contributor](#) is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

JIMMY GOMEZ (D)  
(INCUMBENT)



Gomez is [endorsed](#) by the California Democratic Party and Vice President Kamala Harris. Alongside Harris, Gomez was an original sponsor of the Green New Deal. [Gomez supported](#) the Inflation Reduction Act, which would put the U.S. on a trajectory to meet its climate commitments by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. "As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Jimmy will fight for a just tax system that allows for historic investments in renewable energy, climate solutions, and make sure that working families are not left behind in the green economy," according to a statement from his campaign staff. Gomez also received the [Green Leadership Award](#) for "bold environmental leadership" from [Green California](#).

## "The climate crisis is an existential threat."

### 2024, VIA HIS CAMPAIGN

Gomez's campaign staff said that "his progressive track record on combating climate change to empower workers, both as a member of the State Assembly and later as a US Representative, is why labor unions, environmental advocates, Planned Parenthood, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez all support his reelection this year."



## U.S. District 34

In California's 34th Congressional District, covering most of downtown and East Los Angeles, Democratic incumbent Jimmy Gomez is facing challenger David Kim, a fellow Democrat.

**“The Green New Deal is not specific enough.”**

@ USC, 2024

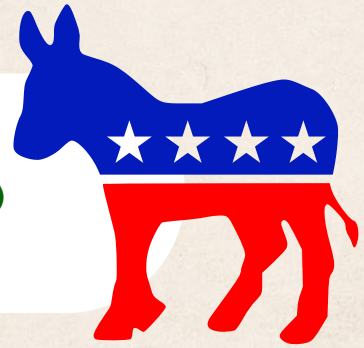
Kim, a children's court attorney and former neighborhood board council member, is running for a seat for the third time. During a press conference with USC students, Kim stated he is “running a 100% clean-money campaign because [he] knows it’s time to put our community first. People are suffering, but corporate incumbents like our current representative keep falling in line with the established political machine in Washington.” Not taking money from corporations or PACs is something Kim campaigns on, and he said he has never had PAC or corporation contributions. His statements are backed by data from the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) on [Open Secrets](#).

**3,000 constituents say Climate change is a top 3 issue.**

@ USC, 2024

During the press conference, Kim said he sent a survey to 3,000 of his constituents who responded that climate change is ranked third of their top issues for this election cycle.

DAVID KIM (D)



Kim believes Congress should pass a Green New Deal and the country should rely on 100% renewable energy. He says this would create 20 million new union jobs and transform the United States. Kim said he believes even more legislation is needed because “the Green New Deal is not specific enough.”

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED FROM  
PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**\$220,000**

**FEC, VIA OPENSECRETS.ORG**

Kim wants to see Congress end all federal oil and gas tax subsidies and use that revenue to subsidize clean energy. He is pledging to work with community stakeholders to pass legislation that will protect families from fossil fuel and agricultural pollution.

Kim is endorsed by the [Sunrise Movement](#) LA, a group of young climate change activists in the Los Angeles area. He has raised about \$220,000 from personal contributions both small and large, according to the [FEC](#).



## U.S. District 37

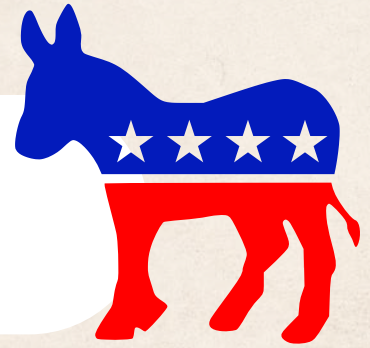
Juan Rey is running for California's 37th Congressional District [without party affiliation](#) or prior political experience. A former train mechanic at L.A. Metro and an elected union steward, [Rey's campaign](#) centers on tackling economic inequality and housing affordability while challenging corporate influence in politics.

As of October 8th, 2024, Rey has not reported any financial contributions for his 2024 race, according to [OpenSecrets](#). This lack of funding reflects his commitment to remain independent from corporate interests, which he believes distort the political landscape.

Rey emphasizes the disproportionate impact of climate change on the working class, who often bear the brunt of climate disasters. He says states, "We are witnessing the collateral damage left from hurricanes, flooding, droughts, rising heat, and wildfires."

Rey says politicians have neglected to address the climate crisis, claiming both major political parties are "owned by the capitalist class." He cites the oil industry's history of discrediting climate science, pointing out that ExxonMobil concealed its research on climate change as far back as 1977.

JUAN REY (D)



Since then, Rey asserts, oil companies and politicians have "misguided and confused the population."

In his view, U.S. policy prioritizes military spending over essential measures that could protect communities vulnerable to natural disasters.

People in power, according to Rey, are more focused on profiting from climate crises than on providing real solutions, saying "We in the working class can only depend on ourselves." He believes that meaningful change can only emerge from the working class organizing their own political party to challenge the status quo and address the climate emergency.

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

\$0

ACCORDING TO [OPENSECRETS.ORG](#)

## KEY POLICIES

- ✓ More jobs
- ✓ More housing
- ✓ More Education

Unite working class citizens



## U.S. District 37

[Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove](#), the incumbent for California's 37th district since 2023, is running for reelection on Nov. 5.

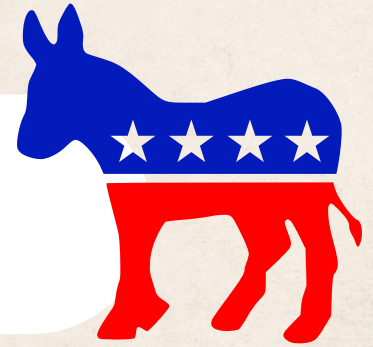
According to Kamlager-Dove, the congresswoman has secured \$670 million for water and environmental projects through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Kamlager-Dove helped introduce the Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act (2023-2024) which addresses the unequal environmental impacts on Black and Brown communities. [This bill](#) has not yet passed.

“Among many things, this legislation mandates agencies to study and address the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on Black communities and communities of color; requires consideration of the cumulative effects in permitting decisions and allows federal agencies to deny permits if a project poses a reasonable risk of harm to human health; and establishes a Federal Energy Transition Economic Development Assistance Fund to help communities that rely on polluters for employment to transition to clean economy jobs,” said Kamlager-Dove in an email.

The congresswoman has also [sponsored](#) and [cosponsored bills](#) aiming to improve environmental justice such as promoting clean water initiatives, reducing plastic waste and protecting affected persons from environmental impacts. Kamlager-Dove is an outspoken supporter of [The Green New Deal](#) and the [Inflation Reduction Act](#).

**SYDNEY KAMLAGER-  
DOVE (D)  
(INCUMBENT)**



Kamlager-Dove earned a [100% score from the League of Conservation Voters \(LCV\)](#) after supporting all 33 pro-environment votes on climate change during her term.

[Kamlager-Dove has been endorsed](#) by multiple climate change-related organizations including California Environmental Voters, Jane Fonda Climate PAC, League of Conservation Voters, and Sierra Club.

“I cherish Mother Earth and recognize that it is my duty as a U.S. congresswoman to tackle climate change head-on, which is why land and the environment are central parts of my LEAD agenda. I consistently remind my colleagues across the aisle on the House Natural Resources Committee of the disastrous consequences of climate change and have introduced amendments to bills to ensure legislation addresses this significant threat,” said Kamlager-Dove.

## PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTING RECORD

# 100%

**LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS (LCV)**



District 57

We chose the District 57 State Assembly race because of the wide variety of issues important in this race. District 57, which covers different parts of Los Angeles County, faces significant issues such as housing affordability, homelessness, environmental policies and economic recovery from the pandemic. The candidates running for the seat, Sade Elhawary and Efren Martinez, have taken distinct positions on how to tackle these local challenges.



## State Assembly

Sade Elhawary is a Democratic candidate for the State Assembly in District 57.

Elhawary was the Youth Engagement Campaign Manager on Karen Bass's campaign for mayor, [according to her campaign website](#). Before that, she was a youth mentor at the Community Coalition and worked on wellness and social justice initiatives at local schools.

With a constituency experiencing high rates of homelessness and poverty, her [top priorities](#) include affordable housing, universal healthcare, and environmental justice by way of “bold climate action,” [according to her website](#).

She looks to allocate resources to “phase out oil drilling and remediate existing and abandoned wells, reduce health disparities, [develop] green and cool neighborhoods, upgrade water infrastructure, expand emergency management, increase access to solar and wind energy, electrify truck fleets and public transit, and reclaim urban space for sustainable food purposes.”

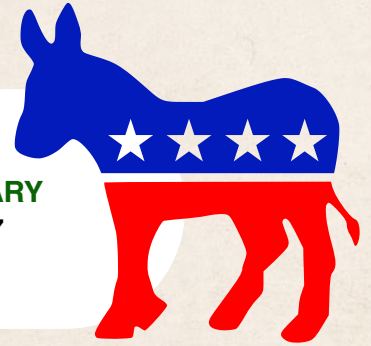
Elhawary enjoys support from environmental organizations, Mayor Karen Bass and the Los Angeles Times.

### FUNDING RECEIVED FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

# \$17,000

[FOLLOWTHEMONEY.ORG](https://followthemoney.org)

**SADE ELHAWARY**  
**DISTRICT 57**



Her campaign has raised [almost \\$1 million](#). Elhawary is [mostly funded](#) by Public Sector Unions and General Trade Unions, which account for almost one-third of her total. She has also received modest funding from environmental organizations. Elhawary received over \$10,000 from the California Environmental Voters Small Contributor Committee, \$500 from the California Sierra Club, \$4,000 from the Pro-Environmental Policy Sector, and \$2,500 from Environmental Services and Equipment associates, according to [Follow the Money](#).

Elhawary's platform is mostly grounded in social justice initiatives, promising better lives for local families, and championing individual people over special interest groups, according to [her website](#). She is focused on Los Angeles' “underserved communities” by ensuring an effective use of resources and developing subsidized housing.

Elhawary did not respond to requests for comment.



## State Assembly

Efren Martinez is a Democratic candidate running against Sade Elhawary for State Assembly in California's 57th Congressional District. He is running to replace Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, whose term expires.

Martinez was born and raised in South Los Angeles. According to his [website](#), Martinez aims to repair relations between citizens and law enforcement to lower crime rates and restore safety in Los Angeles neighborhoods. He also advocates stricter gun control and mental health and crisis intervention.

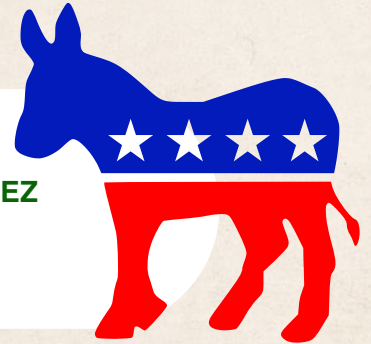
His [Transformative Education](#) plan would provide equitable funding and resources for public schools.

[His campaign website](#) briefly mentions the urgency of combating [climate change](#) but provides little to no concrete plans for how he would follow through with this.

Martinez has raised [\\$622,513](#) for his campaign, \$21,500 of which has come from the oil and gas industries. His top donors include public sector unions and tribal governments. Martinez declined to answer questions about his position on climate change.

Martinez is [endorsed](#) by LA County Board of Supervisors Janice Hahn and State Assemblymember Mike Gipson. He also enjoys support from the South Central Democratic Club and Women Leading Change Democratic Club.

**EFREN MARTINEZ**  
**DISTRICT 57**



U.S. House District 30 Laura Friedman vs. Alex Balekian

District 30 encompasses Burbank, Glendale, the Linda Vista neighborhood of Pasadena, Hollywood, Tujunga, West Hollywood, Edendale, Park La Brea, Hancock Park, and Westside Echo Park. Democratic Congressman Adam Schiff currently represents the district and is serving his 12th term in the House of Representatives. Schiff, who is running for the U.S. Senate, has endorsed Democratic candidate Laura Friedman to succeed him.

**FUNDING RECEIVED FROM OIL AND GAS COMPANIES**

**\$21,500**

**[FOLLOWTHEMONEY.ORG](https://followthemoney.org)**



## Propositions: Why these props?

### Prop 2

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We chose Proposition 2 because it would authorize a \$10 billion bond for California's public education and community college facilities to rebuild and renovate buildings. These renovations would encourage the facilities to implement climate-friendly and energy-efficient systems to put onto these educational facilities.

### Prop 4

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We chose California's Proposition 4 because it directly addresses California's changing climate by allocating funds specific to mitigating the effects of climate change, making California a leader in this venture.

### Prop 5

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We chose Proposition 5 because it would reduce the voter threshold in the state for future propositions from two-thirds to 55%. This could lead to building more housing near public transport, reducing urban sprawl while addressing the housing crisis.



# PROP 2

## Propositions

[Proposition 2](#) proposes that the state create \$10 billion worth of bonds to provide money to schools in California for projects that would renovate existing facilities and build new ones. The funds would be on a matching basis, meaning that school districts would pay for most of the projects, with the state covering the rest. The bonds are repaid with interest over time.

The school bond would allow outdated facilities to improve their campuses. Supporters say it would also provide more renewable energy opportunities which would help the state adapt to climate change. [Pedro Noguera](#), the Dean of the Rossier School of Education at USC, said, “If school districts can build new facilities or rehabilitate existing ones, they can adopt measures such as increased solar rooftops, green space, rooftop gardens, etc. to make schools better able to adapt to the effects of climate change.”

In 2016, the state passed [Proposition 51](#), which was the last time a similar bond was approved. It allocated \$7 billion for K-12 and \$2 billion for 115 community colleges in California.

A [report](#) from Los Angeles Unified School District officials' meeting on Aug. 7 said the district would use the school bond for “enhancing and expanding outdoor spaces,” and to “improve energy efficiency in school buildings... foster sustainability and reduce environmental impacts.” According to the [California Legislature’s Analyst’s Office](#), the funds will be divided into \$4.0 billion to renovate existing public school buildings, \$3.3 billion for new public schools, \$600 million to build career technical education program facilities, \$600 million for charter schools, and \$1.5 billion toward community college facilities.

The support for the proposition includes the current State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, the Association of California School Administrators, the California Labor Federation, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Federation of Teachers, the California School Boards Association, and League of Women Voters of California. According to the [California Secretary of State Voter Guide](#), “Many schools and community colleges are outdated and need basic health and safety repairs and upgrades to prepare students for college and careers and to retain and attract quality teachers.”

The main opponent of Proposition 2 is the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA). The group argues approval of the bill would result in an increase in taxation for citizens, particularly because the \$10 billion would need to be repaid with interest. “California already owes big banks and billionaire investors more than \$78 billion,” HJTA President Jon Coupal said in a statement against Proposition 2. California Assemblyman Bill Essali also opposes the measure, saying in a statement that the funds “should have been included in this year’s \$288 billion [California state] budget package. Children in school today will be drowning in new debt for decades if Prop. 2 passes.”

The [Legislative Analyst’s Office](#) calculated that the cost of the bill long term would be an additional \$500 million every year for 35 years, which represents less than half of one percent of the state’s annual budget. Their findings also say that it’s unclear of the effects locally, as different districts may borrow more to capitalize on the fund matching, or could borrow less because of the state’s help. Local districts must get 55% voter approval to issue new bonds, and state law places a limit on the total number of bonds a district is allowed to issue.

According to the data retrieved from the Secretary of State on the [Calmatters website](#), \$7.27 million has been raised for the ballot measure. No contributions have been reported against.



# PROP 4

## Summary

California's [Proposition 4](#), also known as the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act, would authorize the state to issue \$10 billion in general obligation bonds. The funds would be allocated to various environmental and infrastructure projects to address climate change impacts, including safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought resilience and protection of natural lands. Key provisions include \$3.8 billion for water-related projects, \$1.95 billion for wildfire prevention, \$1.9 billion for protecting natural lands and parks and \$1.2 billion for coastal protection from sea-level rise.

## YES ON PROP 4

Proponents argue that a vote for Proposition 4 would shift California from a system of disaster responses to disaster prevention.

Yes on Prop 4, Californians for Safe Drinking Water and Wildfire Prevention says that nearly 1 million Californians live in communities lacking clean drinking water access; with climate change rising, key water sources will be reduced by more than 20%, according to the [Yes on Prop 4, Californians for Safe Drinking Water and Wildfire Prevention website](#). Proposition 4 would tackle this by cleaning polluted drinking water, removing common contaminants like lead and arsenic. It would also upgrade water infrastructure by fixing crumbling dams and levees and restoring groundwater supplies.

According to [nature.org](#), Mike Sweeney, executive director of The Nature Conservancy California, one of the prop's notable supporters, says, "Prop 4 is essential to ensure clean drinking water and clean air for California and prevent the worst effects of wildfires, floods and droughts. By supporting Prop 4, we are investing in a resilient future for our state."

Prop 4's second biggest aim is to reduce wildfire risks through improved forest management. A [recent study by UCLA](#) found that 10 years of wildfire smoke have led to the premature deaths of 50,000 individuals and \$400 billion in economic loss. To reduce the risk found in the study, Prop 4 aims to create natural fire breaks and remove burnable brush surrounding populated areas. Wildfire prevention also strives to enhance the capabilities of firefighters by upgrading their current equipment, shelter availability for wildfires, emergency communications and routes.

"The catastrophic fires that have decimated entire communities and caused billions of dollars in damage are a constant threat in California," [said Tim Edwards](#), President of CAL FIRE Firefighters. "Yes on Prop 4 is our opportunity to make history by establishing prevention as well as suppression as a priority – investing precious resources in detecting, preventing and responding to fires in every endangered region across the state."

## NO ON PROP 4

Opponents, primarily led by taxpayer advocacy groups like the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the Californian Republican Party, and Assemblymember Jim Patterson, argue that Proposition 4 would significantly increase state debt, [arguing it would](#) "add another \$10 billion in bond debt to pay for climate 'programs.' It's reckless to use borrowed money, an estimated \$18 billion with interest, to pay for 'programs,' including salaries for all the groups that receive the money," according to [The Antioch Herald](#).

The taxpayers claim that the bond is an expensive way to fund projects that should be covered by the state's budget rather than borrowing money. [Critics argue](#) that Gov. Gavin Newsom already declared a budget emergency because the state spends more than it takes in. These critics, like the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers, along with State Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones, say that past mismanagement of resources has contributed to the current crisis and they are concerned about the fiscal responsibility of taking on additional debt.

Jones said Proposition 4 "will spend millions on so-called 'infrastructure' for farmers' markets — things like pop-up tents, restrooms and hand-washing stations. According to [CalMatters](#), It will also fund 'workforce development' to help 'mitigate unemployment,' which is completely unrelated to infrastructure and climate. To top it off, the bond also includes grants for exhibit galleries at zoos and museums and even vanpool vehicles for low-income workers."

A "[No" vote on Proposition 4 means that](#) the state wouldn't be allowed to let the state of California take on \$10 billion in debt to fund various climate-related projects, like natural resource conservation, wildfire prevention and an overall response to climate change, which includes efforts to improve water infrastructure, manage wildfires and protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and extreme heat.

As of now, there has been \$0 raised in opposition to Prop 4, [according to CalMatters](#).



# PROP 5

## Summary

Proposition 5 does not directly relate to climate change, but it does have many important implications that relate to climate change. Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry [proposed this proposition](#) to make it easier for local governments to get voter permission to fundraise to construct affordable housing, assist first-time home buyers and fund infrastructure-building projects. The [main goal of this proposition](#) is to lower the approval threshold for these from two-thirds (as written in California's state constitution) to 55%.

## YES ON PROP 5

Groups that support Proposition 5 maintain that lowering the required voting threshold approval from two-thirds to 55% will make it easier to pass legislation regarding affordable housing.

[Advocates say](#) this will facilitate building housing near public transportation. This would reduce urban sprawl and car use while addressing the housing crisis.

According to [CalMatters](#), the groups supporting this proposition include: the California Democratic Party, California State Building and Construction Trades Council, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, California Housing Partnership and others. The main group funding Proposition 5 is the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Advocacy. According to [their website](#), this LLC is a 501(c)(3) private foundation founded by Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan in 2015. [Cal-Access](#) states they have donated \$2.5 million to support the proposition. Chan Zuckerberg and the initiative declined to answer questions regarding their support.

## NO ON PROP 5

[Critics](#) of Proposition 5, which includes many [real estate organizations](#), argue that lowering the threshold could facilitate a surge in local government borrowing, potentially burdening taxpayers with increased property taxes. The proposition's opponents say this could place [additional financial pressure](#) on homeowners who are already dealing with the high cost of living in California.

Furthermore, the two-thirds majority rule, established by the [1879 California Constitution](#), serves as a safeguard and ensures a thorough examination of proposed projects, according to Proposition 5's opponents. They argue lowering the threshold will undermine this democratic process, leading to decisions being made with insufficient public consensus, a lack of community involvement and decreased accountability. Good job summarizing the opposing arguments!

Organizations that [oppose the measure](#), including the California Chamber of Commerce and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, contend it could result in projects that [do not align](#) with community needs or priorities or serve local constituents. The opposition to Proposition 5 says the current threshold is necessary for ensuring responsible fiscal management in California



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*\* All fundraising totals are accurate as of October 15, 2024.*