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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

District Attorney	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 135
Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 39	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 137
Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 48	County Measure G
Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 97	County Measure A

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III. County Level Offices

County level offices represent the interests and values of the county.

A. District Attorney

Job Description: Criminal prosecution and to investigate and prosecute crimes on behalf of the people.

Office	District Attorney	
Name	George Gascon	Nathan Hochman
Experience	Army District Attorney Police Chief Police Officer	Air Force Assistant U.S. Attorney
Education	Cal State University – Long Beach (History) Western State University College of Law	Brown University Stanford University
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ending mass incarceration - Safety and justice - Holding law enforcement accountable - End seeking the death penalty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work closely with law enforcement - Protect victims by allowing prosecutors to accompany victims at parole hearings - Re-invigorate drug and mental illness courts
Endorsements	SEIU, Unite Here, LA Progressive, LA Times, LA County Democratic Party, LA AFL-CIO, Progressive Democratic Club, John Legend, Jane Fonda, Stonewall Democratic Club	LA County Firefighters, LA Police Protective League, CA Fraternal Order of Police, Pasadena Star-News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Crime Survivors PAC
Key Votes/ Notable Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conviction Integrity Unit, that investigates convictions to make sure that the people in prison are guilty. It has exonerated 14 innocent people. - Resentencing Unit has resentenced people, often leading to release with a 0% recidivism rate - Increased prosecutions for Hate Crimes and Officer-Involved shootings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will establish “clear lines” for Palestinian protests where crossing those lines would lead to arrest - Will approach criminal justice with a deterrence first approach
Misc.	Running as a democrat	Running as an independent

B. Judges

Judges are meant to be impartial. I’ve included as much information as possible. However, since judges can’t actively campaign on certain issues, the information is limited. Los Angeles County Bar Association rates lawyers on whether they’re qualified for the job. The rating process is intense, but it is run by a volunteer group of individuals unaffiliated with the state bar. It has been accused of bias. I’ve included the ratings next to the judges’ names. There are four categories: Exceptionally Well Qualified, Well Qualified, Qualified, Not Qualified.

Office	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 39	
Name	Steve Napolitano (Qualified)	George A. Turner Jr. (Qualified)
Experience	- Parole attorney	- Public defender
Education	Loyola Marymount	UCLA
Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fairly adjudicate cases - Increase legal aid - Tough, but fair - Wants the court system to have better technology and resources - Sees the biggest issue in the legal system as access. Rich people have more access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to democratize the bench - Says that CA has built 23 prisons and only 3 colleges, wants to change that - Expand alternatives to incarceration - Decrease the number of people incarcerated - Modernize court proceedings

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	- Thinks there's bias towards prosecutors and public defenders	
<i>Endorsements</i>	Los Angeles Times, LA Opinion, CA Voter's Guide, Crime Survivors PAC	LA County Democratic Club, LA AFL-CIO, Stonewall Democratic Club, Working Family's part, SEIU Local 721

<i>Office</i>	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 48	
<i>Name</i>	Ericka J. Wiley (Qualified)	Renee Rose (Well Qualified)
<i>Experience</i>	Public Defender	Prosecutor
<i>Education</i>	Fisk University University of Cincinnati	UC Santa Barbara Southwestern Law School
<i>Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every should have a fair opportunity to be heard - Focus on causes of criminal behavior including mental illness, homelessness, and drug addiction - Criminal justice reform - Ending mass incarceration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocates for victims and the elderly - Rehabilitation - Incarceration for serious and violent offenders
<i>Endorsements</i>	LA County Democratic Party, SEIU Local 721, National Women's Political Caucus	Crime survivors, Teamsters, Democrats for the Protection of Animals, Long Beach Police Officers Association

<i>Office</i>	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 97	
<i>Name</i>	Sharon Ransom (Well Qualified)	La Shae Henderson (Qualified)
<i>Experience</i>	Deputy District Attorney	Criminal Defense Attorney
<i>Education</i>		Pepperdine CSU Fullerton
<i>Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unions and workers' rights - Women's equality - Civil rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone should be treated with dignity - Removal of prejudice and bias in court proceedings - Equality and Justice
<i>Endorsements</i>	LA Times, Stonewall Democratic Club, IBEW Local Union 11, LA County Democratic Party, LA Times, IATSE	Ground Game LA, Feel the Bern LA County Democratic Club, LA DEFENSA

<i>Office</i>	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 135	
<i>Name</i>	Steven Yee Mac (Well Qualified)	Georgia Huerta (Well Qualified)
<i>Experience</i>	Army (JAG) Deputy District Attorney	Deputy District Attorney
<i>Education</i>	UC Berkeley UCLA Law	UCLA USC Western State University, College of Law
<i>Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation is best for people who abuse substances, for non-violent offenders, and those with mental health issues - Punishment should ensure safety while maintaining the possibility of rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Punishment should fit the crime and the person. - Punishment is not one-size-fits-all - Punishment can range from warning to the death penalty and should be determined case-by-case
<i>Endorsements</i>	LA Times, Crime Survivors PAC, Teamsters, LA County Federation of Labor, Stonewall Democratic Club, We Are Union	LA County Democratic Party, LA Sentinel, LA Progressive. Los Angeles African American Women PAC
<i>Misc</i>		In 2022, Huerta was a candidate for Judicial seat 118. She listed herself as a Deputy District Attorney but had left the role – and stopped practicing law – in 2021. She was legally allowed to list herself as a Deputy District Attorney, but some found it to be sketchy. Some have also noted that she usually uses her maiden name, Sullivan, but when campaigning she opts to use her married name, Huerta.

<i>Office</i>	Judge of the Superior Court, Office No. 137	
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Name	Tracey M. Blount (Well Qualified)	Luz E. Herrera (Qualified)
Experience	Attorney Paralegal	Professor Associate Dean Attorney
Education	UC Berkeley University of La Verne, College of Law	Harvard Law Stanford University
Plan	- Wants a fair and just legal system	I can't find much about her approach to judging, but she believes strongly in family. She also wants to make legal access affordable.
Endorsements	LA County Democratic Party, Democrats Neighborhood Action, Los Angeles African American Women PAC Metropolitan News, LA Times, Stonewall Democratic Club	SEIU, LA County Federation of Labor, La Opinion, Mexican American Bar Association,
Misc	ULV Law School is only accredited by the State, not the American Bar	Herrera has “not handled a matter in the LA Superior Court since 2009-2010” as she has been living in Texas. Herrera has been in the news, generally commenting about issues in the news (e.g., Sonia Sotomayor's nomination to the US Supreme Court) and her experiences as a Mexican-American lawyer . She also established a non-profit, Community Lawyers, that offers legal services to people in Compton and Southeastern LA County

IV. County 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. County Measure G

The County Board of Supervisors are “some of the most powerful local government officials in the country.” LA County has nearly 10 million residents and the Supervisors can pass laws with a 3/5 vote. The County Board of Supervisors’ CEO cannot veto decisions by the board. They are paid ~232,000/year. The current CEO makes ~\$566,000.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH		
Shall the measure amending the Los Angeles County Charter to create an elected County Executive; create an independent Ethics Commission to increase restrictions on lobbying and investigate misconduct; establish and nonpartisan Legislative Analyst to review proposed County policies; increase the Board of Supervisors from five to nine elected members; require County departments to present annual budgets in public meetings; using existing funding sources with no additional taxes to implement, as detailed in the charter amendment ordinance, be adopted?	<p>This County Measure is asking you to vote on three things.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Should the LA County Board of Supervisors be expanded to 9 elected officials (currently 5)?2. Should and should the position “county executive” be created?3. Should an ethics commission and legislative analyst position be created to review potential policies for the county?	PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO VOTE YES	Cause USA
		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO VOTE NO	LA County Firefighters & Sheriffs, Community Coalition, LA County Supervisors Kathryn Barger & Holly Mitchell
If you vote YES		If you vote NO	
The LA County Board of Supervisors will gain 4 more elected seats, a county executive position will be and an ethics commission and legislative analyst position.		The LA County Board of Supervisors will remain at 5 seats and no new positions will be created.	

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<p>PRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More representative. LA County is huge and can't be effectively represented by 5 people - The last time LA County updated their county government was 1912. - More diversity. The county is nearly half Hispanic and there's only one Latina member of the County Board of Supervisors - Changes the current County CEO (i.e., county mayor, county executive) from an appointed position to an elected one. 	<p>CON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The county executive position would have too much power, including over the budget, and wouldn't be accountable to the board - Creating new positions would require funding, so this measure would be costly. (One-time costs would be \$8 million or more. Unclear what the long-term costs would be as they probably won't start until 2030) - It would further disenfranchise unincorporated areas in LA County.
<p>MORE DETAILS</p> <p>The “county executive” position is essentially county mayor. There are two current County Board of Supervisors that oppose the measure because of the county executive position. The two opponents state that they support expanding the Board and creating an Ethics Commission, but consolidating power in one position, they argue, is dangerous. Proponents argue that LA is an anomaly. San Francisco has a population of 875,000 and an 11-member board, Cook County, Illinois (that includes Chicago) has a 17-member commission and a population of 5.2 million.</p>	

B. County Measure A

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	PLAIN ENGLISH	
To require accountability and results, create affordable housing, support home ownership, and addiction treatment, reduce and prevent homelessness; and provide services for children, families, veterans, domestic violence survivors, seniors, and disabled people experiencing homelessness; shall the measure repealing the Measure H tax and replacing it with a ½ cent sales tax, raising approximately \$1,076,076,350 annually until voters decide to end it, with new audits and oversight, be adopted?	Should LA County add a new sales tax to help combat homelessness?	PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO VOTE YES
		Women’s & Children’s Crisis Shelter; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles, LA Family Housing
		PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO VOTE NO
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Miche Antonovich (Retired LA County Supervisor), Jack Humphreville.		
If you vote YES	If you vote NO	
LA County will repeal Measure H (approved by voters in 2017) and replace it with a new, higher tax to help combat homelessness	No new sales tax will be added. Existing funding will expire in 2027.	
PRO	CON	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- More money to combat homelessness- Some (1/3) of the money would be used for affordable housing- Increases pathways to employment for those facing job and housing insecurities.- Creates two new oversight boards to oversee the services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Opponents argue that we already tried more taxes with little results.- Will double the existing tax- Has no end date	
MORE DETAILS		
In 2017 LA County voted to add a \$0.25 sales tax (69% approval). Money was used to get people out of homeless encampments. The measure has moved over 100,000 people into either permanent (42,000) or temporary (80,500) housing. This only needs a simple majority to pass. It will raise the tax to \$0.50 and has no end date. The LA County Federation of Labor states that Measure A will help move people from homelessness by offering “ pathways to good union jobs with targeted local hiring ”. LA County currently lacks transparency on how money is currently spent on homelessness, this would create oversight.		