



Penny's Picks

November 2024 General Election

San Diego County | Updated October 29 (update in red)

"Penny's Picks" are posted online at robynordell.com/san-diego. Please check for the most recent version before voting. If you would like to subscribe, please send an email with your first and last name to pennyspicks@cox.net.

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 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. Above all, we seek elected officials who will govern in line with God's truth.

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. Also, if there are multiple open seats, focus strategically on the conservatives, even if it's just one.

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 (locations are in your voter information pamphlet and [here](#)). 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 that merely prints your ballot with your choices. You will then place it in a secrecy sleeve and give 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/.

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. The names I list are those I consider to be the *best of the available choices*. I may make this notation or others as well.
- 3) If I have no recommendation for an office, I may note information that could aid your decision.
- 4) In cases where I have little information about candidates, but they are endorsed by the GOP, I will note that as "GOP-endorsed."
- 5) I will list conservative candidates in uncontested ballot races, and/or I may notate additional information.
- 6) Again, do your own research. You may know more about races in your local area than I am able to determine.

Federal Offices

President

Donald Trump (Trump/Vance) – No question. While both candidates have their flaws (we all do), this election is about national security, the border, the economy, parental rights, protections for life, free speech, our families and their futures. Please pray for President Trump's safety, and for the Lord to give him wise words to speak. He does so many good things on a personal level – pray these are made more public. Here is a [good resource](#) comparing Trump and Harris.

U.S. Senate – Full Term and Partial Term

Steve Garvey

U.S. Representative:

48th District – Darrell Issa*

49th District – Matt Gunderson (Supports abortion, but good on parental rights, and better than Mike Levin.)

50th District – Peter Bono

51st District – Bill Wells

52nd District – Justin Lee

State Offices

State Senator

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

State Assembly

74th Dist. – Laurie Davies*

78th Dist. – Recommend not voting in this race

75th Dist. – Andrew Hayes (The true conservative!)

79th Dist. – No recommendation

76th Dist. – Kristie Bruce-Lane

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

77th Dist. – James Browne

County Offices

County Board of Education Dist. 4 – No recommendation (Both Democrats, but Song appears preferable to Evans.)

County Board of Supervisors, Dist. 1 – Alejandro Galicia

County Board of Supervisors, Dist. 2 – Joel Anderson*

County Board of Supervisors, Dist. 3 – Kevin Faulconer (Socially liberal, but so much better than opponent.)

Educational Offices

Colleges

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Comm. College Area 4 – Lee Quinn

Mira Costa College, Trustee Area 5 – Alexander Thomas Wells III

Palomar Community College Trustee, Area 2 – Yvette Marie Acosta

Palomar Community College Trustee, Area 4 – Holly Hamilton-Bleakley

San Diego Comm. College Dist. D – Andrew Gomez II (Preferable to opponent)

Southwestern Community College, Area 2 – Erika Lowery (GOP-endorsed)

School Districts

Alpine Union School – Travis Lyon* and Erika Simmons

Bonsall Unified School Trustee Area E – Lindsay Jones

Borrego Springs Unified School – Steve Riehle*

Cajon Valley Union School Trustee Area 3 (Short Term) – Emily “Lili” Schworm

Cajon Valley Union School Trustee Area 5 – Alex Welling

Cardiff School Trustee – No recommendation

Carlsbad Unified School Trustee Area 2 – Jen Belnap

Carlsbad Unified School Trustee Area 3 – Laura Siaosi

Chula Vista Elementary School Seat 2 – Sharmane Estolano

Chula Vista Elementary School Seat 4 – Tanya Williams

Coronado Unified School – Fitzhugh “Fitz” Lee (Renee Cavanaugh* best of remaining options for second seat.)

Del Mar Union School – Danielle Roybal

Del Mar Union School (Short Term) – Alan Scott Kholos* (GOP-endorsed)

Encinitas Union School – Monica Lee (Vote just for her.)

Encinitas Union School (Short Term) – Aimee Sproul

Escondido Union High Trustee Area 3 – Christi Knight*

Escondido Union High Trustee Area 4 – Ryan Williams* (Preferable to opponent)

Escondido Union School Trustee Area 3 – Mark Olson*

Fallbrook Union Elementary School Trustee, Area 4 (Short Term) – Maria Moran

Fallbrook Union Elementary School Trustee, Area 2 – Lief Hansen

Fallbrook Union High Trustee, Area 4 – Joshua Tiller

Grossmont Union High Trustee, Area 1 – Randall Dear

Grossmont Union High Trustee, Area 2 – Scott Eckert

Julian Union High School – Pending more information

Lakeside Union School Trustee, Area 2 – Autumn Ellenson

National School – No recommendation (All Democrats)

Oceanside Unified School Trustee, Area 2 – Emily Ortiz Wichmann

Oceanside Unified School Trustee, Area 5 – Rosie Higuera

Poway Unified School Trustee, Area A – Tim Dougherty

Poway Unified School Trustee, Area E – Craig Pond

Ramona Unified School Trustee, Area 3 – Dawn Perfect*

Ramona Unified School Trustee, Area 4 – John Rajcic

Rancho Santa Fe School – Annette Ross*, Kerry Vinci, Victoria Gamble

San Diego Unified School Dist., Area A – Crystal Trull

San Diego Unified School Dist., Area D – Recommend not voting in this race
San Diego Unified School Dist., Area E – Recommend not voting in this race
San Dieguito Union High School Dist., Area 2 – Kelly Friis
San Dieguito Union High School Dist., Area 4 – Michael Allman*
San Marcos Unified School Trustee, Area A – Heidi Herrick
San Marcos Unified School Trustee, Area B – Brittany Bower
San Marcos Unified School Trustee, Area D – Lena Lauer Meum
Santee School, Seat No. 4 – Tracie Thill
San Ysidro School – Kenia Peraza (Antonio Martinez and Martin Arias are Democrats)
South Bay Union School Trustee (Short Term), Area 4 – No recommendation (Lizbeth Becerra is Democrat-endorsed.)
Sweetwater Union High School Trustee, Area 2 – Angelica Martinez
Sweetwater Union High School Trustee, Area 4 – No recommendation (Both are Democrats.)
Vista Unified School Dist., Area 1 – Mike Markov
Vista Unified School Dist., Area 4 – Frank Nunez
Vista Unified School Dist., Area 5 – Anthony “TJ” Crossman
Warner Unified School – No recommendation

City Offices

Carlsbad City Council, Dist. 2 – Tyler Collins
Carlsbad City Council, Dist. 4 – Greg Day
Carlsbad Treasurer – Michael J Williams
Chula Vista City Council, Dist. 3 – No recommendation (Both Democrats)
Chula Vista City Council, Dist. 4 – No recommendation (Both Democrats)
Coronado Mayor – John Duncan
Coronado City Council – Mark Fleming and Mark Warner
Del Mar City Council – Daniel Quirk* (GOP-endorsed)
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 – Luke Shaffer (Better option)
Encinitas City Council, Dist. 2 – Jim O’Hara (Better option, endorsed by the fiscally-conservative Lincoln Club.)
Encinitas Mayor – Bruce Ehlers (Better option)
Escondido City Council, Dist. 3 – Christian Garcia*
Escondido City Council, Dist. 4 – Judy Fitzgerald
Escondido Treasurer – Douglas Schultz* is unopposed
Imperial Beach City Council, Dist. 2 – Martin “Marty” Mattes (GOP-endorsed)
Imperial Beach City Council, Dist. 4 – Linda Kaye (Better option)
La Mesa City Council – Kristine Alessio
Lemon Grove City Council – No recommendation (George Gastil and Seth Smith are endorsed Democrats.)
Lemon Grove Mayor – No recommendation (Alysson Snow is an endorsed Democrat.)
National City City Council, Dist. 2 – No recommendation (Both Democrats)
National City City Council, Dist. 4 – No recommendation (Daniel Perez may be more conservative than opponents.)
Oceanside Clerk – Zeb Navarro is unopposed
Oceanside Mayor – Ryan Keim
Oceanside City Council, Dist. 3 – Laura Bassett
Oceanside City Council, Dist. 4 – Peter Weiss*
Oceanside Treasurer – No recommendation
Poway City Council, Dist. 2 – Jared Wilson
Poway City Council, Dist. 4 – Caylin Frank* (Jenny Maeda signed the Families First pledge and is a conservative as well.)
San Diego City Mayor – Larry Turner
San Diego City Attorney – No recommendation (Both Democrats)
San Diego City Council, Dist. 3 – No recommendation
San Diego City Council, Dist. 9 – No recommendation (Both Democrats, Terry Hoskins may be preferable.)
San Marcos City Council, Dist. 3 – Danielle LeBlang
San Marcos City Council, Dist. 4 – Ed Musgrove*
Santee Mayor – John Minto*
Santee City Council Dist. 3 – Laura Koval* is unopposed
Santee City Council Dist. 4 – Dustin Trotter*
Vista City Council, Dist. 2 – Jeff Fox
Vista City Council, Dist. 3 – Denisse Barragan

Special Districts

Borrego Water – No recommendation

Fallbrook Community Planning Group – Aldo Alvidras, Stephani Baxter*, Lee DeMeo*, Thomas Harrington IV*, Mark Hoye, Jim Loge*, Roy Moosa*, Kathie Morris

Grossmont Healthcare Zone 3 – No recommendation (Both Democrats)

Helix Water, Division 3 – Jeanette Erickson (Likely the more conservative candidate)

Lakeside Fire Protection, Division 3 – James Bingham*

Lakeside Water, Division 4 – Steve Robak*

North County Fire Protection Division 1 – Jeanette Barragan

North County Fire Protection Division 4 – John Van Doorn

North County Fire Protection Division 5 – Mark Bartholomew

Olivenhain Municipal Water, Division 2 – Eric Armstrong

Olivenhain Municipal Water, Division 5 – Chris Ciepley (GOP-endorsed)

Otay Water, Division 2 – Ryan Keyes*

Otay Water, Division 5 – Mark Robak*

Padre Dam Municipal Water, Division 2 – Robert Lloyd Sr

Padre Dam Municipal Water, Division 4 – Ivan Andujar*

Palomar Health, Division 4 – Abbi Jahaaski (Preferable to opponent; endorsed by fiscally-conservative Lincoln Club)

Palomar Health, Division 6 – Joe Muga (Preferable to opponents; endorsed by fiscally-conservative Lincoln Club)

Pauma Valley Community Service Dist. (Short Term) – Michael Esparza

Rainbow Municipal Water, Division 1 – Lisa Hoffman

Rainbow Municipal Water, Division 3 (Short Term) – Greg Irvine

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection – James Ashcraft*, Nancy Hillgren”, and Randall Malin*

South Bay Water, Division 5 – Elizabeth Cox (Better option, endorsed by fiscally-conservative Lincoln Club)

Sweetwater Community Planning Group – Patty O’Mara

Tri-City Healthcare, Zone 1 – Allen Newsome

Tri-City Healthcare, Zone 5 – Aaron Byzak

Tri-City Healthcare, Zone 7 – Valerie Mitchell

Vallecitos Water, Division 4 – Erik Groset*

Vallecitos Water, Division 5 – Henry “Wally” Simpson

Valley Center Community Planning Group – Chris Barber*, Tom Stinson

Vista Fire Protection, Division B – Rob Fougner*

Vista Irrigation Dist., Division 2 – Byron Olson

Vista Irrigation Dist., Division 5 – Jo MacKenzie

Statewide Propositions Recommendations

Please help oppose Prop 3! Welcome to the slippery slope. This initiative is an attack on marriage beyond “just” removing the Prop 8 (2008) language defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Prop 3 makes marriage “a fundamental right” with no limits. It opens a Pandora’s Box of anything-goes relationships as marriage under state law could potentially include not only same-sex marriage, but also polygamy, incestuous marriage, child marriage and beyond. As the stability of the nuclear family as designed by God is weakened, children’s well-being is threatened. Visit Proposition3.net to read talking points, references, research, legal arguments and more.

	Statewide									
Ballot Proposition Positions	2	3	4	5	6	32	33	34	35	36
Christian Citizenship Council (Kacer’s Call)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Howard Jarvis Taxpayer’s Assn.	No	--	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	--	Yes
Democratic Party – State	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	Yes	No
Republican Party – State	Yes	--	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

I agree with Frank Kacer’s positions. Please read Frank Kacer’s excellent analysis at Kacer’s Call on the statewide Props [here](#).

City and County Ballot Measures Measure G - San Diego County half cent sales tax increase – NO

There are 40 local ballot measures on the ballot. Visit familyvoterinfo.org for a table showing how the major parties have weighed in, as well Frank Kacer’s and other organization’s positions as they are available. Find Frank Kacer’s position document on the measures [here](#).

Most of these local measures are bonds or sales tax increases, *both of which I generally oppose*. Please research your local measures carefully, reviewing the text, as well as the support and opposition arguments. While I don't necessarily agree with their positions, San Diego County Taxpayers Association has posted their voter guide on local measures [here](#). More importantly, you will find their policy reports explaining their positions at sdcta.org/policyreports. Reviewing their rationale may be helpful in doing research for your local measure(s).

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).

iVoterGuide – ivoterguide.com Candidates are rated on a scale of liberal to conservative, with links to scorecards, endorsements, contributions and more. The guide covers federal offices and some school boards.

San Diego Conservative Voters Guide – voteconservativesandiego.com

Craig Huey's San Diego Voter Guide – restoringthecaliforniadream.com/san-diego-county

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 – democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform

Official Republican Platform – 2024gopplatform.com Sadly, the pro-life and pro-marriage planks were stripped from the GOP platform this year. The policies are much better than the Democrat's overall, but this was a terrible blow for voters who seek a reliably conservative party to which they can belong.

Platform comparison – biblicalvoter.com/major-party-platform-comparisons

Who is Penny? Penny Harrington served as California's director of legislation for a national public policy organization for 13 years and continues to serve 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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