

**Recommendations for Voters
Orange County and Statewide Offices
By Craig P. Alexander, Esq.
Election on November 3, 2026**

For those of you who do not know me, I am an evangelical Christian and an attorney who is involved in local Orange County politics. I am a former President of a local California Republican Assembly (“CRA”) chapter and a former elected member of the Orange County Republican Central Committee. I review candidates, initiatives and measures from a pro-life, pro-traditional family, less taxation and less government point of view. That does not always mean that a candidate I recommend is pro-life – sometimes it is the “lesser of two not so great candidates”. Due to space limitations and the large number of issues & candidates, I will be giving only brief commentary on some persons and initiatives / measures. For some races there may be more positions or seats up for election than I may have recommendations. This means I simply do not have a recommendation for all those offices / seats.

Thank you for taking the time to review my recommendations and I hope you find them helpful. Also, for more election information ***I highly recommend*** you visit my friend Robyn Nordell’s web site at: <http://www.robbynordell.com/>. Robyn’s recommendations are there along with other good friends like Penny Harrington (San Diego area) who also spend time researching candidates and issues. And we do not always agree with each other and that’s OK!

The following is a good short note about the effect of the re-districting of Prop. 50:

CA Prop. 50 Re-Districting: For many, many voters you will be getting voter instructions to vote for Congressional candidates and find yourself in a different Congressional District than you were two years ago. That happened to me! This is the effect of the Democrat’s gerrymandering that unfortunately the voters passed last November. All of the legal challenges were turned back so we are stuck with this until (allegedly) the Citizen’s Re-Districting Commission takes this back over after the 2030 census. Given the extremely partisan map drawing I HIGHLY recommend you cast your vote as your vote is now more important than ever.

Federal Offices: U.S. Senate & Congress

Office	Craig’s Recommendation
<u>U.S. Senate</u>	No U.S. Senate election this year
<u>District</u>	<u>US House of Representatives</u>
38 th	Pedro Antonio Casas
40 th	Two elected congresspersons running in the same district due to the passage of Prop. 50 re-districting. Ken Calvert and Young Kim. Both of them have pluses and minuses. I recommend Ken Calvert due to his voting record.
41 st	Mitch Clemmons

42nd	Brian Burley
45th	Choung Vo
46th	David Pan
47th	Jenny Rae Le Roux – a leader we need in Congress
49th	Armen Kurdian (Given Mr. Kurdian’s long military service record (retired Navy Captain) – he gets my thumbs up)

State:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Craig’s Recommendation</u>
Governor	Steve Hilton
Lt. Governor	Gloria Romero (strong on parental rights and school choice; she was a long term Democrat leader who fought the teacher unions only to be “kicked to the curb” by the Democrat Party – so much for “diversity” of thought!)
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	Sonja Shaw (strong on parental rights and school choice)
Secretary of State	Don Wagner
Attorney General	Michael Gates
Controller	Herb Morgan
Treasurer	Jennifer Hawks
Insurance Commissioner	No recommendation
Board of Equalization No. 4	Denis Bilodeau
59 th Assembly District	Phillip Chen (Phillip has a solid voting record in the Assembly).
64 th Assembly District	Raul Ortiz, Jr.
67 th Assembly District	Paulo Morales

68 th Assembly District	No recommendation
70 th Assembly District	Tri Ta (a consistently good conservative vote in the Assembly)
71 st Assembly District	Kate Sanchez (a consistently good conservative vote in the Assembly)
72 nd Assembly District	Gracey Van Der Mark
73 rd Assembly District	Urson Russell
74 th Assembly District	Laurie Davies (a consistently good conservative vote in the Assembly)
30 th State Senate	Araceli Martinez
32 nd State Senate	Kelly Seyarto
34 th State Senate	Rhonda Shader
36 th State Senate	Tony Strickland – a real leader and loves to challenge Gavin Newsom’s bad ideas (and there are a lot of them).
38 th State Senate	Laura Bassett

County & City:

Office	<u>Craig’s Recommendation</u>
City Council	
Dana Point	No election
Laguna Niguel	No election
Laguna Hills	Dist. 1 Laura Thies; Dist. 4 Scott Miller
Laguna Beach	Nick Aronoff
San Clemente	Victor Cabral – Mayor; Steve Knoblock – Dist. 2 and Steve Camp – Dist. 1.
Rancho Santa Margarita	Anne Figueroa, Brad McGirr
Aliso Viejo	Max Duncan – Dist. 2 and Garret Dwyer – Dist. 3
Mission Viejo	Dist. 1 Bob Ruesch; Dist. 2 Saga Conroy; Dist. 3 Bryan Zahn; Dist. 4 James Morrison; Dist. 5 Steve Thornton
Irvine	Dist. 1 John Park; Dist. 5 Anthony Kuo

County & Other Districts	
Orange County Supervisor: 4 th District	Tim Shaw
Orange County Supervisor 5 th District	Diane Dixon
Moulton Niguel Water District Board At-large Term ends 2028 (Special)	Patricia Bates
Capistrano Unified SD	
Area 4 (Laguna Niguel / Aliso Viejo)	Marco Carralero
Area 6 (San Juan Cap / Laguna Niguel)	Mandy Bourne
Area 7 (Mission Viejo)	Linda Shepard
Other School Districts	
North OC COLLEGE Dist., Trustee, Area 6	Zonya Townsend
South OC CCD, Area 4	John Black

Ballot Measures in Orange County:

	Note: there are no county wide ballot measures for this election.
	Local Ballot Measures
	Costa Mesa Measure C – tax increase on local businesses – NO
	Irvine – Ranked Choice Voting – No
	Laguna Beach USD – bond measure – Measure A – No to an increase in your taxes.
	Los Alamitos, CA Measure G – increase occupancy taxes (hotels, etc.) – No .
	Orange, CA Measure I – increase sales taxes. No
	Orange, CA Measure J – increase occupancy taxes (hotels, etc.) - No

	Placentia, CA Measure L – increase occupancy taxes (hotels, etc.) - No
	San Clemente Measure M – increase sales tax – No
	Santa Ana, CA Measure N – this sales tax measure is very different – please note if this passes the sales tax rate that is scheduled to decrease will not decrease as scheduled currently. In other words the current tax rates would not go down if this measure is passed - So please vote NO!
	Westminster USD Measure B – new bond tax increase. No to an increase in your taxes.

Statewide Initiatives / Propositions:

	<u>Craig's Recommendation</u>
State Ballot Propositions	There are a lot of propositions on this November's ballot. Kudos to my friend Jon Fleischman and his recommendations at his So, Does It Matter? web site. https://www.sodoesitmatter.com/p/our-official-ca-2026-general-election If you are not already a subscriber to Jon's newsletter I highly recommend you join.
Prop. 1	Borrows \$11.25 billion for housing projects – NO . This is a bond measure and California is already awash in bond debt. We do not need any more. Also, only a small fraction of the money would go to veterans housing.
Prop. 2	Modifies State Rainy Day Fund – the wrong way. Also called the Save for California's Future Act – NO . It claims to increase the rainy day fund but weakens the safe guards for the current fund.
Prop. 3	Permanent Funding for Schools and Health Care <i>by making "temporary" tax increases permanent</i> . No . Remember about ten or so years ago when the California Teachers Association urged Californians vote for "temporary" higher taxes due to the economic downturn of 2010? Well here they are again wanting these "temporary" higher taxes to become permanent even though the financial crisis is long over. These "temporary tax increases" need to expire and the declining enrollment school system needs to learn to live within its means. Please vote NO!
Prop. 4	Your Tax Money to Finance Political Campaigns! – No . This is a form of taxpayer dollars paying for politician's political campaigns. Public funding of political campaigns is always a bad idea.
Prop. 5	Changes in the Recall Election Process for Statewide Officers – No . This would handicap the recall process. It is an incumbent protection proposition.
Prop. 37	Loan Program for Middle-Income Buyers – No . This is nothing more than a taxpayer funding for housing. The proper way to increase housing supply is to remove costly regulations to expand home building to make homes less expensive. Prop. 37 does NOT do that.
Prop. 38	Bonds for Immunology Medial Research (including for unborn aborted fetuses) - No . When the last two rounds of this bond effort were sold to the voters in past years it was promised that this would fund many, many medical breakthroughs.

	Those promises fell flat. Very flat. Please vote No .
Prop. 39	Voter Identification and Citizenship Verification Requirements – YES . This is Voter ID and it is a long time coming. It is a common sense vote. You must show you ID to get on a plane, to buy a firearm, to purchase alcohol, etc., etc. But not to vote! That is not logical or right!!! Please vote YES and get your friends to vote yes as well.
Prop. 40	The So Called Billionaire Tax - NO . There is not enough room on this guide to give you all of the reasons to vote NO on Prop. 40. Let me list one that should get everyone's attention – if this passes, in future years the state legislature can (and will) lower the wealth amount needed to trigger the tax to capture all of us in its wealth tax trap. And it is a <i>wealth tax</i> – your home's equity and your IRA would count towards the total to calculate the tax and you would have to come up with the 5% tax in cash on that amount each and every year . Have a lot of equity in your house but not a lot of cash in the bank – you get to sell your home to pay the tax or borrow to pay the tax – every year!!!! Vote NO .
Prop. 41	Audit of Programs Funded by New Special Taxes – Yes . This would hamper the ability of Sacramento bureaucrats to spend special taxes without restraint or accountability.
Prop. 42	Prohibit New Personal Property and Retroactive State Taxes – Yes . This is partially in response to the billionaires tax of Prop. 40. New taxes that are passed should never be retroactive (which is what Prop. 40 is attempting to do).
Prop. 43	Local Taxpayer Protections – Yes . This closes a court created loophole that created a runaround of Prop. 13's 2/3 voter passage requirement to enact local taxes (like sales tax increases, etc.). Common sense. Please vote yes.
Prop. 44	Community Health Clinic Spending Mandate – No . This is a bit complicated so let me say this would increase required spending by non-profit clinics and others that would cause a reduction in services to persons getting health care from those same non-profits. More government mandates and regulations – something we have enough of in California.
Prop. 45	Environmental Review Reform for Certain Projects – Yes . This proposition would reduce the red tape caused by environmental laws. A needed reform!