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I. Introduction

Hello!

Welcome to the ballot guide. I try to include as much information as possible without directly recreating the official ballot guide. The information is sourced from the official ballot guide, calmatters, Ballotpedia, LA Times, voter's edge, and Mercury News. I have included sources links where appropriate.

I have done my best to keep my views out of it.

I started this to help my two aunts. They would ask me to simplify their ballots for them and since I was, in their words, "into politics." Democracy relies on an informed and participatory citizenry, but this isn't an easy task. This ballot guide is meant to alleviate some of the burden.

If you notice any errors, you feel like I've missed something, or you've found this guide helpful, feel free to email me at lizmuehlmann@gmail.com.

If you're looking for a different city, county, or state, additionally guides are available on my Github here: https://github.com/liz-muehlmann/Election_Guides or on my website here: https://liz-muehlmann.github.io/pages/election_guides.html

Helpful Resources:

- 1. Register to vote (Deadline October 24): https://registertovote.ca.gov/
- 2. Check your registration status: https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/
- 3. Access the official voter guide: https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/
- 4. Early voting & ballot drop off locations: https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov/
- 5. Track your ballot: https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/
- 6. If you are in the Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange County area and need help getting to your polling place I will either find you resources or help you get there. I also offer to go with you to vote (and I will bring my two large German Shepherds) if you feel unsafe going to vote alone.

II. On the ballot

President & Vice President	State Measure (Prop) 6
United States Senator [full-term]	State Measure (Prop) 32
United States Senator [short-term]	State Measure (Prop) 33
State Measure (Prop) 2	State Measure (Prop) 34
State Measure (Prop) 3	State Measure (Prop.) 35
State Measure (Prop) 4	State Measure (Prop) 36
State Measure (Prop) 5	

III. National Offices

The President of the United States is the head of the executive branch. All other national candidates will split their time between their district and Washington D.C. Their job is to represent their constituents in Washington by securing federal funds for their local area.

A. President & Vice President of the United States

Party	Democra	Democratic		Republican	
Office	President	Vice President	President	Office President	
Name	Kamala Harris	Tim Walz	Donald J. Trump	J.D. Vance	
Experience	 District Attorney CA Attorney General US State Senator for CA US Vice President 	 U.S. Army Nebraska & Minnesota National Guard (24 years) High School Teacher Governor (Minnesota) US House of Representatives 	- Real Estate - Former President of the United States	 Lawyer Venture Capitalist Author CNN Contributor U.S. Senator 	
Education	 Howard University (BS - Political Science & Economics) UC Hastings Law School 	 Chadron State College (BS – Social Sciences) Minnesota State University, Mankato (MS – Experiential Education) 	- University of Pennsylvania (BA – Economics)	- Marine - Ohio State University (BA – Political Science and Philosophy) - Yale Law School	
Supports	 Harris is against the death penalty. Harris launched the criminal justice open data initiative to combat bias 	 Pro-choice Supported marijuana legalization He won paid sick leave for workers, established state-supported paid family and medical leave, and banned noncompete agreements 	- While Donald Trump has said that he does not know what Project 2025 is, but 140 people who worked for him have been involved with its creation. Project 2025 calls for mass deportation, federal prohibitions, concentration of the power in the presidency, eliminate the Department of Education, roll back environmental protections, ban non- citizens from living in federal assisted housing. The full project 2025 handbook is here.		
Endorsements	Joe Biden, Jimmy Carter, Bill Cl Dick Cheney, Al Gore, over 200 Organization for Women, Natio Center, LGBTQ Victory Fund, Sierra Club, Planned Parenthoo Unite Here, Writers Guild, New Stone, Vogue,	O Republicans, National onal Immigration Law March for Our Lives, d Action Fund, AFL-CIO,	William Barr, Betsty DeVos. Conway	, Steve Bannon, Kellyanne	
Key Votes/ Notable Positions	- Yea on National Parks & Public Land Restoration	- Vetoed bill that would protect ride share workers	- Signed a bill protecting the National Parks &	- Yea amending the Federal Fire Prevention and	

	fund to maintain National Parks - Yea to impeach Donald Trump - Yea on the Permanent Authorization of the 9/11 compensation fund	- Signed a bill prohibiting hidden or deceptive fees for event tickets, restaurant meals, hotels, and credit cards Signed a bill establishing election policies and campaign finance laws - Signed a bill expanding access to free school lunches - Signed a bill making abortion a constitutional right in Minnesota	Public Land Restoration fund to maintain National Parks - Signed an expanded access for sick leave, unemployment benefits, and protections for healthcare workers in response to COVID- 19	Control Act (1974) giving state fire departments access to federal funds No on a bill to expand nationwide access to fertility treatments Yea on a bill that would have allowed the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing multi- pollutant emissions standards for models from 2027 onward
Misc.		-	- Most of Donald Trump's business ventures have reported substantial losses over the years or have been declared bankrupt Trump.	- J.D. Vance considered himself a "never Trump" guy in 2016. He has called Trump an "idiot" and "Hitler."

Party	Liberta	vrian	Green	
Office	President	Vice President	President	Vice President
Name	Chase Oliver	Mike Ter Maat	Jill Stein	Rudolph 'Butch' Ware
Experience	Fundraising Director Restauranter	Economist Businessman Police officer	Professor Medical Doctor	Professor
Education	Georgia State University	Rensselaer Polytechnic (BS – aeronautical engineering; MBA) George Washington University (MS, PhD, economics)	Harvard (BA – Psychology/Sociology/ Anthropology) Harvard Medical	University of Minnesota (BA) University of Pennsylvania (PhD – History)
Supports	Pro-choice Pro-police reform Pro-second amendment	- Eliminate the IRS - End the Federal Reserve - Phase out public education - Reform police accountability - Impose term limits	 Healthy food, clean water Guaranteed lifelong public education Strengthen Social Security End public school privatization Overhaul immigration Global free trade Pro-Choice 	
Endorsements	Jo Jorgensen, Classical Liberta	rian Party	Abandon Harris Campaign, Medea Benjamin (founder of Code Pink), Muslim American Public Affairs Council	
Key Votes/ Notable Positions	- Opposed the Iraq war - Against qualified immunity & over- militarization	 Thinks the New Deal was a mistake States should be free from the constitution 	 Pro-Choice Wants to "rein" in Israel dSays that Democrats "can't win" and that "Democrats have lost. 	No information available

	- Wants third party	- No regulation of	Unless they give up	
	candidates to be viable	individual activity	their genocide"	
	options	·	- Thinks the US	
	- Wants to return to pre-		Secretary of State	
	pandemic spending lev	els.	should be impeached.	
	- Will veto any budget fr	om	- Refused to commit to	
	Congress that's not		conceding if	
	balanced		Democrats agreed to	
	- Pro-Choice		a permanent ceasefire	
	- Wants to free market to			
	address climate change			
	- Wants to abolish the			
	Department of Education	ion		
Misc.	- Has said that if there's	<u>a</u>		
	government shut down	<u>.</u>		
	because Congress can't			
	balance the budget than	<u>1</u>		
	that's "less money [the			
	nation] is spending." H			
	has also said that if that	<u>L</u>		
	happens and the people	2		
	who rely on governmen	<u>nt</u>		
	pay and benefits will no	<u>)</u>		
	longer receive support,			
	then they're "detoxing"			
	like alcoholics who have	<u>e</u>		
	had their alcohol taken			
	away.			

Party	Peace & Freedom		
Office	President	Vice President	
Name	Claudia De La Cruz	Karina Garcia (Vice President	
Experience			
Education	John Jay College (BS – Forensic Psychology) Columbia University (MA – Social Work) Union Theological Seminary (MA – Divinity)	No information available	
Supports	 Reparations Single-payer healthcare End U.S Aid to Israel Forgive student loans Recognize Native American Sovereignty and honor treaty rights Cut U.S. military budget by 90% Seize 100 largest corporations Tax billionaires to eliminate them Expand public transportation 		
Endorsements	Peace & Freedom Party	No information available	
Key Votes/ Notable Positions			

Misc.	Democrats want her off the	
	ballot, Republicans want her	
	<u>on it</u>	

B. United States Senator (Full and Part Term)

Job description: Represent constituents at the national level, inform the public about important issues that the state faces and introduce legislation.

California is in a weird position because we'll vote for U.S. Senator twice this year since Diane Feinstein died. When Feinstein died, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Laphonza Butler to finish out Feinstein's term. Butler said she is not running for the full term. This is the first fully open race since 2016.

Full-Term Senator (6 years)

The person you select for this will advance to the November election. If elected, they'll serve a full 6-year term as a U.S. Senator

Short Term Senator (Unexpired term ending January 3)

If Adam Schiff or Steve Garvey wins the short-term seat they'll serve until January 3, 2025 when the Full-Term Senator's seat takes over.

Both Schiff & Garvey are running for the short-term and full-term seat. I am only including the information once.

	Democratic	Republican
Office	Short-Term Senator / Full-Term Senator	Short-Term Senator / Full-Term Senator
Name	Adam B. Schiff	Steve Garvey
Experience	US House of Representatives	Former baseball player
-	CA Senate	Garvey Communications
Education	Stanford University (BA – Political Science) Harvard Law School (J.D.)	Michigan State University
Supports	 Pro-Choice Does not support protecting government officials from prosecution Supports defense spending 	 Border security & increased border patrol Cut regulations and encourage free market solutions Audit any money addressing homelessness Address root causes of homelessness Push for federal solutions to homelessness Stiffer punishment for people who commit crimes More police funding Free market approach to renewable energy Protect agriculture.
Endorsements	- LA Times, McClatchy, Bakersfield, CA Democratic Party, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, IATSE	San Diego Police Officers Association
Key Votes/	- Expand Metro transit	- Audit CA's gun control laws
Notable Positions	- Wanted to try 14 year olds as adults	- Lower corporate taxes
	- Wanted to make it a felony to hire undocumented	- Israel has the "unequivocal right to defend itself
	immigrant	form terrorists"
	- Voted in favor of invading Iraq in 2003 (Hindsight he	- Peace through strength
	has said he was absolutely wrong)	
	- 0% rating from the NRA, 100% by the Humane	
	Society	
	- No on Fix Our Forests Act	
	- Yes on NASA Reauthorization	

	- Yes on		
Misc.		-	Says students protesting for Palestine are
			"terrorists"
		-	Has not sought MAGA endorsement

IV. State Measures

If approved, these measures will become law. Bonds are long-term financing. The state sells bonds to investors and then agrees to repay the money with interest.

A. State Measure / Proposition 2

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Authorizes \$10 billion in general obligation		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
bonds for repair, upgrade, and construction	Use long term financing to improve K-12	VOTE YES
of facilities at K-12 public schools	schools and colleges. The funds would be	
(including charter schools), community	audited every year.	California Teachers Association
colleges, and career technical education		California School Nurses Organization
programs, including improvement of health		Community College League of California
and safety conditions and classroom		LA Times
upgrades. Requires annual audits.		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
		VOTE NO
Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs of		
about \$500 million annually for 35 years to		Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
repay the bond.		
MORE DETAILS		

B. State Measure / Proposition 3

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Amends California Constitution to		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
recognize fundamental right to marry,	Makes same-sex marriage a constitutional	VOTE YES
regardless of sex or race. Removes	right. Removes gendered language from the	
language in California Constitution stating	constitution limiting marriage to one man	Sierra Pacific Synod of The Evangelical
that marriage is only between a man and	and one woman.	Lutheran Church in America, Dolores
woman.		Huerta Foundation, Equality California,
		California Labor Federation, CA Chamber
Fiscal Impact: No change in revenues or		of Commerce, Gavin Newsom, LA Times,
costs for state and local governments		Mercury News
		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
		VOTE NO
		Jonathan Keller, California Family Council,
		Rev. Tanner DiBella, American Council of
		Evangelicals
MORE DETAILS		

C. State Measure / Proposition 4

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Authorizes \$10 billion in general obligation		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
bonds for water, wildfire prevention, and	Borrow \$10 million in bonds to address	VOTE YES
	problems that arise from climate change.	

protection of communities and lands.	The most would go to secure clean water	Clean Water Action, CALFIRE
Requires annual audits.	and protect against wildfires. Funds would	Firefighters, National Wildlife Federation,
	be audited yearly.	The Nature Conservancy, League of
Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs of		Women Voters, California Democratic
about \$400 million annually for 40 years to		Party, SEIU California, Metropolitan Water
repay the bond		District of Southern California
		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
		VOTE NO
		Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association,
		California Republican Party
MORE DETAILS		·

D. State Measure / Proposition 5

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Allows approval of local infrastructure and	Currently, local bonds related to property	PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
housing bonds for low- and middle-	taxes require 2/3 (66%) approval by voters.	VOTE YES
income Californians with 55% vote.	This prop would lower the requirement to	
Accountability requirements.	55%.	California Professional Firefighters, League
		of Women Voters of CA, Habitat for
Fiscal Impact: Increase local borrowing	Any borrowing, spending, or increase in	Humanity California, CA Democratic Party
to fund affordable housing, supportive	property taxes would be put to a vote.	AIDS Healthcare Foundation, CA Labor
housing, and public infrastructure. The		Federation, LA Times, Sacramento Bee
amount would depend on decisions by		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
local governments and voters. Borrowing		VOTE NO
would be repaid with higher property taxes.		
		California Taxpayers Association,
		California Hispanic Chambers of
		Commerce, Women Veterans Alliance, CA
		Republican Party

MORE DETAILS

It is difficult for local governments to borrow money for affordable housing. This prop is meant to address this problem. This prop would not increase property taxes or local government's debt if passed (at least not immediately). Prop 5 is a procedural change that lowers the amount of voter approval local government's need to borrow/spend on housing.

E. State Measure / Proposition 6

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Amends the California Constitution to		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
remove current provision that allows jails	Voting yes on this measure would stop	VOTE YES
and prisons to impose involuntary	prisoners from being used as an unpaid	
servitude to punish crime (i.e., forcing	workforce.	ACLU CA
incarcerated persons to work).		Anti-Recidivism Coalition, CA Democratic
		Party, CA Teachers Association, CA Labor
Fiscal Impact: Potential increase or		Federation, League of Women Voters of
decrease in state and local costs, depending		CA, LA Times, SF Chronicle, Sacramento
on how work for people in state prison and		Bee
county jail changes. Any effect likely would		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
not exceed the tens of millions of dollars		VOTE NO
annually.		
		Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, East
		Bay Times/Mercury News, San Diego
		Union-Tribute, Pasadena Star News, CA
		Republican Party
MORE DETAILS		

Currently the state can force inmates to work if they do not want to and punish those who say they don't want to work. If passed, state prisons could set up voluntary work programs where work is exchanged for credits or time off sentences. It also allows the state to set up a pay scale for local jails.

F. State Measure / Proposition 32

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Raises minimum wage as follows:		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
For employers with 26 or more	Immediately raise the minimum to	VOTE YES
employers, to \$17 immediately, \$18	\$17 for places with 26+ employees	
on January 1, 2025. For employers	then again to \$18 on Jan. 1, 2025	CA Labor Federation, Unite Here,
with 25 or fewer employees, to \$17		One Fair Wage, Working Families
on January 2025, \$18 on January 1,	For places with 26 or fewer, the	Party CA, United Farm Workers,
2026.	same increases but the first (\$17)	CA Democratic Party, Leave of
	would start Jan. 1, 2025 and \$18 on	Women Voters CA, Mercury
Fiscal Impact: State and local	Jan. 1, 2026	News/East Bay Time, SF
government costs could increase or		Chronicle, LA Times
decrease up to hundreds of millions		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
of dollars annually. State and local		VOTE NO
revenues would likely decrease by		
no more than a few hundred million		CA Chamber of Commerce, CA
dollars annually.		Restaurant Association, CA Grocers
		Association, CA Republican Party,
		Howard Jarvis Taxpayers
		Association, Bakersfield Californian,
		Pasadena Star-News
MODE DETAILS		

MORE DETAILS

Raises the minimum wage statewide to attempt to keep up with inflation. Starting 2027, minimum wage will be tied to inflation.

G. State Measure / Proposition 33

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Repeals Costa-Hawkins Rental		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
Housing Act of 1995, which	Allow local governments to enact	VOTE YES
currently prohibits local ordinances	rent control ordinances.	
limiting initial residential rental rates		CA Nurses Association, CA
for new tenants or rent increases for		Alliance for Retired Americans,
existing tenants in certain residential		Mental Health Advocacy, Coalition
properties.		for Economic Survival,
		TenantsTogether
Fiscal Impact: Reduction in local		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
property tax revenues of at least		VOTE NO
tens of millions of dollars annually		
due to likely expansion of rent		CA Council for Affordable
control in some communities.		Housing, Women Veterans
		Alliance, CA Chamber of
		Commerce
MORE DETAILS		

Some places (LA & SF, notably) can enact rent control measures. Costa-Hawkins does *not* allow rent control on houses and apartments built after 1995. In addition, if a person leaves a rent-controlled property, landlords can enact any rent they want for the new tenants.

H. State Measure / Proposition 34

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Requires certain providers to spend		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
98% of revenues from federal	Require some providers to spend	VOTE YES
discount prescription drug program	98% of revenue on patient care	
on direct patient care. Authorizes	-	The ALS Association, CA Chronic
statewide negotiation on Medi-Cal		Care Coalition, Latino Heritage LA
drug prices.		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
		VOTE NO
Fiscal Impacts: Increased state		
costs, likely in the millions of		National Org. For Women,
dollars annually, to enforce new		Consumer Watchdog, Coalition for
rules on certain health care entities.		Economic Survival, AIDS
Affected entities would pay to cover		Healthcare Foundation, Dolores
these costs.		Huerta
MODE DEMAIL		

MORE DETAILS

Since 1992, federal law has mandated that, in exchange for serving low-income and at-risk patients, providers get a discount on pharmaceutical drugs. Providers can then sell the drugs at retail prices.

This proposition only targets one provider: The AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Essentially, The AIDS Foundation spends most of the money it raises from using the Federal discount drug program to offer low-income housing. The Foundation is outspoken in state and local housing politics and some people don't like this. As best as anyone can tell, this prop is meant to punish the Foundation.

I. State Measure / Proposition 35

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Makes permanent existing tax on	Requires California to spend tax	PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
managed health care insurance	revenue from health care plans on	VOTE YES
plans, which, if approved by the	Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal offers low-	
federal government, provides	income individuals and people with	Planned Parenthood Affiliates of
revenues to pay for Medi-Cal health	disabilities with health care.	CA, American College of
care services.		Obstetricians & Gynecologists,
		American Academy of Pediatrics,
Fiscal Impact: Short-term state		CA Democratic Party, CA
costs between roughly \$1 billion		Republican Party
and \$2 billion annually to increase		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
funding for certain health programs.		VOTE NO
Total funding increase between \$2		
billion to \$ billion annually.		League of Women Voters of CA,
Unknown long-term fiscal effects.		CA Pan-Ethnic Health Network,
		Mercury News, LA Times

MORE DETAILS

Newsom says that even if the voters want this, he'll oppose it because it *requires* the state to spend the money on Medi-Cal. He says it will make balancing the budget more difficult.

J. State Measure / Proposition 36

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
Allows felony charges for	Change some misdemeanor theft	PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
possessing certain drugs and for	and drug crimes as felonies. Creates	VOTE YES
thefts under \$950, if defendant has	new category – "Treatment-	
two prior drug or theft convictions.	mandated felony" – where the	Crime Victims United of CA, CA
	person can do treatment instead of	District Attorneys Association,
Fiscal Impact: State criminal	going to prison.	Family Business Association of CA
justice costs likely ranging from		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO
several tens of millions of dollars to		VOTE NO
the low hundreds of millions of		
dollars annually. Local criminal		Diana Becton, District Attorney
justice costs likely in the tens of		Contra Costa County, Crime
millions of dollars annually		Survivors for safety and Justice
MODE DETAILS		

MORE DETAILS

In 2004, CA voted to make some drug charges misdemeanors instead of felonies to combat prison overcrowding. Big box stores, prosecutors, and police blame the 2004 proposition for higher homelessness and theft – especially during the pandemic. Voting yes on prop 36 this year would return CA to 2004 drug policies.