



Penny's Picks

March 2024 Presidential Primary Election

San Diego County | February 9

"Penny's Picks" are posted online at robynnordell.com/sandiego. Please check for the most recent version before voting.

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, parental rights, religious liberty, proper role of (and generally smaller) government, 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.

I am not including Democrat Central Committee races, because the [platform](#) of that party so clearly deviates from the important values of life, sexuality, gender, parental rights and the traditional family. While conservative Democrats are rare, I may indicate in a race between them that one may be more conservative than the other(s).

Above all, do not forsake the polls! We must participate in the process, even if there's not a race or issue that excites us. There are good people on every ballot who deserve our support. You may leave some races blank. That's okay! Please vote wisely and pray that candidates who hold to biblical values and who will lead with integrity are successful. And please be careful with your ballot. While you may vote by mail, the most secure way is **in person** at a Vote Center*. You may complete the ballot you were mailed and take it with you. You must go through the check-in process, then the poll worker will give you a secrecy sleeve for your ballot. If you brought your envelope with you, they can destroy it for you. They will then place your ballot through the secrecy sleeve into the ballot box at the check-out station. You may also check in and surrender your ballot. You'll then use the ballot marking device to print your ballot with your choices, placing it in a secrecy sleeve and giving it to the poll worker to place in the ballot box. Be sure to track your ballot. Sign up for BallotTrax at california.ballottrax.net/voter/.

*Some vote centers will be open for 11 days and all vote center locations will be open 4 days including Election Day. I suggest voting on Election Day or very near it, not only for security, but also because sometimes new information about candidates becomes available in the weeks prior to the election.

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 or surveys with the candidate or campaign. (Please see "[Valuable Voter Resources](#)" below to help you do your *own* research.)

NOTE:

- 1) An asterisk (*) denotes an incumbent.
- 2) Not all candidates listed share a biblical worldview on core principles, but many do – and all are those I consider to be the *best of the available choices*.
- 3) If I have no recommendation for an office, I may note information that could aid your decision. In cases where I have little information about candidates, but they are endorsed by the GOP, I will note that as "GOP-endorsed."

Federal Offices

President

Just two candidates remain in the Republican Presidential race, though more names appear on the ballot. Polls definitely favor Donald Trump and he will likely move to the General Election. If he does, let's resolve to pray that he will fervently seek the Lord and learn to walk in humility and wisdom.

U.S. Senate – Full Term

Steve Garvey – The former Dodger hasn't discussed social issues much on the campaign trail—though he has spoken favorably toward parental rights and choice in education. While Eric Early has articulated many conservative views on key issues, and he may be more conservative than Garvey, the only conservative of any kind who has the chance to reach the second of the top two spots going into November's General Election is Steve Garvey. Therefore, I suggest voting for him.

U.S. Senate – Partial Term

Steve Garvey – See above

U.S. Representative:

48th District – Darrell Issa*

49th District – Kate Monroe

50th District – Pater Bono (Likely preferable to Scott Peters)

51st District – Bill Wells

52nd District – Justin Lee (Preferable to Juan Vargas)

State Offices

State Senator

39th District – Bob Divine (Little information is available; likely preferable to Akilah Weber who is far left.)

State Assembly

74th Dist. – Laurie Davies*

75th Dist. – Andrew Hayes (the ONLY conservative)

76th Dist. – Kristie Bruce-Lane

77th Dist. – James Browne

78th Dist. – Recommend not voting in this race

79th Dist. – No recommendation

80th Dist. – Michael Williams (GOP-endorsed)

Republican Central Committees

This is a very important office. The Central Committee determines Party endorsements, supports candidates and campaigns, helps to get out the vote and more. In each district there are many good conservative candidates running. In some, there are three times as many candidates as there are seats! Thus, it's very difficult to narrow the field to the nine seats available – and these choices have been difficult. I like quite a few more candidates than are listed. So, because many of you may know at least one of the folks running for this important office, use my choices as a guide. Remember, you are not required to vote for nine. Vote for those you feel will best represent your views in endorsing good candidates.

1st Supervisorial District

Craig Candelore

Shirley Nakawatase

Patty O'Mara

Cheryl Perez

Rachel Perez

Paula Whitsell

4th Supervisorial District

Antoinette "Andee" Aceves

Kristine Alessio

William "Bill" Exeter

Edy Johnson

Eli Komai

Amy Reichert

2nd Supervisorial District

Daniel Bickford

Kristie Bruce-Lane

Andrew Hayes

Frank Hilliker

Steve Johnson

Jim Kelly

Phil Ortiz

Tracie Thill

Dustin Trotter

5th Supervisorial District

Beth Barnum

Laura Bassett

Lee De Meo

Joe Garcia

Rebecca Jones

Armen Kurdian

Tom Morrissey

Roarke Shanley

Alana Sorensen

3rd Supervisorial District

Michael Allman

Richard Bailey

Summer Boger

Melanie Burkholder

Brita Lindstrom

Judy Rees

Kristine Sheffler

Garvin Walsh

Frank Xu

Judicial Offices

San Diego Superior Court Judge, Office 41 – Brian Erickson

San Diego Superior Court Judge, Office 43 – Valerie Summers

Educational Offices

Colleges

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Comm. College Area 4 – No recommendation
San Diego Comm. College Dist. D – Andrew Gomez II (Preferable to opponent)

School Districts

Escondido Union High School Dist. Area 5 – David Vincent (Crucial vote – his opponent does **not** support parental rights.)

San Diego Unified Schools, Dist. A – Crystal Trull
San Diego Unified Schools, Dist. D – No recommendation
San Diego Unified Schools, Dist. E – No recommendation

City Offices

Chula Vista City Attorney – Bart Miesfelt (Better of available options)
Chula Vista City Council, Dist. 3 – Daniel Rice-Vazquez
Chula Vista City Council, Dist. 4 – No recommendation
San Diego City Mayor – No recommendation
San Diego City Attorney – No recommendation
San Diego City Council, Dist. 3 – Ellis T California Jones III
San Diego City Council, Dist. 4 – No recommendation
San Diego City Council, Dist. 9 – No recommendation

Statewide Propositions Recommendations

Prop 1 Statewide Bond Issue for Mental Health Treatment – No

Reallocates much-needed mental healthcare funds from counties to the state and removes local control. Repayment of the \$6.4 billion principal will swell to an estimated \$10-12 billion when interest is included.

City and County Ballot Measures

There are several local ballot measures 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. I have also linked additional information to each prop's letter.

	CA	City Measures		
Ballot Prop Endorsements	1	A	B	C
Christian Citizenship Council of SD (Kacer)	N	Y	N	N
Democratic Party – San Diego County	Y	Y	--	--
Republican Party – San Diego County	N	--	N	N

I agree with Frank Kacer's positions. Please read Frank Kacer's excellent analysis at Kacer's Call on all the Props here: christiancitizenshipcouncil.blogspot.com (coming soon)

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 nclplaw.org under "Resources."

FamilyVoterInfo – familyvoterinfo.org This San Diego area resource provides organizational endorsements for candidates. Guide includes endorsements by the major parties as well.

Robyn Nordell's Conservative California Election Website – robynnordell.com. Find recommendations here from around the state – and my "Picks" are posted there, of course.

Vote Smart – 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).

San Diego Conservative Voters Guide – voteconservativesandiego.com

Craig Huey's San Diego Voter Guide – electionforum.org/san-diego-county

Craig Huey's Judge Voter Guide – judgevoterguide.com

San Diego Republican Party Endorsements – sandiegorepublicans.org/endorsements

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. Click here to view: sddemocrats.org

What's the Difference?

Official Democratic Platform – cadem.org/our-platform

Official Republican Platform – cagop.org/s/about (click Platform)

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.*

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