

CONSERVATIVE JUDICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS www.RobynNordell.com

For the June 2, 2026, California Primary Election (Updated 5/28/26)

County Superior Court Judges for Contra Costa, (**LA -expanded 5/28**), Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura (5/28)

Robyn Nordell's Conservative CA Election Website

JUDGE Information Compiled by Robyn Nordell

5/28/26: Additions:

- *The LA Judge Section has been greatly expanded* to include recommendations from four knowledgeable conservative sources.
- A Ventura County race was added.

Note: Many counties do not have any contested Superior Court JUDGE races in the 2026 Primary.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RACES

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Contra Costa County Judge of the Superior Court:
VALERY R. POLYAKOV

Read about his qualifications, experience, core values, and judicial philosophy [HERE](#)

Voter Resource: This JUDGE recommendation comes from Kathy Young's CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Voter Guide, which is found on Robyn's election website, [HERE](#)

L.A. COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RACES

SOURCES for LA County recommendations:

-- **STEVE COOLEY** LA's *Republican DA* from 2000 to 2012. His recommendations are based upon his personal knowledge of the candidates and/or their reputations.

--**ROGER GRACE** (*editor of Metropolitan News-Enterprise*) Roger is a conservative who does extensive research into all the LA County Judge candidates. **Steve & Roger's recommendations can be found below** (and at [Steve Cooley.com](http://SteveCooley.com))

--**CRAIG HUEY** of *Election Forum (E. Forum)* Conservative Christian commentator. Many of Craig's LA County Judge recommendations can be found below.

--**ELIZABETH BARCOHANA's** "*Lady with a Brain Voter Guide.*" Elizabeth is a "conservative CA mom," a lawyer, a popular podcast guest, and an LAGOP Central Committee member / CAGOP delegate. **Elizabeth's recommendations can be found below** (and [HERE](#))

Begin L.A. Judge Recommendations...

L.A. Office #2: **ROBERT DRAPER**

Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
 - Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
 - Elizabeth Barcohana
 - E. Forum rating: 3 out of 5 Stars = "acceptable"
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L.A Office #14: **IRENE LEE** Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
- Elizabeth Barcohana

(Note: E. Forum rates both candidates with 2 of 5 Stars)

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LA Office #39: BINH DANG Is recommended by:

- Elizabeth Barcohana
- E. Forum rating: 3 out of 5 Stars = “acceptable”

(Note: Office 39 - No recommendation in this race from Steve Cooley and Roger Grace)

LA Office #60: ANN MAURER

- Is recommended by: Elizabeth Barcohana
- E. Forum rating: 3 out of 5 Stars = “acceptable”

(Note: Office 60 - No recommendation in this race from Steve Cooley and Roger Grace)

LA Office #64: MARIA LISA GHOBADI

Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
 - Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
 - Elizabeth Barcohana (EB says *this candidate is the “least bad”*)
-

LA Office # 65 - Split Decision in Office #65

SAMUEL KRAUSE Is recommended by:

- Elizabeth Barcohana
- E. Forum rates Krause: 4 of 5 Stars=Very Good

CHELLEI G. JIMENEZ is recommended by:

- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)

(E. Forum rates JIMENEZ: 2 of 5 Stars.

E. Forum rates Clayton and Reitano 1 star=horrible)

(Note – In Office 65 – No recommendation from Steve Cooley)

LA Office # 66: BEN FORER is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
- Roger Grace (Met. News-Enterprise)
- Elizabeth Barcohana

(Note: E. Forum rates Forer 2 of 5 Stars, low rating, but better than the opponent.)

LA Office #81: DAVID WALGREN

Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
- Elizabeth Barcohana

(E. Forum rating: 2 of 5 Stars, low rating, but better than the opponent)

LA Office # 87: Split Decision in #87 –

ANTHONY BAYNE Is recommended by:

- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
- E. Forum rates BAYNE: 4 of 5 Stars = Very Good

DAVID DEJUTE is recommended by:

- Elizabeth Barcohana

(Note: E. Forum rates DEJUTE as 1 of 5 stars)

(Note: Office 87 – No recommendation from Steve Cooley)

LA Office #116: PAT CONNOLLY

Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
 - Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
 - Elizabeth Barcohana
 - E. Forum rating: 3 out of 5 Stars = “acceptable”
-

Continued on next page...

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LA Office #131 - Split Decision in 131

DONNA TRYFMAN is recommended by:

- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise):
- Elizabeth Barcohana
- Steve Cooley recommends:
DONNA TRYFMAN (or David Ross)

(E. Forum -Tryfman rating is 2 out of 5 Stars)

TROY SLATEN is recommended by:

- E. Forum -Slaten rating: 3 out of 5 Stars = “acceptable”

LA Office #141: MARIELA TORRES

Is recommended by:

- Elizabeth Barcohana

(E. Forum rating: 2 of 5 Stars)

(Note: Office 141 - No recommendation in this race from Steve Cooley or Roger Grace)

LA Office #176: GLORIA MARIN

Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
- Elizabeth Barcohana

(E. Forum rating: 2 of 5 Stars = Better than opponent)

LA Office #181: RYAN DIBBLE

Is recommended by:

- Former LA DA Steve Cooley
- Roger Grace (Metropolitan News-Enterprise)
- Elizabeth Barcohana

E. Forum rating: 2 of 5 Stars = Better than opponent)

LA Office #196: CANDICE HENRY

Is recommended by:

- Elizabeth Barcohana
- E. Forum rating: 3 out of 5 Stars = “acceptable”)

(Note: Office 196 - No recommendation in this race from Steve Cooley or Roger Grace)

ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Source: Robyn Nordell’s OC Judge recommendations were made after researching and consulting with several knowledgeable advisors.

ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, OFFICE #13:

ANN CHO is the better of the 2 candidates in this race. (Please do *Not* vote for far-left Robert Mestman.)

Ann Cho’s endorsements include the Honorable Megan Wagner, OC Sheriff Don Barnes, and OC Supervisor Don Wagner.

Supervisor Wagner says: “I am proud to endorse Ann Cho for Judge. She has a great reputation for protecting the public as a Deputy District Attorney, and the character and ability to be an outstanding judge.”

ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, OFFICE #41:

AMI S. SAGEL is the better of the 2 candidates in this race.

Ami Sagel’s endorsements include the Honorable Megan Wagner, OC Sheriff Don Barnes and OC Supervisor Don Wagner.

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OC Voter Resource: Robyn's extensive Orange County Voter Guide (pdf) can be found here: <https://robbynordell.com/county/orange/>

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Riverside Seat #10: MICHELLE PARADISE
Read about Michelle's experience, endorsements, and more [HERE](#)

Michelle Paradise is endorsed by the Riverside Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Chad Bianco, DA Mike Hestric, Riverside Sheriffs' Association and more.

Source:

You'll find Christine Fontes' extensive Riverside County Voter Guide (pdf), including this JUDGE recommendation, within the Riverside page: <https://robbynordell.com/county/riverside/>

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Source:

These San Diego County Judge recommendations come from Penny Harrington. Penny 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.

You'll find Penny's extensive **San Diego County Voter Guide** here: <https://robbynordell.com/county/san-diego/>

San Diego Judges Superior Court Judge, No **11**:
LEAH M BOUCEK
(No recommendation, but she is the only candidate.)

San Diego Superior Court Judge, No **18**:
TRACY PRIOR
(Strong bipartisan endorsements.)

San Diego Superior Court Judge, No **31**:
ADAM NOAKES
(GOP endorsed, other strong endorsements.)

San Diego Superior Court Judge, No **32**:
NICOLE D'AMBROGI (Strong endorsements.)

San Diego Superior Court Judge, No **34**:
LAURIE HAUF (Endorsed by many Democrats, but also DA Stephan. Only candidate.)

VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Ventura County Superior Court Judge, #15
[AMY VAN SICKLE](#)

Sources:

This recommendation comes from both Election Forum and the [Republican Party of Ventura County](#)

Election Forum rates Amy Van Sickle as 3 out of 5 Stars = Acceptable.

(FYI-Amy's opponent, Mike Malak, is supported by numerous Democrat groups)