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This guide is for California – Tuesday, June 2nd
2026 Primary Election – Los Angeles County

1 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. Check your registration status: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>
2. Access the official voter guide: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>
3. Early voting & ballot drop off locations: <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov/>
4. Track your ballot: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>
5. 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. If you feel unsafe going to your polling place, I will also go with you.

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2 The Ballot

Bolded titles are in *this* guide.

For other guides: https://liz-muehlmann.github.io/pages/election_guides.html

State Senator, 22nd District

Member of the State Assembly, 41st District

US Representative, 31st District

Bonita Unified School District Measure A

County Sheriff

Assessor

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 2

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 14

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 39

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 60

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 64

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 65

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 66

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 81

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 87

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 116

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 131

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 141

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 176

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 181

Superior Court Judge, Office No. 196

County Measure ER

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State

Controller

Treasurer

Attorney General

Insurance Commissioner

**State Board of Equalization, Member 3rd
District**

Superintendent of Public Instruction

3 County Offices

The decisions made in county offices affect LA County’s 9,694,934 residents. LA County includes Agoura Hills, Alhambra, Arcadia, Artesia, Avalon, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Beverly Hills, Bradbury, Burbank, Calabasas, Carson, Cerritos, Claremont, Commerce, Compton, Covina, Cudahy, Culver City, Diamond Bar, Downey, Duarte, El Monte, El Segundo, Gardena, Glendale, Glendora, Hawaiian Gardens, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Hidden Hills, Huntington Park, Industry, Inglewood, Irwindale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, La Puente, La Verne, Lakewood, Lancaster, Lawndale, Lomita, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Maywood, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, Norwalk, Palmdale, Palos Verdes Estates, Paramount, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Rosemead, San Dimas, San Fernando, San Gabriel, San Marino, Santa Clarita, Santa Fe Springs, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, Signal Hill, South El Monte, South Gate, South Pasadena, Temple City, Torrance, Vernon, Walnut, West Covina, West Hollywood, Westlake Village, Whittier

3.1 Sheriff

Job Description: A sheriff is responsible for law enforcement on a county level, ensuring that all local, state, and federal laws are followed. He or she performs a role similar to that of a police chief in a municipal department, managing a department in charge of protecting people and property and maintaining order. The sheriff usually has jurisdiction over any unincorporated areas of his or her county, while a police chief is in charge of areas within town or city limits ([Source](#)).

Name	Job (if known)	Notable Positions / Comments
Mike Bornman	Retired Sheriff Captain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to complete a forensic audit of the LAPD - Prioritize health and well-being of police officers - Streamline the process of concealed carry permits to make it take less than the current (average) 18 months - Protect our community from illegal immigrants with violent pasts
Karla Carranza * NOTE: Be careful clicking this link. Carranza’s website has been linked to suspicious online activated. Do not click the link unless you have a firewall or other anti-virus protection	Sergeant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make the reserve program an hourly paid program to work with existing police officers - End any contract that LAPD is unable to staff - Hire lawyers to fight frivolous claims against the LAPD - Build a new jail.
Brendan Corbett	Retired Assistant Sheriff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restructure to focus all available resources into patrol and line functions - Increase the reserve program - Implement technology to increase response times (NOTE: this often means increase the presence of drones as a first responders, automated plate readers, and ShotSpotter which are microphones that listen for

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		gunshots. Significant privacy and civil liberty concerns have been raised about these tools because they often are contracted by private companies who store and process the data)
Eric Strong	Probation Office Chief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graduated FBI national academy, police officer for 30 years. - Wants to end deputy gangs - Advocates for trauma-informed “care-not-cut offs” approach - Pledges that the department will not participate in ICE raids
Alex Villanueva	Retired Police Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second sheriff to be voted out of office for being a “danger to the people” - People who oppose him “worship at the alter of woke-ism” (The Guardian) - Has been accused of encouraging deputy gangs, engaging in cover-ups, and generally acting “above the law”
Andre N. White	Detective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Believes police, hiring, and investigations should be transparent and accessible to the public - Bridge the gap between communities and the police - Increase hiring from underserved communities to increase representation in the police - Modernize the police department (no specifics given)
Oscar Antonio Martinez	Police Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defend and support law enforcement officers - Modernize the police department by investing in drones, non-lethal data, and synchronized data - Expand deputy numbers and deploy them so that all of the county has adequate coverage.
Robert G. Luna	LA County Sheriff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for increased police on the Metro - Violent crime has fallen for each year he’s been in office - Introduced body cameras in jails

3.2 Assessor

Job Description: The county assessor locates and identifies the ownership of all taxable property in the County and establishes a taxable value for all property subject to property taxation. Property taxes make up 21% of LA County’s overall budget which funds libraries, social workers, and parks.

Name	Job (if known)	Notable Positions / Comments
Sandy Sun	Certified Appraiser, LA County	- Ensure public trust through transparency

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports proposition 13 which limits property reassessment when they change ownership, taxes are essentially fixed to 1970s rates (NOTE: remember property taxes fund most of our social services) - Expand property tax exemption to cover all disabled veterans and active duty servicemembers (up to \$500,000) - Eliminate property tax for people whose home is their principal place of residence.
Stephen A. Adamus	Property Assessment Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports proposition 13 - Wants to repeal proposition 19 which protects homes for seniors, veterans, and victims of natural disasters - Supports telework
Jeffrey Prang	LA County Assessor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modernized the department by allowing e-filings - Jobs training program to help college grads with county jobs - Expanded transparency and accessibility within the department
Steven B. Palty	Tax Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information available
Rob Newland	Appraiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation in how property values are assessed - Supports proposition 13 - Use data to reduce homelessness and identify illegal short-term rentals - Very big on using data to modernize the assessor’s office and help planners, researchers, and policymakers by making data available.

3.3 Judge of the Supreme Court [Office No. 2]

Job description: Superior Court Judges oversee trials across Los Angeles County. The trials cover everything from state and local laws, family law, contract disputes, thefts, felony murder, probate, and small claims. They act as a referee and serve six-year terms.

NOTE: Judicial candidates rarely state their positions because they are meant to be impartial. The notable positions section is what I could glean from various sources about the type of judge they will be.

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Tal K. Valbuena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judicial philosophy: Treating every person with dignity. - Wants to strengthen access to the judiciary to make the process less cumbersome and more equitable - Biggest goal is to strengthen public trust in the judicial system (City Watch LA)
Robert S. Draper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facing misconduct charges, sexual harassment complaints, and sharing “inappropriate images on the court’s email system” – the images were of children while they were naked in the bathtub. The children and photos were part of cases Draper was hearing. Draper sent photos to people unrelated to the case. (Daily Journal).

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3.4 Judge of the Supreme Court [Office No. 14]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
<p>Angie Christides NOTE: Be careful clicking this link. Christides’s website has been linked to suspicious online activated. Do not click the link unless you have a firewall or other anti-virus protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by Unite HERE, CA NOW, Santa Monica and Culver City Democratic Clubs, and La Defensa - Believes in alternative sentencing and mental health diversion programs - Will ensure that people understand that the system is fair, even if they don’t like the outcome - Says she hasn’t used AI, but it requires patience (LA Daily News) - There is concern that Christides acted unethically by accusing Long Beach detectives of withholding evidence but they didn’t, but the details are murky (Met News)
<p>Irene Lee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by LA County Democratic Party, Stonewall Democratic Club, the ILW Union, and the Association of Deputy District Attorneys - Wants people to trust that the legal system is working for them - Says they haven’t used AI, but it is a tool that allows prosecutors to get through video testimony and by doing words searches of automated transcripts

3.5 Judge of the Supreme Court [Office No. 39]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
<p>Binh Q. Dang</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dang is running unopposed so your options are to vote for him or not vote for this seat that he will win anyway. Since it’s an unopposed seat, there’s not much critical information about him. Below is what I could gather. - Came to the USA as a refugee from Vietnam - Family-focused - OC Bar rates him as “qualified” (Scale: Exceptionally well qualified, well qualified, qualified, not qualified)

3.6 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 60]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
<p>Ann M. Maurer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maurer is running unopposed so your options are to vote for her or not vote for this seat that she will win anyway. Since it’s an unopposed seat, there’s not much critical information about her. Below is what I could gather. - Former writer - Will bring “experience, fairness, and a deep respect” for everyone to her courtroom

3.7 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 64]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
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Rhonda A. Haymon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by Progressive Democratic Club, Long Beach Young Democrats, LA Sentinel, ILWU, and Black LA Young Democrats. Falsely stated she was endorsed by Kathryn Barger via Instagram, but later deleted it - Committed to maintaining a courtroom where “people are treated with dignity” and where justice is both administered and experienced to build trust in the system” (LA Daily News) - Will incorporate restorative justice when appropriate - An anonymous Deputy District Attorney stated Haymon was unprofessional, combative, and perpetually late. (Met News). (Haymon has been held in contempt by Judge Olsen and there are questions about whether she has the temperament suitable for the bench).
Francisco Amador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former Marine and police officer - May have broken or gotten close to broken election laws by listing his profession as Attorney/Lawyer on the ballot (Met News) - No other information available
Maria Ghobadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good communicator, intelligent, approachable, and known for her exceptional legal research (Met News) - Will ensure the courtroom is a “place of fairness, respect, and balanced justice” (campaign website) - Speaks mindfully and avoids making sweeping generalizations about abstract cases and hypotheticals (LA Daily News)

3.8 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 65]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Samuel Wolloch Krause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Prolific legal author and scholar” (Campaign website) - Served as voluntary temporary judge; wanted to list it on the ballot but it contradicts election law - Judicial philosophy is to treat people with fairness, equality, and dignity
Anna Slotky Reitano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by the Stonewall Democratic Club, CA Now, Alhambra democratic Club, and NOW - Believes that well-rounded personal history allows her to be more fair and unbiased in the courtroom (LA Daily News) - Four years ago she ran for another Superior Court seat and was entirely funded by a left-wing political group which raises concerns about her impartiality - Has also failed to show independent judgement about small things which may also mean she is unable to do so about bigger things like cases (this example is whether her ballot designation violated election laws)
Justin Allen Clayton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Adept at defusing tense situations” and remaining calm - Did not attend an accredited law school (Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego) - Believes that the justice system works best when it promotes both public safety and fairness - Similar situated individuals should be treated similarly - Endorsed by the LA County Democratic Club, LA Sentinel, La Defensa, and about a half dozen judges
Chellei G. Jimenez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owns her own law firm - Lists that she is the wife of a veteran as a reason she is qualified as a judge (campaign website)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worked as a judge pro tem and is currently a litigator - Active in the community through volunteering, youth mentorship, and sitting on a non-profit board - States she would not allow her personal beliefs to influence her decisions inside the court (LA Daily News)
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3.9 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 66]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Ben Forer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rated as “well qualified” by the LA County Bar Association - Cites the Torah as inspiration for his judicial beliefs: “Justice, Justice shall you pursue” and believes it is what it means to be a judge. That is, to pursue “<i>tzedek</i>” and to “listen fully, to weigh carefully, and to apply the law equally” - Endorsed by LA Daily News, Association of Deputy District Attorneys, AM 870 The Answer, La Defensa, and Long beach police officers’ association
Cheryl C. Turner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committed to keeping an open mind, protecting constitutional rights, and ensuring all voices are heard (LA Daily News) - No information is available about her ability to be a judge. Turner has sat on the South Coast Air Quality Management District, LA Convention and Exhibition Center Authority, and is the President of the board of Directors of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles. No campaign website is available.

3.10 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 81]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Dan Kapelovitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former journalist, award-winning filmmaker, and has a law degree from UCLA School of Law - Law office is called “radical law” - Has run for multiple offices (including governor) but does not win. - Has no apparent law office, lists his office as #999 in a single floor building
David Walgren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LA County Bar rates him “exceptionally well qualified” - Kapelovitz contends that Walgren is biased in favor of the prosecution, but there is no supporting evidence to back this claim (Met News) - Will run a “disciplined, respectful” courtroom “focused on getting it right” (LA Daily News) - Currently a Superior Court Judge

3.11 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 87]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
David Dejute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rated “qualified” by the LA County Bar Association. - Believes that justice belongs to everyone - Endorsed by the LA Sentinel, Stonewall Democratic Club, and the Mexican American Bar Association - Former Assistant US Attorney

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Believes in rehabilitation and second chances - Has consistently misrepresented his title (Met News)
Anthony (AJ) Bayne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by ILWU, Peace Officer Research Association of CA, and La Opinion - Will treat everyone with dignity and respect - Applied for patents to have “AI assisted attorney workflows”
Sharee Sanders Gordon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by LA City Attorney’s Association, Black Women’s Democratic Club, and the Mexican American Bar Association - Believes everyone in the courtroom deserves to be “heard, respected, and treated fairly” (campaign website) - Former elementary school teacher

3.12 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 116]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Pat Connolly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current Superior Court Judge - Registered independent because “justice should never be political” - He has been criticized by colleagues by as combative and he describes himself as “pugnacious,” but is also highly knowledgeable and principled - Has been publicly admonished by the Commission of Judicial Performance twice for bias and improper comments towards litigants. - Has not had many rulings overruled on appeal (Met News – who now endorses him) - Registered Republican
Paul A. Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by LA County Democratic Party, Stonewall Democratic Club, and LA/OC Building and Construction Trades - Lead prosecutor against Harvey Weinstein - Friends with the parents of the White House correspondent’s dinner gunman – they live next door to him (Yahoo)

3.13 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 131]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Troy W. Slaten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to use a collaborative court system that includes criminal, mental health, and veterans’ courts to address the root cause of criminal behavior - End the school to prison pipeline by investing in intervention and second chances for youths - Believes in trauma-informed, gender-responsive treatment for mothers facing incarceration - End mass incarceration and ensure that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, has access to the judicial system

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former child actor who frequently misrepresents his experience by stating he was a former prosecutor – he has never been a prosecutor (LA Daily News)
Donna Tryfman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by The Sun, OC Register, Crime Survivors Pac, Stonewall Democratic Club, and Unite Here. - Blunt, but confident - Believes that personal ideology should not impact judicial decisions - Not afraid to go to trial, but often seeks reasonable settlements
Carlos Dammeier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former law office double and triple billed clients - Described as a “buffoon” who tried to run for two superior court judge seats (Met News)
David Ross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former newsman - Dislikes “activist judges” – citing the current US Supreme Court - Can come off as arrogant, but also levelheaded and restrained - Has progressive activist roots.

3.14 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 141]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Mariela Torres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Torres is running unopposed so your options are to vote for her or not vote for this seat that she will win anyway. Since it’s an unopposed seat, there’s not much critical information about her. Below is what I could gather. - Law degree is from an unaccredited distance-learning school that is shutting down this year (Met News)

3.15 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 176]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Zachary Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed by Stonewall Democratic Club, Mexican American Bar Association, Local Union 11, LA Sentinel, and the LA County Democratic Party - Decides cases using “integrity, humility, and service to others” (LA Daily News) - When possible, within the confines of the law, a judge’s job is to protect the powerless from the powerful
Gloria Marin NOTE: Be careful clicking this link. Marin’s website has been linked to suspicious online activated. Do not click the link unless you have a firewall or other anti-virus protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to bring “experience, integrity, and steady judgement” to the bench (campaign website) - Described as “pleasant, hard-working, and competent” (Met News)

3.16 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 181]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
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Ryan Dibble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed LA County Democratic Party, LA Daily News, Metropolitan News, LA Sentinel, and the Mexican American Bar Association - Former prosecutor, volunteer, and founder of the Little Lebowsky Urban Achievers Scholarship Foundation - Dedicated, easy-going, and conscientious (Met News) -
Thanayi Lindsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has been sanctioned by the State Bar for professional misconduct - Misrepresenting herself as a judge on election materials, she is an administrative law judge with the CA unemployment insurance appeals board (Met News) (NOTE: administrative law judges hear cases on federal laws and regulations, including enforcement, penalties, and sanctions – Basics of ALJs) - Treats people with respect while being “firm, calm, and composed under pressure” (campaign website)

3.17 Judge of the Superior Court [Office No. 196]

Name	Notable Positions / Comments
Candice J. Henry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Henry is running unopposed so your options are to vote for her or not vote for this seat that she will win anyway. Since it’s an unopposed seat, there’s not much critical information about her. Below is what I could gather. - Well-respected within the legal community. - Brings a “rare combination of courtroom excellence, leadership and fairness” (Met News)

4 County Measure ER

Official Language	Plain Language	
<p>Essential Services Restoration Act for Los Angeles County General Sales Tax Measure. Shall the measure to help our community address severe federal cuts enacted by the President and Congress; reduce the loss of essential services, including healthcare for County residents; reduce the risk of closing the County’s four public hospitals and numerous clinics, and significant healthcare provider layoffs and other service cuts by enacting a ½ percent (0.5%) general sales tax for 5 years, generating approximately \$1 billion annually with independent audits be adopted?</p>	<p>VOTE YES: to increase sales taxes by half a cent (for every \$10 spent, you’d pay an additional 5 cents in taxes) for 5 years to fund LA County healthcare services (Medi-Cal)</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John’s Community Health • Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project • LA County Medical Association
	<p>VOTE NO: to keep the sales tax as-is and do not fund LA County healthcare services.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA Taxpayers Association • Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Arcadia Mayor Pro Tem, and Rosemead’s and Temple City’s Mayors
<p>MORE DETAILS:</p>		

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- Trump has cut funding for healthcare. Without additional funding, approximately 700,000 LA County residents will lose healthcare. This means that they will likely rely on emergency rooms as their primary way of receiving care. Emergency rooms are required by law to treat all patients regardless of whether they have insurance or not. These costs are then passed on to taxpayers anyway.
- The tax will automatically expire October 2031 after Trump leaves office.
- Groceries, prescription medication, and medical equipment are exempted (i.e., you won't pay this tax on them).
- Measure includes independent oversight and public reporting to ensure the funds are being used for the appropriate reason.