



Penny's Picks

June 2026 Primary Election

San Diego County – Updated 06.01.2026

“Penny's Picks” are posted online at robbynordell.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.

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. Rather than in terms of voting for the lesser of evils, consider 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 candidates. Since this is a Primary, consider which viable candidate in the race, if he or she makes the “Top Two,” is most likely to prevail against their opponent in the November General Election.

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, a secure indoor [drop box](#) is preferable. 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 will 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 may 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. More on the procedures [here](#). Finally, **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) I will list conservative candidates in uncontested ballot races and may notate additional information.
- 5) Again, do your own research. You may know more about races in your local area than I am able to determine. I have endeavored to link to candidate websites as available.

Statewide Offices

Governor - [Steve Hilton](#) (Chad Bianco is also a strong conservative, but neither holds a complete biblical worldview, and I believe Steve has better policy plans and experience. Most importantly, with Election Day tomorrow, Hilton is polling MUCH higher than Bianco (see [RealClear Polling](#)) and essentially even with or ahead of Becerra and Steyer – both progressives and horrible for our state. If we are to have a Republican in the Top Two for the General Election, we must consolidate our votes behind Steve Hilton.)

Lt Governor - [Gloria Romero](#) (Not a solid conservative, but a Republican strong on parental rights and education reform.)

Secretary of State - [Don Wagner](#) (Endorsed by the conservative CA Republican Assembly – CRA – and Howard Jarvis)

Controller – [Herb Morgan](#) (Endorsed by CRA and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.)

Treasurer – [Jennifer Hawks](#) (Endorsed by CRA)

Attorney General – [Michael Gates](#) (Endorsed by CRA)

Insurance Commissioner – [Stacy Korsgaden](#) (Endorsed by many conservative legislators. Appears very well-qualified.)

State Board of Equalization, Dist. 4 – [Denis Bilodeau](#) (Endorsed by the GOP and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.)

Federal Offices

U.S. Representative:

48th District – [Jim Desmond](#) (Strongly support this true conservative who will be a real asset in Congress.)

49th District – [Star Parker](#) or [Armen Kurdian](#) (Both are strong conservatives. I'm very familiar with both of them. Check their websites to help you decide.)

50th District – [Steve Cohen](#) (The only conservative option to Scott Peters.)

51st District – [Ricardo Cabrera](#) (GOP-endorsed conservative)

52nd District – [Jeff Belle](#) (The only option to Juan Vargas.)

State Offices

State Senator

18th Dist. – [Art Hodges](#) (Strong conservative and a pastor.)

32nd Dist. – [Kelly Seyarto](#)* (Excellent conservative voting record in the Assembly.)

38th Dist. – [Laura Bassett](#) (You can't do any better. Excellent candidate.)

40th Dist. – [Ed Musgrove](#) (Solid conservative endorsed by CRA. Kristie Bruce-Lee is also conservative. Please disregard misleading mailers in this campaign.)

State Assembly

74th Dist. – [Laurie Davies](#)* (Good voting record, endorsed by many conservative organizations.)

75th Dist. – [Carl DeMaio](#)* (Endorsed by the GOP.)

76th Dist. – Carrie Espinoza Villanueva (More conservative alternative to the incumbent Democrat.)

77th Dist. – Trinity Hannaway (More conservative alternative to the incumbent Democrat.)

78th Dist. – Payton Galvez (More conservative alternative to the incumbent Democrat.)

79th Dist. – [Andrew Lawson](#) (Conservative endorsed by the Howard Jarvis, GOP and CRA.)

80th Dist. – Alejandro Galicia (More conservative alternative to the incumbent Democrat.)

Judges

Superior Court Judge, No 11 – [Leah M Boucek](#) (No recommendation, but she is the only candidate.)

Superior Court Judge, No 18 – [Tracy Prior](#) (Strong bipartisan endorsements.)

Superior Court Judge, No 31 – [Adam Noakes](#) (GOP endorsed, other strong endorsements.)

Superior Court Judge, No 32 – [Nicole D'Ambrogi](#) (Strong endorsements.)

Superior Court Judge, No 34 – [Laurie Hauf](#) (Endorsed by many Democrats, but also DA Stephan. Only candidate.)

Educational Offices

State Superintendent of Public Instruction – [Sonja Shaw](#) (Excellent on parental rights and the only conservative running.)

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Comm College, Area 5 – Rosangela Cribbs

San Diego Comm College - Dist A – No recommendation

San Diego Comm College - Dist C – No recommendation

County Offices

County Board of Education

Dist. 3 – Cory Brown (More conservative alternative to the incumbent Democrat.)

Dist. 5 – Bianca Ragonesi-Lasche (More conservative alternative to the incumbent Democrat.)

County Board of Supervisors

Dist. 4 – [Kristine C. Alessio](#) (Endorsed Republican.)

Dist. 5 – [John Franklin](#) or [Rebecca Jones](#) (Both are strong conservatives with very different styles. I know them both, and encourage you to check their websites for their stances on the issues and endorsements to help you decide. Please disregard misleading mailers in this campaign.)

Treasurer-Tax Collector – [Shirley Nakawatase](#) (Excellent GOP candidate.)

City Offices

Chula Vista City Council, Dist 1 – Greg Martinez (GOP-endorsed.)

Chula Vista City Council, Dist 2 – Angelica Martinez (GOP-endorsed.)

Chula Vista Mayor – John McCann* (Proven conservative, GOP-endorsed.)

Poway City Council, Dist 2 – [Anita Edmondson](#) (GOP-endorsed.)

City Offices (cont.)

San Diego City Council, Dist 2 – [Richard Bailey](#) (Conservative, former Coronado mayor.)

San Diego City Council, Dist 4 – No recommendation

San Diego City Council, Dist 6 – [Mark Powell](#) (Conservative, GOP-endorsed.)

San Diego City Council, Dist 8 – [Kenia Peraza](#) (Good conservative choice – WRITE HER NAME IN on your ballot.)

County Measure Recommendations

(There are no state ballot propositions in the Primary. The Legislature voted to have all props on the November ballot.)

My recommendations for local measures: NO on A; YES on H

Please read more about these measures in the analyses by San Diego County Taxpayers Assn. and Frank Kacer's "Kacer's Call" linked below.

Ballot Measure Positions	A	H
San Diego County Taxpayers Association	No	Yes
Kacer's Call – Christian Citizenship Council	No	Yes
Democratic Party	Yes	Yes
Republican Party		Yes

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 – robbynordell.com. Find recommendations here from around the state – and my "Picks" are posted there, of course.

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.

California Family Alliance Voting Records for CA Legislators – californiafamilyalliance.com/ca-legislator-score-cards
Review how current assembly members or state senators are voting on biblical values bills.

San Diego Conservative Voters Guide – voteconservativesandiego.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 – 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.

Email contact: pennyspicks@cox.net

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