



## Penny's Picks

### November 2020 Presidential General Election

San Diego County | October 16

"Penny's Picks" are posted online at [robbynordell.com/sandiego](http://robbynordell.com/sandiego) in both English and Spanish.

*Who is Penny? See a brief bio at the end of these recommendations.*

There are many important factors to consider when reviewing candidates, but for those with a conservative biblical worldview our highest priorities are essential core values such as the sanctity of life, biblical marriage, sexuality and gender, religious liberty, proper role of (and generally smaller) government, original constitutional intent and lower taxes so that families and businesses can thrive. Other considerations include electability, character (to the extent that this can be known) and experience.

Remember, there are no "perfect" candidates and sometimes none of the candidates in a race hold a biblical worldview. Try not to think in terms of voting for the lesser of evils, but of voting for candidates who would do the greater good in office (or the least damage). Some of these choices are not "conservatives," but the *more* conservative of the candidates in the race. *Keep in mind that if you prefer not to vote for any candidate in a particular contest, leaving an office blank does not invalidate your ballot.* Also, if there are multiple open seats, focus on the conservatives, even if it's just one.

The following are my *personal* recommendations and not those of any organization(s) with which I am involved. In making these choices I use nonpartisan and candidate websites, organizational endorsements, voter guides, print and online media sources, interviews with various trusted sources, forums, and, sometimes, personal vetting with the candidate or campaign. (Please see "[Valuable Voter Resources](#)" below to help you do your *own* research.)

#### **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THESE NOTES:**

- 1) An asterisk (\*) denotes an incumbent.
- 2) Not all candidates listed share a biblical worldview on all core principles, but many do. I list those I consider to be the *best of the available choices* without qualifiers, although in some cases, I will add brief comments.
- 3) If I do not have enough information to make a conservative recommendation for an office, but a candidate has the San Diego GOP endorsement I will note "(GOP-endorsed)" next to the name(s).
- 4) Some races have more than one open seat (ex. "Vote for up to 2"). You do not have to vote for the number indicated. Vote just for those who share your views and/or are the *best* choices. It's important to be strategic.

#### **Federal Offices**

**President** – Donald Trump\* (Please remember we are not electing a pastor-in-chief, but a president. Consider his many accomplishments. I recommend "[Letter to an Anti-Trump Christian Friend](#)" by Dr. Wayne Grudem. The Trump, Biden and Harris records on abortion are detailed in "[The 2020 Election: A Clear Distinction on Abortion.](#)" )

#### **U.S. Representative:**

49<sup>th</sup> District – Brian Maryott  
50<sup>th</sup> District – Darrell Issa  
51<sup>st</sup> District – Juan Hidalgo  
52<sup>nd</sup> District – Jim DeBello  
53<sup>rd</sup> District – No recommendation

#### **State Offices**

##### **State Senator**

39<sup>th</sup> District – Linda Blankenship

##### **State Assembly**

71 <sup>st</sup> Dist. – Randy Voepel*	78 <sup>th</sup> Dist. – No recommendation
75 <sup>th</sup> Dist. – Marie Waldron*	79 <sup>th</sup> Dist. – John Moore
76 <sup>th</sup> Dist. – Melanie Burkholder	80 <sup>th</sup> Dist. – John Vogel
77 <sup>th</sup> Dist. – June Cutter	

##### **Judicial Office**

San Diego Superior Court Judge, Office 30 – Paul Starita

## **Educational Offices**

### **County Board of Education**

District 1 – Mark Powell\*

District 2 – Tamara Rodriguez

District 4 – Paulette Donnellon\* is unopposed, but suggest voting for her in the event of write-in campaign

### **Colleges**

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Comm. College Area 3 – Bartosz “Bartek” Murawski (GOP-endorsed)

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Comm. College Area 4 – Jordan Gascon (GOP-endorsed)

MiraCosta Comm. College Trustee Area 3 – Chris Chen (GOP-endorsed)

MiraCosta Comm. College Trustee Area 5 – Andrew Reinicke (GOP-endorsed)

Palomar Comm. College Trustee Area 2 – Christian Garcia (GOP-endorsed)

Palomar Comm. College Trustee Area 3 – David Vincent (GOP-endorsed)

Palomar Comm. College Trustee Area 4 – John Santhoff (GOP-endorsed)

San Diego Comm. College Dist B – Daniel Piedra

San Diego Comm. College Dist D – Mike Palomba (GOP-endorsed)

Southwestern Comm. College Seat 3 – William “Bud” McLeroy

### **School Districts (In alphabetical order)**

Alpine Union School (Vote for 2) – Joseph Paul Perricone\* (Travis Lyon\* is GOP-endorsed)

Cajon Valley Union School Trustee Area 4 – Karen Clark-Mejia\*

Cajon Valley Union School Trustee Area 5 – James Miller Jr.\*

Cardiff School – No recommendation

Carlsbad Unified School Trustee Area 2 – Elisa Williamson\* (GOP-endorsed)

Carlsbad Unified School Trustee Area 3 – Ray Pearson\*

Chula Vista Elementary School Seat 2 – Fanela Ramos

Chula Vista Elementary School Seat 4 – Doug Wolf

Coronado Unified School (Vote for up to 2) – K. Mike Canada and Stacy Keszei (both GOP-endorsed)

Dehesa School – Doris Rivas-Brekke

Del Mar Union School (Vote for up to 2) – Marianne Grosner and Kymberly Van Der Linden

Encinitas Union School (Vote for up to 2) – Matthew Edward Wheeler (Suggest only voting for Wheeler)

Escondido Union High Trustee Area 3 – Christi Knight\*

Escondido Union High Trustee Area 4 – Dane White\*

Escondido Union School Trustee Area 3 – Mark Olson

Grossmont Union High Trustee Area 2 – No recommendation (Stieringer may be the better choice)

Lakeside Union School (Vote for up to 2) – Lara Hoefler Moir and Chuck Plante (both GOP-endorsed)

La Mesa-Spring Valley Area School Trustee Area 4 – Sarah Rhiley (GOP-endorsed)

La Mesa-Spring Valley Area School Trustee Area 5 – No recommendation

Lemon Grove School (Vote for up to 2) – No recommendation

Lemon Grove School-Short Term – No recommendation

National School – No recommendation

Oceanside Unified School Area 5 – Todd Maddison (NOTE: Mike Blessing\* is endorsed by Planned Parenthood)

Poway Unified School Trustee Area A – Tim Dougherty (GOP-endorsed)

Poway Unified School Trustee Area E – Cindy Systma

Ramona Unified School (Vote for up to 2) – Dawn Perfect\* and John Rajcic\*

Rancho Santa Fe School (Vote for up to 3) – Christopher Blatt, Rosemarie Rohatgi and Annette Ross

San Diego Unified School, Dist. A – Crystal Trull (GOP-endorsed)

San Diego Unified School, Dist. D – Camille Harris (GOP-endorsed)

San Diego Unified School, Dist. E – No recommendation

### **School Districts (cont.)**

San Dieguito Union High Trustee Area 2 – Leslie Schneider\*  
San Dieguito Union High Trustee Area 4 – Michael Allman\*  
San Marcos Unified Trustee Area A – Joseph Lai (GOP-endorsed)  
San Marcos Unified Trustee Area B – Brian Epperson (GOP-endorsed)  
San Marcos Unified Trustee Area D – Victor Graham\*  
Santee School Seat 2 – No recommendation  
Santee School Seat 4- No recommendation  
Solana Beach School (Vote for up to 2) – No recommendation  
South Bay Union School Trustee Area 3 – No recommendation  
Sweetwater Union High Trustee Area 2 – No recommendation (Adrian Arancibia is Dem-endorsed)  
Vista Unified Trustee Area 1 – Matthew Simpson  
Vista Unified Trustee Area 4 – William “Bill” Faust  
Vista Unified Trustee Area 5 – John Murphy  
Warner Unified – Insufficient information

### **County Offices**

Board of Supervisors, District 1 – No recommendation  
Board of Supervisors, District 2 – Joel Anderson  
Board of Supervisors, District 3 – Kristin Gaspar\*

### **City Offices**

Carlsbad City Council, Dist 2 – Keith Blackburn\*  
Carlsbad City Council, Dist 4 – Phil Urbina  
Chula Vista City Council, Dist 3 – Henry A. Martinez, II (GOP-endorsed)  
Chula Vista City Council, Dist 4 – Mike Diaz\*  
Coronado Mayor – Richard Bailey\*  
Coronado City Council (Vote for up to 2) – John Duncan (GOP-endorsed) Suggest voting just for Duncan  
Del Mar City Council (Vote for up to 3) – Daniel Quirk (GOP-endorsed) Suggest voting just for Quirk  
El Cajon City Council Dist 2 – Michelle Metschel  
El Cajon City Council Dist 3 – Steve Goble\*  
El Cajon City Council Dist 4 – Phil Ortiz\*  
Encinitas City Council Dist 1 – Alex Riley  
Encinitas City Council Dist 2 – Susan Turney  
Encinitas Mayor – Julie Thunder  
Escondido City Council Dist 2 Short-Term – Tina Inscoe  
Escondido City Council Dist 3 – Joe Garcia  
Escondido City Council Dist 4 – Mike Morasco\*  
Imperial Beach City Council Dist 2 – No recommendation  
Imperial Beach City Council Dist 4 – Will Nimmo (GOP-endorsed)  
La Mesa City Council (Vote for up to 2) – Laura Lothian (GOP-endorsed)  
Lemon Gove City Council (Vote for up to 2) – Teresa Rosiak (GOP-endorsed)  
Lemon Grove Mayor – Jerry Jones  
National City Clerk – No recommendation (Both Democrats)  
National City City Council (Vote for up to 2) – No recommendation  
Oceanside Mayor – Jack Feller is a long-time conservative and Christopher Rodriguez is generally conservative. However, Rodriguez [supports](#) eliminating the medical restriction on regulated cannabis businesses. This is a concern, and I suggest voters research these candidates carefully before making their decision.  
Oceanside City Clerk – Laura Richardson Bassett

### **City Offices (cont.)**

Oceanside City Council Dist 3 – Ryan Keim\*

Oceanside City Council Dist 4 – Peter Weiss

Oceanside Treasurer – No recommendation

Poway City Council Dist 2 – Barry Leonard\*

Poway City Council Dist 4 – Caylin Frank\*

San Diego Mayor – No recommendation (Bry is endorsed by San Diego Tax Fighters and may be a better *fiscal* choice.  
But, both are Democrats endorsed by Planned Parenthood and Gloria is also endorsed by Equality CA.)

San Diego City Attorney – No recommendation, both Democrats

San Diego City Council Dist 1 – No recommendation, both Democrats

San Diego City Council Dist 3 – No recommendation, both Democrats

San Diego City Council Dist 5 – Joe Levanthal

San Diego City Council Dist 7 – Noli Zosa

San Diego City Council Dist 9 – No recommendation, both Democrats

San Marcos City Council Dist 3 – Sharon Jenkins\* (Generally conservative, best choice)

San Marcos City Council Dist 4 – Ed Musgrove

Santee Mayor – John Minto\*

Santee City Council Dist 3 – Laura Koval\* (GOP-endorsed)

Santee City Council Dist 4 – Dustin Trotter

Solana Beach – All city offices (mayor and two council seats) are unopposed Democrats

Vista City Council Dist 2 – Joe Green\*

Vista City Council Dist 3 – Amanda Rigby\*

### **Other Offices/Districts**

Alpine Fire Protection (Vote for up to 2) – Steve Taylor\* (Conservative)

Borrego Water District (Vote for up to 2) – No recommendation

Crest CPA – Ron Nehring

Fallbrook CPA (Vote for up to 8) – Stephani Baxter\*, Lee De Meo\*, Thomas Harrington, Jacqueline Kaiser, Jim Loge,  
Roy Moosa and Jack Wood, Jr.\*

Helix Water Dist Div 1 – Douglas Sterling (GOP-endorsed)

Helix Water Dist Div 5 – Joel Scalzitti\* (GOP-endorsed)

Leucadia Wastewater Div 5 – No recommendation (Wiback is Democrat-endorsed)

North County Fire Div 1 – Lee De Meo

Olivenhain Muni Water Div 4 – Kristi Bruce-Lane

Olivenhain Muni Water Div 5 – Edmund Sprague\* (GOP-endorsed)

Otay Water Dist Div 2 – Ryan Keyes (GOP-endorsed)

Otay Water Dist Div 4 – Hector Raul Gastelum\*

Otay Water Dist Div 5 – Mark Robak\*

Padre Dam Muni Water Div 2 – James Sly (GOP-endorsed)

Palomar Health Div 2 – Tom Kumura\* (Generally conservative)

Palomar Health Div 6 – Duncan Fane

Rainbow Muni Water Div 1 & 5 – Insufficient information

Ramona CPA – Dan Summers (In addition, GOP has endorsed Torry Brean\*, James Cooper, Debra Foster, Casey  
Lynch\*, Michelle Rains, Andrew Charles Simmons, Paul Stykel\*)

Ramona Muni Water Div 3 – Thomas Ace

Rancho Santa Fe CSD (Vote for up to 2) – Deborah Plummer\*

Rancho Santa Fe Fire (Vote for up to 3) – Jim Ashcraft\* and Nancy Hillgren\*

Rincon Del Diablo Water Div 5 – Inki Kim Welch (GOP-endorsed)

Santa Fe Irrigation Div 2 – David Petree\*

**Other Offices/Districts (cont.)**

South Bay Irrigation – No recommendation for either seat  
 Tri-City Healthcare Div 1 – Colleen O’Harra (Best choice for the district)  
 Tri-City Healthcare Div 3 – Gigi Gleason  
 Tri-City Healthcare Div 5 – Leigh Ann Grass\*  
 Tri-City Healthcare Div 7 – No recommendation  
 Vallecitos Water Div 5 – Hal Martin\*  
 Valley Center Park & Rec (Vote for up to 2) – Carol Dale Johnson\* and Gina Roberts (both GOP-endorsed)  
 Valley Center Fire Protection (Vote for up to 2) – Carol Dale Johnson and Gina Roberts (both GOP-endorsed)  
 Vista Fire Protection Dist (Vote for up to 3) – Robert Fougner\*, Jerome “Jerry” Hill\* and John Ploetz

**Ballot Proposition Recommendations**

There are numerous state and local propositions on the ballot. Below is a table showing how the major parties have weighed in, as well as the outcome of Frank Kacer’s analysis (Christian Citizenship Council – shaded in blue). **Read Kacer’s Call on all the Props at [christiancitizenshipcouncil.blogspot.com](http://christiancitizenshipcouncil.blogspot.com)**

To help you find out more, I have linked the Ballotpedia summary to each state prop’s number and the Voters Edge link to the letter for each city and county prop. **Please see my notes below on several propositions.**

<b>CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITIONS</b>												
<b>Ballot Prop Endorsements</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Christian Citizenship Council of SD	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Democratic Party - CA & San Diego Co.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	--	Y
Republican Party - CA & SD Co.	N	N	N	N	N	--	Y	N	Y	N	N	N

<b>SAN DIEGO CITY &amp; COUNTY PROPS</b>																	
<b>Ballot Prop Endorsements</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>
Christian Citizenship Council of SD	N	N	Y	Y	--	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Democratic Party-CA & San Diego Co.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	--	Y	Y	--	Y	N	--
Republican Party-CA & SD Co.	N	--	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	--	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N

<b>SAN DIEGO CITY &amp; COUNTY PROPS</b>								
<b>Ballot Prop Endorsements</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>AA</b>
Christian Citizenship Council of SD	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Democratic Party-CA & San Diego Co.	N	--	Y	Y	Y	--	--	Y
Republican Party-CA & SD Co.	--	--	N	N	--	N	N	N

**I agree with Frank on all of his state prop recommendations (shaded in blue below).**

Regarding Prop 24: I concur with Frank’s “Yes with reservations” position. While not perfect, *overall* it is an improvement to current state privacy regulations. I also appreciate that one of the advisory board members is the founder of Common Sense Media.

**I also concur with “Kacer’s Call” on the local propositions, with a few exceptions:**

Prop J (Lemon Grove) and Prop M (Oceanside) Cannabis business tax – YES

I am generally opposed to additional taxes (including targeted taxes) and do not in any way support marijuana enterprises. However, where these businesses *already exist*, so do their deleterious effects on the local community and the related costs for increased public safety, regulation and health care. Thus, I support taxing those businesses, even though I would prefer that the funds from the taxes be used exclusively for associated costs.

Prop Y (Lakeside Fire Protection) and Prop AA (Valley Center Fire Protection) – No position. Voters in Lakeside and Valley Center know their communities best and should weigh the costs and benefits of a small additional tax. Fire protection and emergency response in these unincorporated outlying areas is crucial to their safety.

Please also check the FamilyVoterInfo resource ([familyvoterinfo.org](http://familyvoterinfo.org)) to see how other groups line up on all measures.

## **Valuable Voter Resources**

Remember, these are recommendations. *Do your own homework!* You may have personal knowledge or other data that lead you to different conclusions. The point is: take the time to study your choices. To that end, below are links to online sources that you may find helpful in your research. You will find that even the recommendations of like-minded conservatives on the links I have provided do not always agree. Do not let that discourage you – and please give grace to others with whom you may disagree (including me!). On the issue of voting our values in general, I suggest you read the National Center for Law & Policy’s “Voter’s Guide for the Serious Christian” at [www.ncjplaw.org](http://www.ncjplaw.org) under “Resources.”

**FamilyVoterInfo** – [familyvoterinfo.org](http://familyvoterinfo.org) This San Diego area resource provides organizational endorsements for candidates.

**Vote Smart** – [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org) Search by candidate name to find bios, voting records (for incumbents), positions, funding, etc. for federal and state races (not much local information).

**Vote Conservative San Diego Voters Guide** – [voteconservativesandiego.com](http://voteconservativesandiego.com)

**Voter’s Edge** – [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca) This site offers self-reported information from candidates and includes more local information.

**Craig Huey’s San Diego Voter Guide** – [electionforum.org/san-diego-county-voter-guide/](http://electionforum.org/san-diego-county-voter-guide/)

**Craig Huey’s Judge Voter Guide** – [judgevoterguide.com](http://judgevoterguide.com) (Updates pending)

**San Diego Republican Party Endorsements** – [sandiegorepublicans.org/endorsements.html](http://sandiegorepublicans.org/endorsements.html)

**San Diego Democratic Party Endorsements** – When researching non-partisan races, it is sometimes helpful to see who the local Democratic Party has endorsed, as they will generally endorse candidates who align with their beliefs. <https://sdcdp.ngpvanhost.com/democrats-running-2020-general-election>

**Robyn Nordell’s Conservative California Election Website** – [robbynordell.com](http://robbynordell.com). Find recommendations here from around the state – and my “Picks” are posted there, of course.

## **What’s the Difference?**

**Official Democratic Platform (2020)** – [democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform/](http://democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform/)

**Official Republican Platform (2016 and 2020)** – [gop.com/platform](http://gop.com/platform)

**Platform Comparisons:** [Well-Versed](#) (very detailed, includes biblical references), [Real Impact](#)

**Who is Penny?** Penny Harrington served as California’s director of legislation for a national public policy organization for 13 years and continues to volunteer as a policy analyst for a pro-life and pro-family coalition in the state. She is passionate about making a difference in support of biblical values and equipping others to do the same.

## **Would you like to receive Penny’s Picks emailed directly to you each election?**

If so, please email me at [pennyspicks@cox.net](mailto:pennyspicks@cox.net). In the email subject line write: “SUBSCRIBE.” Thank you!

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