

*This guide is for California – Tuesday, November 8th
2022 General Election*

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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 ballot guide. The information is sourced from the ballotguide, calmatters, ballotpedia, LA Times, voter's edge, and Mercury News. I have included links to the campaign website or wherever most of the information came from.

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

I started this to help my two aunts because they would ask me to simplify their ballots for them. Democracy relies on an informed and participatory citizenry, but it's not always easy. This is meant to alleviate some of the burden.

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

If you're looking for a different city, county, or state additional 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

United States Senator [full-term] United States Senator [short-term] Governor Lieutenant Governor Secretary of State Controller Treasurer Attorney General Insurance Commissioner Member State Board of Equalization [3 rd District] Super Intendent of Public Instruction	State Measure 1 State Measure 26 State Measure 27 State Measure 28 State Measure 29 State Measure 29 State Measure 30
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III. National Election

National candidates split their time between their district and Washington D.C. Their job is to represent their constituents in Washinton DC by securing federal funds for their area

United States Senator [short-term & full-term]

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

California is in a weird position because we'll vote for US Senator twice this year since Kamala Harris vacated her seat to become Vice President. When Harris became VP, Gavin Newsom appointed Alex Padilla. Typically, appointees can't serve in elected positions. So, we're going to see who will fill the seat for the remainder of Harris' term which ends January 3, 2023. The winner of the *Short-Term Senator Election* will serve the remainder of the term Harris' term.

If Padilla loses the short-term senator race but wins the full-term senator race, then he'll vacate the office until January 3rd when he'll return.

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 US Senator.

Short Term Senator (Unexpired term ending January 3)

If Mark P. Meuser wins, he'll replace Alex Padilla until January 3rd when the winner of the full-term seat will enter office. If either Padilla or Meuser win both the short term and full-term senator positions they'll be California's new senator for 6 years and a few months

Both Padilla & Meuser are running for the short-term and full-term seats. I am only including the information once.

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Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Alex Padilla	Democratic	Appointed US Senator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fight climate change • Protect the environment • Expand educational opportunity • Universal health care • Combat the diabetes and obesity epidemics • Increased gun safety • Ethical advancement of science & tech • Previously Secretary of State • BS Mechanical Engineering • Endorsed by several prominent politicians including Nancy Pelosi, Adam Schiff, and Katie Porter, Cory Booker and Elizabeth Warren
Mark P. Meuser	Republican	Constitutional Attorney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase domestic oil production • Combat rising California crime • Border security • Cut spending, encourage a balanced budget • Teach core topics like STEM, without “indoctrinating our children” • Overhaul infrastructure • Reduce President’s discretion when enforcing laws.

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II. State Offices

The people in these offices affect statewide policy.

Governor

Job description: Governors are responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Brian Dahle	Republican	Senator/Farmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspend gas tax• Appoint members of the Public Utilities Commission whose priority is affordable energy• Promote new housing• No early release for violent or repeat offenders• Fully fund law enforcements• Better support for mental ill homeless• Get new water storage• Prioritize desalination• Promote school choice• Opposes expanding abortion rights• Received at least \$565,000 from finance, insurance, and real estate (8% of his total contributions)• Rated 100% by CA Chamber of Commerce, 13% by CA Labor Federation
Gavin Newsom	Democratic	CA Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inflation relief rebates• Marriage equality• Gun control• Marijuana decriminalization• Pro-choice• Halted statewide executions• Placed limits on police use of force• Pushed largest economic stimulus• Expanded anti-poverty programs

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Lieutenant Governor

Job description: Lieutenant Governor serves as Acting Governor whenever the Governor is absent from the state, and automatically becomes Governor if a vacancy occurs in the Office of Governor. The Lieutenant Governor is also President of the Senate and votes in case of a tie.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Angela E. Underwood Jacobs	Republican	Businesswoman/Deputy Mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce taxes on CA's working families• Public safety first• Tough on criminals• Offer help to the homeless, but if they decline prevent them from ruining public spaces• Fix CA's water crisis• Efficient and transparent government
Eleni Kounalakis	Democratic	Lieutenant Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oppose tuition increases for UC and CSU students• Clean up CA polluted rivers• Protect women from sexual harassment• Pro-Choice• Extended renter protections

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Secretary of State

Job description: The Secretary of State is responsible for safeguarding California's history in the State Archives. The Archives staff collect, organize and preserve the state's permanent government records and other historical materials such as maps, architectural drawings, photographs, video and audio tapes, and artifacts.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Rob Bernowsky	Republican	Chief Financial Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair and transparent elections• Restore election confidence• Clean CA voter rolls• Modernize voter tech• Eliminate “Motor Voter”• Oppose taxpayer-funded campaigns
Shirley N. Weber	Democratic	Appointed Secretary of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endorsed by SF Chronicle, San Diego Union- Tribute, Sacramento Bee, SF Examiner, OC Register, LA times• Inclusive, trustworthy, and transparent elections• Expand voting franchise• Monitor and upgrade the Secretary of State’s cybersecurity policies• Revamp voter outreach programs

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Controller

Job description: Account for and control disbursement of all state funds. Determine legality and accuracy of every claim against the State. Issue warrants in payment of the State's bills including lottery prizes. Administer the Uniform State Payroll System.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Malia M. Cohen	Democratic	CA State Board of Equalization Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for equitable use of state money• Uplift women and working families• Fairness and equity• Expand housing availability• Protect retirement of Californians'• Job creation, job training, prioritizing communities of color and low-income communities• Expand access and lower costs for all Californians• Support LGBTQ+ community• Protect the planet
Lanhee J. Chen	Republican	Fiscal Advisor/Educator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring attention to problems with state spending• Audit state and local agencies and programs, beginning with Medi-Cal and Medicaid program• Audit the high-speed rail and CA's unemployment insurance program• Hold policymakers accountable for the promises they make• Fiscal transparency• Ensure public pension funds are transparent

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Treasurer

Job description: The treasurer acts as the chief investment officer, banker, and financier of the state government and is responsible for managing the state's pooled money investment account.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Fiona Ma	Democratic	State Treasurer/CPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led the sale of \$20 billion in state debt• Funding building projects, saved taxpayers \$1.8 billion• Supports increasing diversity on corporate boards• Constructing high-speed rail to Las Vegas• Divest from fossil fuels• Has been accused of sexual harassment and wrongful termination• Also accused of accepting improper gifts
Jack M. Guerrero	Republican	Councilmember/CPA/Economist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports Donald Trump• Opposes Abortion• Expose pension mismanagement• Lower taxes• Smaller government• Former Fortune 500 auditor• Failed run for treasurer (2018), state assembly (2012), and state senate during a special election (2019)

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Attorney General

Job description: The Attorney General's responsibilities include safeguarding Californians from harm and promoting community safety, preserving California's spectacular natural resources, enforcing civil rights laws, and helping victims of identity theft, mortgage-related fraud, illegal business practices, and other consumer crimes.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Rob Bonta	Democratic	Appointed Attorney General of the State of California	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop gun violence• Fight hate and protect civil rights• Stop transnational criminal organizations• Protect healthcare, pro-choice• More safety and fairness in justice system• Take on big polluters• Created gun violence prevention office• Yale & Oxford educated
Nathan Hochman	Republican	General Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stanford educated• Crime prevention• End the opioid epidemic• Tackle homelessness• Didn't vote for president in 2016 or 2020• White-collar defense attorney

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Insurance Commissioner

Job description: Licenses, regulates, and examines insurance companies. Answers public questions and complaints regarding the insurance industry. Enforces the laws of the California Insurance Code and adopts regulations to implement the laws.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Robert Howell	Republican	Cybersecurity Equipment Manufacturer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better and more affordable insurance rates• Personal freedom, hard work and loyalty to country• “Reagan Republican” [from campaign website]• Reduce “abusively inflated” insurance premiums.
Ricardo Lara	Democratic	Insurance Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Champion access to quality health care and consumer rights• Saved drivers more than \$1.75 billion in auto insurance premiums• Directed insurance companies to return unused premiums during Covid-19• Created climate & sustainability branch within Department of insurance

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Member State Board of Equalization 3rd District

Job description: The BOE is responsible for assessing property owned or used by railroads and privately- held public utilities, and for ensuring statewide uniformity in the assessment of properties by the 58 county assessors.

Name	Party Preference	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Y. Marie Manvel	Republican	Social Services Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce unfair excessive taxes • Repeal gas taxes • Help those who can't help themselves • Endorsed by Freedom Revival 2022, Patriots for Freedom • Fiscal conservative, social moderate
Tony Vazquez	Democratic	Board of Equalization, Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help taxpayers pay the minimum • Work with county assessors to comply with tax laws • Make housing projects affordable • Endorsed CA Labor Federation, CA Federation of Teachers, CA Democratic Party, SEIU

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Job description: State Superintendent of Public Instruction are responsible for enforcing education law and regulations; and for continuing to reform and improve public elementary school programs, secondary school programs, adult education, some preschool programs, and child care programs.

Name	Job (if known)	Notable Positions
Lance Ray Christensen	Education Policy Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend any curriculum frameworks currently in process • “Kids first” audit of CA Board of Education budget • Create Chief Parent Advocate to liaison on issues • Town hall for every school board trustee and district superintendent • Overhaul archaic and clunky education code
Tony K. Thurmond	Superintendent of Public Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed by the CA democratic party • Provide resources to help CA students heal • Expand after-school tutoring • Close the opportunity gap and address implicit bias in schools • Dismantle school-to-prison pipeline • Free universal pre-school • Universal meals for students

State Measures

If approved, these measures will become law.

State Measure 1

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends California Constitution to expressly include and individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which includes the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This amendment does not narrow or limit the existing rights to privacy and equal protection under the California Constitution.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact: No direct fiscal effect because reproductive rights already are protected by state law.</p>	<p>VOTE YES: if you want to protect the right to abortion and access to contraceptives</p>	<p>PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO VOTE YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gavin Newsom, Dianne Feinstein, Alex Padilla • Planned Parenthood, • American College of Obstetricians • Raised \$9.3 million <p>REASONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the right to choose in the face of nationwide attacks on abortion rights
	<p>VOTE NO: if you do not want to add reproductive rights to the CA constitution.</p>	<p>PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO VOTE NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Cambell • Republican Party of CA • CA Conference of Catholic Bishops • Knights of Columbus <p>REASONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is overly vague • Further endangers children
<p>MORE DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting no will not make abortion illegal, it will still be protected under state law. 		

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State Measure 26

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>ALLOWS IN-PERSON ROULETTE, DICE GAMES, SPORTS WAGERING ON TRIBAL LANDS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Also allows: sports wagering at certain horseracing tracks; private lawsuits to enforce certain gambling laws. Directs revenues to General Fund, possibly reaching tens of millions of dollars annually. Some of these revenues would support increased state regulatory and enforcement costs that could reach the low tens of millions of dollars annually.</p>	<p>VOTE YES: to legalize sports betting and dice games at Native American casinos.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pechanga, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians • Raised \$123.4 million <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Californians should be able to engage in sports betting safely
	<p>VOTE NO: to keep the prohibition on sports betting, roulette, and dice games.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers against monopolies • CA Commerce Club • Hawaiian Gardens • Republican Party of California • California Animal Welfare Association • Card betting organizations in direct competition with tribes <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will not benefit Native Americans • Allows for frivolous lawsuits • Exploits tax-free monopolies • Raised \$43.1 million

State Measure 27

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>ALLOWS ONLINE AND MOBILE SPORTS WAGERING OUTSIDE TRIBAL LANDS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Allows Indian tribes and affiliated businesses to operate online/mobile sports wagering outside tribal lands. Directs revenues to regulatory costs, homelessness programs, nonparticipating tribes.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact: Increased state revenues, possibly in the hundreds of millions of dollars but not likely to exceed \$500 million annually. Some revenues would support state regulatory costs, possibly reaching the mid-tens of millions of dollars annually.</p>	<p>VOTE YES: to allow people to bet on sports through tribes outside of tribal land.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FanDuel and DraftKings and other corporate gambling organizations 3 tribes <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund resources for homelessness Help tribes that don't have a lot of foot traffic in tribal casinos.
	<p>VOTE NO: keep things as they are. To place sports bets through the tribe, you need to be on tribal land.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 tribes <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impossible for smaller competitors to enter the market Won't magically solve homelessness \$10 million licensing fee would prevent most tribes from participating Does not help tribes sustain themselves

State Measure 28

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>PROVIDES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOOLS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Provides additional funding from state General Fund for arts and music education in all K-12 public schools (including charter schools). Fiscal impact: Increased state costs of about \$1 billion annually, beginning next year, for arts education in public schools</p>	<p>VOTE YES: to fund arts education in K-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses money from Prop 98 (money already guaranteed to K-12 and community colleges) • Lower income schools would get more money • 80% of the allocated money has to go to arts / music education • Requires annual report of how money will be spent 	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former superintendent of LA Unified School District • Former US Secretary of Education <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 5 CA schools have a dedicated art teacher • Allocates existing money, does not impose new taxes
	<p>VOTE NO: to keep things as they are. No funds will be set aside specifically for arts education.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No official opposition is listed <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since there's no new money source, this might cut into funding other programs
<p>MORE DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State law requires art classes for grades 1-6, grades 7-8 have to offer art during school or in after school programs, high school students must take a year of art or a foreign language to graduate. Funding for these programs is usually the first cut. This prop makes Art a core subject like English, Math, or Geography. • Research into arts education shows that “giving students the space to express themselves creatively leads to a sense of belonging, which in turn helps them in math and reading.” [source] 		

State Measure 29

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>REQUIRES ON-SITE LICENSED MEDIAL PROFESSIONAL AT KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINICS AND ESTABLISHES OTHER STATE REQUIREMENTS. INITIATIVE STATUTED. Requires physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on site during treatment. Requires clinics to: disclose physicians' ownership interests; report infection data.</p> <p>Fiscal impact: Increased state and local government costs likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually</p>	<p>VOTE YES: require dialysis centers to have medical personnel on-site, disclose conflicts of interest, and report infection data.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEIU, contributing \$7.97 million • Democratic Party of California • Peace and Freedom Party of California <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's a lot of money and a lot of care needed in dialysis treatment and some of the money should be devoted to care • Profit margin at these clinics is nearly 6x as high as the average profit margin in US hospitals
	<p>VOTE NO: to keep things as they are.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DaVita, Inc. and Fresenius Medical Contributed \$86.3 million • Republican Part of California • California Medical Association • California Chamber of Commerce <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEIU is using vulnerable patients to achieve political goals • Some clinics may be forced to close • It's a ploy to unionize dialysis centers
<p>MORE DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was on the ballot in 2020 (Prop 23) and 2018 (Prop 8) and failed both times. • Will raise government costs due to increased oversight. 		

State Measure 30

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>PROVIDES FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION AND PREVENT WILDFIRES BY INCREASING TAX ON PERSONAL INCOME OVER \$2 MILLION. Initiative Statute. Allocates tax revenues to zero-emission vehicle purchase incentives, vehicle charging stations, and wildfire prevention.</p> <p>Fiscal impact: Increased state tax revenue ranging from \$3.5 billion to \$5 billion annually, with the new funding used to support zero-emission vehicle programs and wildfire response and prevention activities.</p>	<p>VOTE YES: to impose new taxes on people making over \$2 million a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money will be used to increase support for electric cars and preventing wildfires • About 80% of the money collected would go to rebates for people & companies who buy zero-emission cars and to build new charging stations • A quarter of the funding would go to wildfire prevention 	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA Democratic party • IBEW Local 322 <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It may benefit corporations, but we still get better air and help with wildfires
	<p>VOTE NO: to keep things as they are. No new tax on high income people and no additional funding for electric cars and preventing wildfires.</p>	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA Republican party • Governor Newsom • California Teachers Association <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyft is using the state to electrify their fleet • It's a tax increase that benefits a few corporations • State has already allocated \$10 billion for electric vehicles and their infrastructure
<p>MORE DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA wants to cut emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and become carbon neutral by 2045. To do so, they have to make electric cars more prevalent. • By 2035, the state will ban all gas-powered car sales • By 2030, ride-share services like Lyft and Uber will have to log 90% of their miles in electric cars 		

State Measure 31

Official Language	Plain English	
<p>REFERENDUM ON 2020 LAW THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE RETAIL SALE OF CERTAIN FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS. A “Yes” vote approves, and a “No” vote rejects, a 2020 law prohibiting retail sale of certain flavored tobacco products.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact: Decreased state tobacco tax revenues ranging from tens of millions of dollars annually to around \$100 million annually</p>	VOTE YES: to ban some flavored tobacco products	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Newsom • CA Democratic Party • California Teachers Association • League of Women Voters <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect children from tobacco addiction • Tobacco companies know kids use their products and encourage them to do so by making flavored tobacco
	VOTE NO: to continue to allow the sale of flavored tobacco products	<p>PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO VOTE NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco companies • CA Republican Party • National Association of Tobacco Outlets <p>REASONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans the sale for everyone, not just kids • It’s a ban on flavor, not on tobacco – it’s already illegal to sell tobacco to people under 21 • There are better ways to prevent children from becoming nicotine addicts
<p>MORE DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020 the CA legislature and Governor approved a law banning the sale of fruit and candy flavored tobacco products. Tobacco companies created this referendum to give the final say to voters. 		