



The Sacramento Democratic
Socialists of America

General Election Voter Guide

Tuesday, November 5, 2024



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Introduction

The Sacramento DSA Electoral Committee is excited to publish this voter guide for the 2024 General Election. Our chapter has 2 endorsed ballot measure campaigns (Yes on Prop 5, Yes on Prop 33) and only one endorsed candidate, Dr. Flo Cofer for Mayor of Sacramento.

Campaign or candidate endorsements require approval by a vote from our chapter membership. Because we only have three endorsed races in this election, the rest of the campaigns and candidates listed in this guide are recommendations only, not formal chapter endorsements. These recommendations are made based on the analysis of volunteer members of the Electoral Committee, and were released with the approval of our chapter's Steering Committee after a thorough review.

Wait a minute, why is Sac DSA making a voter guide?

We often find that the resources made available to voters are lacking, difficult to articulate, or hard to reconcile with socialist values. While other DSA branches, including California DSA, are releasing voter guides, we believe that Sacramento voters should have access to an analysis that is both material and relevant to their local context.

We have done our best to provide accurate and valuable information on the upcoming races. Because we are a volunteer organization, we cannot provide a comprehensive voter guide for every single race in the Sacramento area. But we can use what capacity we have to provide information to voters more specific than what is in the state's voter guide. We can also use this information to allow our members to see how their socialist values can be applied to their votes.

But what are “socialist values?” How do they apply to local elections?

When it comes to elections, our socialist values are that 1) electing candidates and ballot measure campaigns have serious material repercussions; 2) those material repercussions are felt most by the working class in the Sacramento area; and 3) the

Sacramento working class must be organized to fight for the material repercussions that will serve them best.

Socialist values, in the broader sense, also mean that workers have a right to what they create and that they deserve, nay are obliged, a say in how their community operates. Socialist values mean we use every means at our disposal to fight for these material wins and work for a society that operates from the bottom up, not the top down. As such, we also believe that all people are equally deserving of a good life, no matter their race, physical abilities, gender identity, or sexual orientation. These values inform all aspects of our work, including our votes.

But not everyone you recommend is socialist! Isn't a vote for the lesser of two evils still a vote for evil?

An endorsement is not the same as a recommendation. We endorse socialist candidates and causes before anything else, provided that our endorsed candidate goes through our chapter's endorsement process. Our endorsement comes with specific expectations that our chapter will collaborate with the campaign and that we will have an ongoing relationship with our endorsed elected officials after they win office. A recommendation is advice we provide with a degree of socialist, material analysis. We might recommend voting for candidates who are not 100% in line with DSA's platform, but this does not mean we endorse all of their stances or will refrain from criticizing them (we won't even refrain from criticizing candidates that we *do* endorse).

We will never get socialism through voting alone, and, indeed, most of the candidates in this guide are not socialists. But it is the duty of socialists to use whatever means at their disposal to protect the working class and make material gains. All elections have material repercussions for the working class, especially on the local level. This is why the Sac DSA Electoral Committee has focused our recommendations on the local ballot measures, statewide propositions, state legislative races and a handful of school board races. These are areas where local elections have the greatest impact on workers and our community, and it is also where many on the far-right organize.

Regarding the rise of the far-right, it is also the duty of socialists to disrupt and destroy fascism. The tide of fascism and far-right candidates will not stop just with our votes, but our votes can disrupt and block their ascent to power. The more MAGA

Republicans we keep out of office, the safer our school boards, unions, and few remaining public services are.

Wait, Sac DSA cares about school board races? Why?

At the 2023 DSA national convention, delegates voted to prioritize races for school boards to combat the rising threats of transphobic candidates being elected and censorship in our schools. Our transgender comrades and the members of our Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy Committee endured the evil rhetoric of this movement firsthand, prompting us to introduce a city resolution that made Sacramento a legally-binding trans sanctuary city in 2024.

Also, many of the candidates we recommend voting against, be they for CA Assembly or school board, have ties to the white nationalist MAGA movement, which promotes hatred not just against trans children, but against Black people, Muslims, Latinos, feminists, and a pantheon of other groups. This is why we prioritized research on local school board candidates. The tide of far-right, white nationalist entryism into our education system must be stopped.

But why did you write about this race and not this other race that I care about?

This guide is not comprehensive due to our capacity as a volunteer-run organization. We unfortunately lack the resources to provide an analysis for every single race in every single neighborhood and every single district, although we acknowledge that all these races are important. However, we have strived to provide research, insight, and analysis into races that fall within our priorities and values as best we can.

A lot of these issues are about “bonds” for schools or other public goods. What is a bond? Aren’t they a capitalist thing?

Bond measures are indeed a capitalist form of funding for public services. Bonds are loans that are approved by voters and taxpayers that the government takes out to fund

public projects. The loans are paid back, with interest, by the government, either from the state's general fund or from specific revenue streams designated in the bond measure. These do not inevitably lead to a rise in taxes, but the bonds are auctioned off, usually to a private entity. In other words, private traders can get rich on the taxpayers as we vote to invest in our public infrastructure.

This system of public funding allows the rich to get richer and forces the community to beg for scraps from election to election and from project to project. As socialists, we'd much rather see a system where public goods are paid for by increased taxes on the rich. But no self-respecting socialist would or should argue against funding schools, parks and public infrastructure unless the funds would go to something antithetical to our values. All of these public services use bonds for funding. It is a tough call to make in any election, but it is one that we must keep in mind.

Okay, I'll give the guide a look, anything else?

We wrote this voter guide to inform our members, neighbors, and community. We not only want to build a socialist Sacramento, but we want a more transparent system of democracy that allows voters as much insight into their representatives as possible. We hope this voter guide expresses our love for Sacramento and all of its people. Power to the people!

Chapter Endorsements

Dr. Flojaune “Flo” Cofer for Mayor

Dr. Flo Cofer, Ph.D, has been an active community member and leader in Sacramento for over 20 years. Her background in epidemiology, the study of health effects of policy in populations, gives her the analytical framework to honestly grapple with why we are where we are and how we got here. Unlike her opponent, an establishment career politician, Dr. Flo can identify how to move forward in a meaningful way. She knows how to engage with disenfranchised communities, how to utilize that engagement along with data to determine policy, and how to approach all of it as a city leader.

She did not learn all of this just by being a doctor, though. Dr. Flo has also spent a significant amount of time in executive roles, which informed her ability to bring people along after setting clear priorities informed by our community. For far too long, city officials have used their feelings, not the feelings of their constituents, to decide what is important and what they think the solutions to Sacramento’s issues are. These so-called “solutions” include little input from the affected communities, which know exactly what they need. This lack of humility results in failed efforts and vital public dollars being wasted on plans doomed from the outset. When communities are brought into the process, they become invested because their input is valued, and they will work that much harder to ensure its success.

Dr. Flo is committed to working with communities to establish priorities. She excels at listening to their ideas for solutions, looking at the data for what the city can provide and what has been effective, bringing that information to communities to reach a direction on solutions, and then finally implementing those solutions.

In many places in the country, an official is elected and then left to their own devices. This isn’t that. We are her eyes, ears, and hearts. We, Sac DSA and her community of supporters, are here to help Dr. Flo fulfill what is best for the city in terms of equity and efficiency. In previous city administrations, community input was treated as hostile, unwanted, or a nuisance. This is not that.

Dr. Flo stated repeatedly that we are her partners. “Nothing about us without us!” This should be the goal of every elected official because that is how we see representation that reflects us. Officials disconnect from their public because it’s easier to not talk to

people or ask folks what their priorities are. It's messy, but the advantage is that it's real! It truly captures what the community's priorities are and ensures they will be addressed in a meaningful way.

The following are some of her current views on issues facing Sacramento:

Homelessness

The lowest hanging fruit for addressing homelessness is keeping precariously housed people in their homes. Statistics show that once someone loses their home, they are much harder to rehouse. Homelessness can start a cascade of hardship and trauma that results not only in circumstances that make it harder to regain housing, but also can result in emotional/physical abuse, mental illness and additional traumas. By ensuring that renters and tenants know their rights and potentially offering one-time assistance for many families, who may just be a car repair or medical emergency away from losing their housing, we can reduce homelessness at an exponential rate.

The next step would be ensuring that those most at-risk receive low- or no-barrier housing. Those most at risk include the elderly, families with children, the disabled, those with serious mental health issues, those at risk for abuse, LGBTQ folks and more. These are folks who need the highest level of services to ensure they can have a safe space and receive the necessary services to ensure their success and that they will move on to permanent, affordable, low-income, very low-income, or no-income housing.

This brings in Dr. Flo's insistence on transparency and accountability. The county is a partner in providing many of these crucial services, and it has a budget of nearly \$9 billion, six times that of the city. It is an integral partner in ensuring that those folks who get housing also get the supportive services required to enable them to attain success and move on to permanent housing. Without those services, any "solution" is an exercise in futility, and Dr. Flo knows this.

Some may be closer to getting back into housing. These are folks who have jobs, may be in school or may have been kicked out of their houses for myriad issues, including LGBTQ folks shunned by their families. These folks just need stability and a break from the trauma of being on the streets. They need time to save. They need to calm their nervous systems and be able to relax without the fears associated with being on the street. Some of these folks can benefit from something as relatively simple as a safe ground or safe rest village. These are spaces where they have an area to themselves.

They don't have to constantly fear that their belongings will be stolen. They have safety from predators. And they have a stable place where they can receive services.

Housing

Housing is an integral part of not just folks struggling with homelessness, but also folks precariously housed. What isn't always captured in homeless counts is people who are couch surfing, car camping, multiple families in one house, in abusive relationships where one partner feels compelled to stay out of fear of losing housing, and many other iterations where a person or family needs to have their own space but can't due to high housing prices. We need not just "affordable" housing, but low-income, very low-income, and no-income levels of housing too.

Dr. Flo plans to address this shortage of accessible housing through 1) developer fees to ensure we have the resources to assist in the purchase or development of affordable housing; 2) establishing community benefits agreements processes for new city-subsidized projects to prevent resident displacement and ensure new projects are minimally disruptive; 3) exploring a vacancy tax. Currently, many properties are sold and kept off the market by corporations as a way of investment. That may work out well for them, but the consideration isn't there for our communities and the impact that those vacant properties have on the vibrancy of our city or the impact removing housing has on the market.

Community safety

Dr. Flo wants to expand the definition of public safety and to fully fund it in all aspects. Her view is that public safety should not just be reactive, but preventative, and it should include the time before a community member feels compelled to call 911. Flo believes that public servants should work to ensure that an emergency call never needs to take place.

Public safety comes in a variety of forms, most importantly prevention of crime and prevention of victimization. As socialists, we do this by analyzing the root causes of crime. Poverty, housing instability, lack of education and lack of access to myriad basic human needs can all be predictors of crime. The upside of this is that we have a ton of data to help us address crimes before they occur. A bonus is that often these practices are cheaper than many traditional forms of public safety, AND a crime avoided means a victim(s) isn't traumatized. This should be the goal in all circumstances, to avoid creating more victims while also addressing the source of the trauma that makes a

person so desperate they feel committing a crime is necessary in the first place. Then we will have truly addressed public safety in a community-motivated way.

Dr. Flo covers additional policies on her website floformayor.com, her social media pages and at the plethora of mayoral forums being held across the city to ensure everyone has a chance to get a better understanding of her and her opponent's stances. These videos are also often posted by the folks holding the forums/debates and by her campaign on her Instagram page. Please explore, ask questions, attend a forum/debate or even volunteer with her campaign. We'd love to have you.

And most importantly: vote for Dr. Flo Cofer for mayor by November 5!

Yes on Prop 5 and Prop 33

If passed, these ballot measures would get rid of the very worst of the draconian state laws that prevent our cities from making any real, lasting progress on housing justice.

Vote YES on both! In offering up our opinion, we'll explain which laws would be affected, how we got stuck with them, and why it's so necessary to change them.

The "taxpayer revolt" and its consequences

In 1978, California voters approved Proposition 13. This law sharply reduced the amount of money that the state government can collect in property taxes, and generally requires any new state taxes to be approved by voters. *It put homeowners and landlords in a pretty good financial situation compared to the rest of society, and implicitly gave them a lot of power in deciding the fate of local bond measures that would fund housing projects, all at the expense of tenants and the poor.*

How did it do this? First of all, Prop 13 fixed property taxes at 1% of the "assessed value" of the property, multiplied by an "inflation factor" for each year of ownership. The inflation factor is determined yearly by the State Board of Equalization. County assessors use it to update the amount of property tax that each homeowner must pay to the state during tax season. [Here's the communiqué for 2024](#); along with this year's inflation factor, it contains a table with the values from all previous years. Values greater than 1 raise property taxes, while values less than 1 decrease them (as was the case in 2010-11).

Crucially, the inflation factor is never allowed to be more than +2% (written 1.02 for calculation purposes), meaning that barring a transfer of ownership or an owner-initiated reassessment, the property tax is never allowed to increase by more than 2% in a single year. Not only has this rate of increase typically been below the change in the consumer price index (CPI) since 1978, it has also typically been well below the rate of increase of home prices in California, and even further below the rate of rent increases that tenants face (more on that later).

For example, let's say someone bought a home in 2018 for \$570,000 (the median home price in June 2018, according to the [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#)). After six years of ownership, according to the inflation factor table the change to their property tax was $(1.02 \times 1.02 \times 1.01036 \times 1.02 \times 1.02 \times 1.02) = 1.116$ (representing an increase of **11.6%**); in other words, in six years the property tax for the “average” homeowner went from \$5,700 yearly (\$475 per month) to \$6,358.46 yearly (\$530 per month). Meanwhile, the median home price rose to \$789,000 in June 2024, a **38.4%** increase over that six-year period. If the “fair market value” were taxed instead, assuming this home followed the larger trend, the bill would be \$7,890 (\$658 per month).

In effect, California homeowners receive a tax subsidy that grows after every year of homeownership, as the gap between the fair market value and the assessed value of their home widens. Insulated from the market in this way, as time goes on the amount they pay in property taxes becomes less and less representative of current home prices and of the economy as a whole. As long as they stay put, homeowners are able to keep accumulating a more and more favorable kickback, and are disincentivized from selling. This makes it difficult for newer and younger homebuyers to find something they can afford. Adding insult to injury, these days [“California homeowner” is becoming more and more synonymous with corporate ownership and companies like Blackstone and Invitation Homes](#). Additionally, poor people are harmed by this subsidy through budget cuts and regressive taxation schemes, as [predicted by the contemporary legislative analysis](#).

Along with fixing property tax rates, Prop 13 defined the supermajority vote threshold for approving new “special” taxes as two-thirds (roughly 67%) of votes cast on the bond measures proposing them. Key examples of such taxes are new [“ad valorem” taxes](#) on property that are used to fund school districts or housing projects. (Ad valorem taxation of property is progressive, since a less valuable home will be taxed less than a more valuable one; “from each according to ability.”) In 2000, the passage

of Prop 39 lowered the vote threshold to 55%, but only for school bonds; it remained at two-thirds for housing projects.

For several years now, [two-thirds has been an incredibly difficult threshold to reach](#) for local housing bond measures. In perhaps the most egregious example, in 2018 San Jose's Measure V [failed due to the two-thirds supermajority rule despite receiving a 64% "yes" vote](#). It had proposed a tax rate of \$0.08 for every \$1,000 of assessed value to fund housing projects, which would have saddled a hypothetical owner of a \$1 million home in SJ with a measly \$80 per year in additional taxes. Considering that the opposition campaign pandered to homeowners (as is typical), that demographic decided the election with 36% of the votes.

By the way, landlords also have to pay property taxes on the buildings they own, but without strong limits on rent increases, they can often pass along the cost to tenants.

Robber barons ... they crush and kill ... homes and cities

In 1995, the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act prohibited cities from enacting rent control on single-family homes, condos and newly constructed apartment units. It also prohibits cities from implementing "vacancy control". Under vacancy control, when a tenant moves out, landlords would not be allowed to set the rent to whatever they want for the next tenant. *By exempting a large number of housing units from rent control and by prohibiting vacancy control on all housing, Costa-Hawkins gives landlords across the state carte blanche to price-gouge renters.*

Despite Costa-Hawkins, some (weak) rent control does exist in California. Between 1995 and 2020, it only existed where cities passed local ordinances to implement it. In 2020, the California Tenant Protection Act (CTPA, also known as AB 1482) implemented a statewide cap on rent increases of 5% + CPI (consumer price index, a measure of inflation), up to a maximum of 10%, for apartments built more than 15 years ago. For example, because the CPI governing 2024 rent increases in Sacramento is 3.8%, the rent cap for covered buildings is 8.8%. You can find the values for 2023 and 2024 [in this annual report](#) (historical values found [here](#)); the CTPA specifies that the value from the month of April is to be used in calculating the cap on rent increases.

Let's consider the same six-year period (2018-2024) from the perspective of a Sacramento tenant living in a building covered by CTPA, and let's assume that prior to 2020, the landlord raised rent by 10%. Using the annual report's CPI values for all consumers, we can calculate the maximum amount that the landlord was allowed to

raise rent by the end of the six-year period: $(1.10 \times 1.06 \times 1.09 \times 1.10 \times 1.092 \times 1.088) = 1.661$ or **66.1%**, nearly six times greater than the rate of increase of property taxes over the same period, and almost double the rate of increase of median home prices!

If you ever wondered how \$1,000 per month rent pre-pandemic could become \$1,600 today, this is how. Of course, for those tenants in housing not covered by CTPA, the increase would likely be much higher. So while homeowners and landlords are set up to accumulate a nice tax subsidy over time, tenants are exposed to the full force of the market (CPI) and then some (+5%) all of the time. Is this fair?

What's more, because Costa-Hawkins prohibits vacancy control, landlords of rent-controlled buildings are incentivized to evict long-term tenants in order to close the "rent gap". This is the difference between the rent a landlord is legally allowed to charge the current tenant and the rent that they could charge a new tenant with a post-vacancy rent hike. As a consequence, maintenance neglect, pressure to accept cash-for-keys "offers", and all forms of landlord harassment abound.

If one looks at the major players opposing the repeal and how much they're spending, a clear pattern emerges: California Apartment Association (CAA), \$34 million; California Association of Realtors, \$22 million; National Association of Realtors, \$5 million. These are organizations of landlords who know that their grossly inflated profit margins are being threatened, and are acting accordingly.

Some necessary steps toward housing justice

As long as the current limitations on rent control and vacancy control continue to exist, rent will keep outpacing wages. And as long as a two-thirds vote is required to obtain public funding for local housing projects, what ends up being built is all but guaranteed to be privately funded and for-profit. These conditions perpetuate gentrification and homelessness.

To be absolutely clear: passing Prop. 33 would not implement rent control for all housing in California; it would simply no longer *prohibit* cities from applying rent control to single-family homes, condos, and new construction. Cities would still have to pass their own laws for such purposes. Nor would passing Prop 5 create a public source of funding for housing projects; it would just make it not so incredibly difficult to do.

Let's send a message to landlords that tenants will no longer be exploited, and that we demand better. Let's send a message to homeowners that tenants are not the enemy.

If you're a homeowner, stand in solidarity with tenants. If you're a landlord, there's still time to be a class traitor. Don't you believe housing is a human right?

And if you're a tenant, don't just vote; [organize](#)! Talk to your neighbors, housed and unhoused. Join your local tenant union, or form one. These legal reforms are necessary but far from sufficient to win the world we know is possible. In the words of Friedrich Engels:

As long as the capitalist mode of production continues to exist, it is folly to hope for an isolated solution to the housing question. The solution lies in the abolition of the capitalist mode of production and the appropriation of all the means of life and labor by the working class itself.

Pending proletarian revolution: vote YES on 5 & 33!

Recommendations: California State Assembly

(* = incumbent)

AD 5: Roseville, Placer County, El Dorado Hills

Our recommendation: **Neva Parker**

Joe Patterson* (GOP)

Joe Patterson is currently vice-chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee and the Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee in the CA Assembly. Like many Republicans (and certain Democrats) he is campaigning on a “tough on crime” platform, according to his website based on the legislation he sponsored from his seat in the Assembly (for example, [AB 890](#)). He is endorsed by some of our worst enemies or the working class, including the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. The progressive advocacy organization Courage California gave him a [failing grade](#) on their annual legislative scorecard.

Endorsed by: CA Association of Highway Patrolmen; CA Firefighters Local 2881; CA GOP; CA Professional Firefighters; CA Rifle and Pistol Association; Crime Victims United; Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association; Placer County Taxpayers Association; Republican Party of El Dorado County; Republican Party of Placer County; Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce; Roseville Firefighters Local 1592; Sacramento Bee

Neva Parker (D)

Neva Parker is a former journal clerk for the state Senate. She is currently a business owner, listing many ventures into business on her website, none of which are necessarily relevant at this point. Currently, she is co-owner of Max Muscle Nutrition Supplement Stores in Reno and Folsom, and Maximum Nutrition Worldwide. It is unclear where Parker stands on single-payer health care; there is no mention of it on her website or in news reports.

Endorsed by: Auburn Area Democratic Club; California Democratic Legislative Women's Caucus; California Democratic Party; California Labor Federation; California Teachers Association; California Women's List; Candidates for Common Good; Democratic Women of El Dorado County; Dolores Huerta Action Fund; El Dorado County Democratic Party; Equality California; Lincoln Democratic Club; Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate Distinction; National Women's Political Caucus, California; National Women's Political Caucus, Sacramento; Placer Action Network; Placer County Democratic Party; Placer Women Democrats; Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte; Roseville Junction Democratic Club; Sierra Forward; The Six PAC California; Rachel Radell-Harris - Mayor, City of Auburn; Scott Alvord - City Council Member, City of Roseville; Sarah Brichler - Trustee, Auburn Union School District; Jamie Ross - Trustee, Auburn Union School District; Rachel Radell-Harris - Mayor, City of Auburn

Patterson is campaigning on a “tough on crime” platform based on the legislation he introduced as an Assembly member. These policies inevitably have disproportionate effects on the carceral state and give the police further leeway to harass innocent black civilians, lock up working-class people, and do little to lower crime rates. Investment into social services does more to lower crime than arbitrarily increasing punishments or giving police more funds. Parker is pro-choice, endorsed by a handful of progressive organizations (more so than her opponent at least), and is at the bare minimum an experienced civil servant to some degree.

AD 6: Sacramento

Our recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Maggy Krell (D)

Krell is an outgoing deputy attorney general, meaning she has close ties to law enforcement. A moderate Democrat, at best, she is campaigning on a tough-on-crime platform as many in both parties are doing in this election. She is also a former member of her neighborhood association's board and recipient of the Sherwood Prize from the Anti-Defamation League (a notorious pro-Israel / anti-Palestine organization). Many of her stances are antithetical to Sac DSA's. At the same time, she is very

adamantly and very vocally pro-choice and is endorsed by many labor unions, including the California Federation of Teachers, California Nurses Association, and the National Union of Healthcare Workers, to name a few. It is unclear where Krell stands on single-payer health care; there is no mention of it on her website or in news reports.

Endorsed by: AFSCME 3299; Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas; Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco; Assemblymember Blanca Rubio; Assemblymember Kevin McCarty; Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan; Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen; CalFire Local 2881; California Applicant Attorneys; California Association of Highway Patrolmen; California Association of Realtors; California Attorneys, Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment; California Correctional Peace Officers Association; California Democratic Party; California Environmental Voters; California Faculty Association; California Federation of Teachers; California Health Advocates; California Medical Association; California Nurses' Association; California Partnership for Health; California Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners; California Statewide Law Enforcement Association; California Teachers' Association; Consumer Attorneys of California; District Attorney Thien Ho; Equality California; Firefighters Local 522; Fund Her; Laborers Local 185; Legislative Jewish Caucus; Legislative Women's Caucus Dems; LiUNA! (Laborers International Union); National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB); National Union of Healthcare Workers; Peace Officers Research Association of California; Planned Parenthood Mar Monte; Professional Engineers in California Government; Ret. State Treasurer Phil Angelides; Sacramento County Criminal Justice Employee's Union; Sacramento Democratic Alliance; Sacramento Deputy Sheriffs Association; Sacramento Metro-PAC; Sacramento Police Officers Association; Sacramento Probation Officers Association; Sacramento Sierra Building and Construction Trades Council; Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club; Sacramento Young Democrats; Sheet Metal Workers Local 104; Sheriff Jim Cooper; Sierra Club; State Coalition of Probation Organizations

Nikki Ellis (GOP)

Little to no information is available on Ellis, who is incredibly young, inexperienced and has little to no information on her actual policies, endorsements, or experience on her campaign webpage. But we do know that based on her website, she is campaigning on rhetoric centered on inflation and demonizing unhoused people. These are two of the most common right-wing dog whistles that come from Trump and his supporters in the 2024 election. She was once named a "Rising Star" by the California Chamber of Commerce, an entity that supports capitalist endeavors.

Maggie Krell winning this spot on the ballot in the 2024 primary was a disappointing outcome for Sacramento and Sac DSA. We would have greatly preferred if one of her progressive opponents in the primary had made it to the general election. Alas, none did. With so much support in a district that is already a Democratic Party stronghold, our recommendation holds little sway in this race and Krell will most likely win. Because Krell's capitalist and Zionist support is so vocal, no Sac DSA member or socialist in Sacramento can be blamed for wanting to leave that spot on their ballot blank.

Although Maggie Krell is antithetical to DSA's values, particularly when it comes to her past as a deputy attorney general, her support from law enforcement and her support from anti-Palestinian organizations, her opponent demonstrates no knowledge of policy, no experience in leadership, and is running on unsubtle capitalist and anti-working class rhetoric. We understand the urge of some leftists who would vote for Krell to ensure the defeat of a GOP candidate, or because she is pro-choice.

Therefore, the Sac DSA Electoral Committee cannot offer a recommendation for this race.

If you find Krell abhorrent, leave this spot on your ballot blank. If you must vote for a candidate in this race, then, unfortunately, Krell is the slightly better option.

AD 7: Folsom, Rancho Cordova

Our recommendation: **Porsche Middleton**

Josh Hoover* (GOP)

Josh Hoover is the incumbent candidate for AD 7. He won in 2022, ousting longtime moderate Democrat Ken Cooley following the 2020-2021 redistricting. Hoover associates with well-known Trump supporters, and has been endorsed by police unions, the Republican Party, and reactionary county supervisor Sue Frost. Currently, he is vice-chair of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee in the state Assembly and a sitting member of a handful of other committees. Like too many others, he is campaigning on the "tough on crime" platform that inevitably lends itself to

increasing incarceration rates in our state. The progressive advocacy organization Courage California gave him a [failing grade](#) on their annual legislative scorecard.

Endorsed by: Congressman Kevin Kiley; State Senator Roger Niello; County Rep. Sue Frost; Former Sac. County Sheriff John McGuiness; Tim Schaefer, Citrus Heights Council member; Jayna Costa, mayor of Citrus Heights; Mari Jane Lopez-Taff, Citrus Heights Council member; Sarah Aquino, Folsom Council member; Mike Kozlowski, Folsom Council member; Anna Rohrbough, Folsom Council member; CA Police Chiefs Association; Sac. County Deputy Sheriffs Association; CA Correctional and Peace Officers Association; Peace Officers Research Association of CA; CA Association of Highway Patrolmen; Capital Lincoln Club; CA GOP; Republican Party of Sacramento County; Young Republicans of Greater Sacramento; CA Professional Firefighters; Nor Cal Carpenters Union; CA Rifle and Pistol Association; Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 104; Folsom Chamber of Commerce Jobs PAC

Porsche Middleton (D)

Porsche Middleton is a sitting member of the Housing Partnership Board and is campaigning on a platform that ranges from moderate to moderately progressive. Her main platform stands as a pledge to support abortion access, women's rights, housing affordability (a vague and loaded term as opposed to housing for all!), tax cuts/wage increases, and gun control, all according to her website. Middleton has signed the California Nurses Association's [CalCare Pledge](#) for single-payer health care.

Endorsed by: AFSCME California PEOPLE; AFSCME Council 57; AFSCME Local 3939; American Federation of Government Employees; CA Association of Professional Scientists; California Faculty Association; California Federation of Teachers; California Nurses Association; California School Employees Association; California State Council of Service Employees; California State University Employees Union PAC; California Teachers Association; Cement Masons (OPCMA) Local 400; DRIVE (Teamsters); Faculty Association of California Community Colleges; Iron Workers Local 119; Los Rios College Federation of Teachers, AFT; Monterey / Santa Cruz Building Trades; Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) Local 447; Professional Engineers in California Government; Sacramento-Sierra Building & Construction Trades Council; SEIU CA; SEIU Local 2015; Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD); UFCW CA; American River Democrats; Black Women Organized for Political Action; CA Democratic Party; CA Women's List; California Democratic Legislative Women's Caucus; California High School Democrats; California Legislative Black Caucus; Davis College Democrats; Democratic Party of Sacramento; Equality California; Feminist

Democrats of Sacramento (FemDems); Folsom Area Democratic Club; Harry S Truman Democratic Club; JFK Democratic Club; Latino Democratic Club; National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) CA; Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte; Reproductive Freedom for All California; Sacramento County Young Democrats; Sierra Club California; Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento; Town & Country Democratic Club; Vote Mama; We Vote - Nosotros Votamos PPAMM Committee; Wellstone Progressive Democrats of Sacramento; Women Democrats of Sacramento County; Women in Power (WIP PAC); California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis; California Attorney General Rob Bonta; California State Treasurer Fiona Ma; Former State Controller Betty Yee; Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper; State Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire; State Senator Angelique Ashby; State Senator Steven Bradford; State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas; State Assemblymember & Democratic Caucus Rick Chavez Zbur; State Assemblymember & Black Caucus Chair Lori Wilson; State Assemblymember Matt Haney; State Assemblymember Chris Holden; State Assemblymember Corey Jackson; State Assemblymember Dawn Addis; State Assemblymember Mia Bonta; State Assemblymember Tina McKinnor; California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond; Former State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett; Former Assemblymember Ken Cooley; Former State Assemblymember Adam Gray; Folsom City Councilmember YK Chalamcherla

Although Porsche Middleton is not a socialist, her opponent is a vocal advocate and supporter of the far-right and has used his position in the Assembly to elevate other members of Donald Trump's fascist front, particularly in the police. Hoover routinely stands in opposition to bills that would expand social services needed to address CA's housing and healthcare crises in favor of those increasing the already overflowing pockets of the police. Because his primary endorsements are that of law enforcement, right-wing organizations and notorious Trump supporters, while Middleton does align with us on a few key issues like abortion and body autonomy, Sacramento DSA recommends that members of AD-7 use their vote to oust Hoover, an unapologetic agent of fascism.

AD 10: Elk Grove

Our recommendation: **Stephanie Nguyen**

Stephanie Nguyen* (D)

Stephanie Nguyen, the incumbent in this race, is the former executive director of Asian Resources Inc. She made history when she became the first Asian American woman elected to Elk Grove's City Council. Currently, she is assistant speaker pro tempore of the Assembly, serves on the Council of State Governments West Executive Committee, and the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

One of her biggest claims to fame, per her campaign website, was that she was the lead sponsor of AB 1646, which ensured comprehensive training on abortion procedures for OB-GYN medical students in California. It is unclear where Nguyen stands on single-payer health care; there is no mention of it on her website or in news reports. In the 2023-2024 legislative session, she was not a coauthor of the single-payer CalCare bill (AB 2200).

Endorsed by: Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor; Mike Honda, former Congressman; Dr. Ami Bera, Congress member; Dr. Richard Pan, state Senator; Deborah Ortiz, former state Senator; Ash Kalra, state Assembly member; Autumn Burke, former state Assembly member; Evan Low, state Assembly member; Sacramento Sheriff Jim Cooper; Kevin McCarty, state Assembly member; Phil Ting, state Assembly member; Fiona Ma, state treasurer; John Chiang, former state treasurer; Jimmie Yee, former Sacramento County supervisor; Bobbie Singh-Allen, Elk Grove mayor; Sophia Scherman, former Elk Grove city mayor and City Council member; Steve Detrick, former Elk Grove city mayor and City Council member; Darren Suen, Elk Grove city vice-mayor; Lucus Frerich, Davis city vice-mayor; Gabe Quinto, El Cerrito City Council member; Garette Gatewood, Rancho Cordova City Council member; Jay Schenirer, former Sacramento City Council member; Rick Jennings, Sacramento City Council member; Nancy Bui-Thompson, SMUD Board member; Juan Fernandez, Elk Grove City Planning Commission member; Sandra Poole, vice-chair, Elk Grove Planning Commission; George Murphy, Elk Grove Planning Commission member; Sergio Robles, Elk Grove City Planning Commission member; Suman Singha, Elk Grove City Planning Commission member; Gil Albiani, Cosumnes Community Services District vice-president; Jim Lutrell, Cosumnes Community Services District director; Kay Albiani, former Los Rios Community College District trustee; Crystal Martinez, Elk Grove Unified School District president; Carmine Forcina,

Elk Grove Unified School District trustee; Darrel Woo, Esq., Sacramento City Unified School District trustee; Leticia Garcia, Sacramento City Unified School District trustee

Vinaya Singh (GOP)

Vinaya Singh is an Indian immigrant who came to this country decades ago to become an accomplished scientist. He became a naturalized citizen in 2016. He is campaigning on a seemingly populist platform, according to his website. "California is being ruined by the influence of wealthy special interests. If voters want accountability, affordability, and safety, they must elect new leadership." But he is using populist rhetoric as a right-wing dog whistle, a common trope among the MAGA movement. Singh wholeheartedly embraces MAGA with his rather lazy campaign slogan, "Make California Great Again!" He lists no public service experience on his website, nor any community ties, and is endorsed by the Republican Party.

Stephanie Nguyen is in no way a DSA candidate, she even has the endorsement of DSA opponents like Sheriff Jim Cooper and Kevin McCarty who is running against our endorsed candidate for mayor, Dr. Flo Cofer. But Vinaya Singh has zero experience or understanding of politics and embraces the fascist MAGA movement. The worst thing about Assemblymember Nguyen is that she is a moderate Democrat supported by other moderate Democrats. The worst thing about her opponent is he embraces American fascism and knows nothing about how to work in government.

Recommendations: Elk Grove Unified School District

(* = incumbent)

Area 1

Our recommendation: **Susan Davis**

Tony Perez*

Tony Perez was first elected to the board in 2012. He served on and off over the following decade with little turmoil. However, a story broke in the Elk Grove News in 2021 after he publicly feuded with his fellow board members during one of their public meetings. The heated feud revolved mostly around the board's processes and how it handles negotiating with "collective bargaining units" a term that often applies to unions. Also in 2021, Perez was found in violation by the Fair Political Practices Commission for not filing pre-election campaign statements disclosing campaign expenses.

Susan Davis

Susan Davis is a retired school secretary who worked for EGUSD for 24 years. She is also a labor leader with years of experience organizing Elk Grove education workers. According to her website, "For over 15 years, Susan served as the president of a classified labor group, representing the often overlooked yet essential members of the school district. Now, as President Emeritus, she continues to lend her expertise in organizing and advocating for classified staff." She is campaigning on the following programs: special education, equity and inclusivity for all, safe schools for our children to attend, advocating for the unseen and unassisted, parent and community involvement, and innovative learning opportunities for all – technology, college/trade schools, and real-world learning experiences.

Although her policy platform is somewhat abstract, Susan Davis is the only candidate in this race whom the Sac DSA Electoral Committee found with any kind of union support behind her campaign. Further, she is an accomplished union leader in the Elk Grove community. The fact that Perez has served so long and could not muster his district's teachers' endorsement is concerning. As a pro-labor, pro-worker organization it is best we stand with our neighbors in the Elk Grove Education Association and vote for their endorsed candidate.

Area 6

Our recommendation: **Jennifer Ballerini**

Jacqueline Ortiz

A former finance worker and has no experience in education or politics, Ortiz is campaigning with the right-wing dog whistle about “representing the voices of parents” and “parental Involvement” on the top tier of her platform, according to her website. Language about “representing parents” and “increasing parent involvement” is co-opted by the far-right and used to advocate for resolutions passed by school boards that ban books, force trans and LGBTQA kids to be outed by their teachers and worse. Ortiz is also campaigning on the following platform, which carries tones of far-right sympathies: school site safety (In the form of more school resource officers) and fiscal sustainability.

Endorsed by: Gary Davis, Elk Grove mayor emeritus; Jonathan Zacherson, Roseville City School Board member; Sac County Sheriffs Association; Elk Grove Police Officers Association

Jennifer Ballerini

Ballerini worked for EGUSD for over 30 years as both a yard duty and a paraeducator. For the last 10 years, she worked as a labor organizer and was president of AFSCME Local 258. According to her website, her union represents “approximately 1,200 Classified Staff in 150 different job classifications. My responsibilities included negotiating union contracts, representing employee issues, participating in district committees like PIE (Partners in Education), and co-chairing the Joint Health Care Coalition (JHCC).” Ballerini is campaigning on a platform revolving around increased

library funding, facility accessibility, implementing measures to prevent classroom overcrowding, and new college-to-career enrollment programs.

Endorsed by: Elk Grove Education Association; Sacramento County Democratic Party; Sacramento Central Labor Council; Sacramento Sierra's Building and Construction Trades Council; Latino Democratic Club; Sheet Metal Air, Rail, and Transportation Union; Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 447; Elk Grove South County Democratic Club; Gina Jamerson (EKSD trustee Area 4); Michael Vargas (EGSD trustee Area 2); Nancy Chaires-Espinoza (her outgoing incumbent); Carmine Forcina (EGSD trustee Area 7); Bobby Singh-Allen (mayor of Elk Grove)

Ballerini is an experienced union organizer campaigning on a platform that is far more progressive than her opponent's. While many on the far-right are working to ban books, Ballerini is campaigning to increase library funding. Also, her platform for increased facility accessibility would benefit more students with physical and learning disabilities. Her opponent has no experience in education or public service and is fiscally conservative and therefore would most likely cut funding for things like before/after school programs. Because Ortiz is endorsed by law enforcement and MAGA Republicans, she cannot be trusted. Lastly, Ortiz's primary platform piece is the right-wing anti-trans dog whistle, "parental involvement." Jacqueline Ortiz should be kept away from the Elk Grove School Board at all costs.

Area 7

Our recommendation: **Rehana Rehman**

Carmine Forcina

Carmine Forcina is the incumbent school board trustee, first elected in 2012. He has no available webpage and only a Facebook campaign page that is sparsely posted on. Before moving to Sacramento and his election to the board, he was a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent of student services for Santa Clara County.

Endorsed by: Sacramento Sierra Building Trades Council; AFL-CIO Labor Council

Heidi Moore

Moore is running explicitly on a platform that she will be a “voice” for parents” more than anything else. Per her website, “I want to be a voice for parents. Parents deserve to have a voice about important topics that concern them regarding their children's education, curriculum, schools, tax dollars, and more.”

Language like this is usually a dog whistle for those who seek election to school boards to censor books and promote transphobia. What the right calls “parental involvement” usually translates to, “I will not allow my child to read books I don’t like and the school must out them to me if they are gay or trans!” While the language of centering parents on the surface is harmless, it might be hiding dangerous intentions. While she does not say that she is explicitly anti-trans or supports book banning, right-wing candidates who support such awful policies are not usually explicit about it in their rhetoric.

Endorsed by: Sac Sheriff’s Association; Elk Grove’s Police Officers Association; David Sander Ph.D., Rancho Cordova Mayor; Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association; Lance Christensen, Candidate for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Parent Coalition for More Area Schools; Elk Grove Police Officers Association; Garrett Gatewood, Rancho Cordova City Councilman; Jennifer Laret, Folsom Cordova School Board Trustee; David Reid, Folsom Cordova School Board Trustee & former Board Chair of the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce; Eva Zhou, Leader in the Elk Grove Chinese Community; California Parents Union; Tanya Kravchuk, San Juan Unified School Board trustee; Craig Deluz, Robla School District Board president; Jessica Spaid, Placer Union High School Board trustee; Peggy Fava, Pleasant Ridge Union School Board trustee; Heidi Hall, Roseville Joint Union High School District trustee; Manuel Perez, San Juan Unified School Board trustee; Tiffany Coleman, Roseville Joint Union High School District trustee; Danny Langan, Cordova Recreation & Park District Board member; Tom Silva, candidate for U.S. Congress, California District 7, and former School Board trustee; Jessica Matney, McGarvey Elementary School Site Council parent representative; Lindsay Miller, McGarvey Elementary School Site Council parent representative; Rachelle Ussery, Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Committee representative for Sunrise Elementary School; Daixin Yin, mother to three children, 20-year Elk Grove resident and first generation immigrant

Rehana Rehman

Rehman is a first-time candidate for political office with a background in marketing and social media coaching for the tech industry, campaigning on a platform of community

connections to Elk Grove and social equity in education. She also has experience working in education that dates back years before her decision to run, according to family sources kind enough to speak to the Sac DSA Electoral Committee.

Per her website, “I am passionate about making a meaningful difference for ALL students in our district, ensuring they have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. I believe in transparency, open communication, and the power of community and collaboration. Let's connect and create a positive impact together with empathy, empowerment, and a focus on equity.”

Endorsed by: PP Advocates of Mar Monte; Elk Grove Education Association; Sacramento County Democratic Party; Latinx Young Democrats of Sacramento

Rehana Rehman is the only candidate in the race for this seat to have the support of the Elk Grove Education Association. The fact that the incumbent, Carmine Forcinna, has served on the board for several years and could not muster that endorsement should be considered a red flag. Further, Heidi Moore is antithetical to DSA’s policies as indicated by her support from law enforcement and the fact she is running on the “parent involvement” right-wing talking point that is so often used to attack trans kids and ban books. Forcinna had his chance and he blew it, and Heidi Moore should never get a chance. Further, some members of the Electoral Committee know Rehman personally and vouched for her during our research. This committee strongly recommends Rehana Rehman for the EGUSD school board.

Recommendations: Folsom-Cordova Unified School District

(* = incumbent)

Area 2

Our recommendation: **YK Chalamcherla**

YK Chalamcherla

Chalamcherla is a prominent member of the local Democratic Party and is an outgoing Folsom City Council member. He ran for state Assembly District 7 in the 2024 primary but lost to Porsche Middleton. Information on Chalamcherla is limited, but we did find posts on his Facebook campaign page in celebration of Labor Day, and he is often supported by other popular local Democrats. While his record is relatively scandal-free, but in 2023 [Chalamcherla returned personal contributions](#) to his campaign made by individuals associated with a developer company [after a controversy regarding affordable housing development projects in Elk Grove](#) arose.

Endorsed by: Sacramento County Democratic Party

Dianna Laney

Laney is campaigning solely on her reputation as a “Certified Financial Planner Professional.” She is also campaigning with a platform that uses language common in the act of right-wing dog whistling about “transparency,” which is used to hide intentions to censor books and attack LGBTQ students. “I promise to work hard on the issues facing our schools, ensure transparent communication, and make decisions that are in the best interests of our students, teachers, and families.” The words “transparent communication” were in bold on her campaign webpage. It is a sad truth, but one must be very cautious when any school board candidate obsesses over the word “transparency,” especially because school board meetings are already very public. The right-wing idea of “transparency” in schools usually translates to forcing

teachers to out trans kids. She is also proudly endorsed by several notorious local MAGA Republicans.

Endorsed by: Assembly Member Josh Hoover; Senator Roger Niello; Rancho Cordova City Council Member Garret Gatewood; Folsom Mayor Mike Kozlowski; Folsom Vice Mayor Sarah Aquino; Folsom Councilmember Anna Rohrbough; Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association

While the information available about YK Chalamacherla's policies and endorsements is minimal, the rhetoric and endorsements of his opponent indicate he most likely is the progressive option in this race. When endorsed by known Trump supporters like Josh Hoover or Roger Niello, said candidate cannot be considered trustworthy.

Area 4

Our recommendation: **Chris Clark**

Madeleine Sanderson

According to her website, Sanderson is campaigning on a platform revolving around improving facilities, school safety, supporting students and staff, "closing the gap" to increase school ratings, and the right-wing dog whistle of parental involvement and parental rights.

Regarding her platform of "school safety," Sanderson is advocating for more law enforcement on school campuses. "I fully support and will advocate for our School Resource Officers. I want to ensure that we continue to have them on our campuses. Yes, SRO's are there to help support our admin but also to build positive relationships with our students so that they are not only seeing students when there is a situation. I would like to take a look at our safety plans to see what we can do to better address ongoing issues of bullying, drugs, and violence against staff. I will also advocate for continued training for our campus monitors and our yard duty staff." Sanderson is endorsed by multiple known local MAGA Republicans and police unions.

Endorsed by: Jen Laret, Folsom Cordova Unified School District trustee; Garrett Gatewood, city councilman of Rancho Cordova; Sheri Jinkerson, preschool teacher,

FCUSD; Roberta Nelson, preschool teacher, FCUSD; Parent Coalition for More Area Schools; Joanna Slaughter, kindergarten teacher, FCUSD; Annette Nunn, Birth & Beyond Community Advisory Board co-chair & FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; California Parents Union; Lindsay Emery, Former FCUSD parent; Krista Mayfield, director of operations, Cordova High Football; Manuel Perez, San Juan Unified School District trustee; Danny Langan, youth pastor, Coach & Cordova Recreation Park Board member; Andrea Thomas, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Tia Castrillo, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent & Rancho Cordova Elementary School Site Council representative; Verena Vea, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Ashley Davis, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Jay Martinez, Small Businessman/CEO; Barbara Sanders, South Sutter Charter School teacher; Tanya Kravchuk, San Juan Unified School District trustee; Lance Christensen, candidate for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Angela Galbraith, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent & family support navigator; Barbie & Terry Templeman, FCUSD Folsom parents; Kristine Palyan, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent & home visitor; Sergeant Nathan Seger, S.C.D.S.A. president; Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association; Marina Gabel, FCUSD school bus driver, Sac GOP Central Committee alternate & parent advocate, Sacramento School Districts United; Dana Tidwell, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Tanica Rangel, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent & intervention specialist; David M. Sander, Ph.D., Mayor of Rancho Cordova; Jennifer Ables, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Holli Perry, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Donna Evans, Rancho Cordova community member and former FCUSD teacher; Ashley Gilbert, EGUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Folsom Police Officers' Association; Ryan Strange, child & education advocate, president, Log Cabin Sacramento; 2024 State Assembly District 6 candidate; Sarah Aquino, vice mayor, city of Folsom; Julie Hampton, Rancho Cordova community member; Amanda Bills, FCUSD Rancho Cordova parent; Roger Niello, California state senator; Mark Matus, Cordova Recreation and Parks District Board of Directors District 2; Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522; Trevor Jamison, president, Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522

Chris Clark*

Chris Clark was the first African American elected to the Folsom Cordova Unified District Board. Since his first election, he served as its president, vice president, and as the clerk of the board. Clark lists no hard policies on his campaign webpage, but he has the endorsement of several prominent local politicians who range in their politics from center-left to center-right.

Endorsed by: Tony Thurmond, CA superintendent of public instruction; Ken Cooley, former CA state Assembly member; Stephanie Nguyen, CA state Assembly member; Rich Desmond, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; Pat Hume, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; Don Nottoli, former member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; Thien Ho, Sacramento County DA; Bobbie Singh-Allen, mayor of Elk Grove; Donald Terry, Rancho Cordova City Council member; Lisa Kaplan, Sacramento City Council member; Rick Jennings, Sacramento City Council member; Darrin Suen, Elk Grove City Council member; Kevin Spease, Elk Grove City Council member; Dawnte Early West, West Sacramento City Council member; Greg Fishman, SMUD Board of Directors; Dr. Sue Heredia, President of Natomas Unified School District Board; Kara Lofthouse, Folsom Cordova Unified School District; Al Brown, Sacramento County Board of Education; Michael Baker, Twin Rivers Unified School District; Chris Jefferson, Twin Rivers Unified School District; Chinua Rhodes, Sacramento City Unified School District; Chritina Pritchett, Sacramento City Unified School District; Zima Creason, San Juan Unified School District; Pam Costa, San Juan Unified School District; Paula Villescaz, San Juan Unified School District; Sheet Metal Workers Union 104

Chris Clark's opponent supports increasing the presence of law enforcement on school campuses. This makes her too much of a liability to allow her to win this election. SROs have been notorious for targeting non-white students at disproportionately higher rates, increasing the growth of the far-right police state, and they do nothing to prevent the epidemic of school shootings. While he is in no shape or form a leftist, Chris Clark is at least an experienced and competent public servant compared to his opponent.

Recommendations: Natomas Unified School District

(* = incumbent)

Area 3

Our recommendation: **Jonathan Cook**

Jonathan Cook

Cook is currently executive director of the Sacramento Housing Alliance, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that advocates for affordable housing in Sacramento. Little information about his campaign and platform was found, but we do know he has a handful of respectable endorsements.

Endorsed by: Sacramento County Democratic Party; CA Young Democrats; Equality CA; Natomas Teachers' Association; Sacramento County Young Democrats

Sally Trevino Goeba

No website, resources, or list of endorsements was found.

Micah Grant*

Micah Grant is the incumbent trustee for this part of the district. He is campaigning on the following issues: investing in ongoing literacy programs; school safety, which includes both maintaining the presence of school resource officers AND hiring more social workers; teacher support; investing in trade programs alternative to college such as barber school and cosmetology; increasing accessibility for students; transparency; and parental rights and choice.

Grant's platform and his list of endorsements show him to be an advocate for charter schools on this board. While some defend them, charters are often used as an anti-union form of education because many of their teachers are not subject to union rules that traditional public schools are. Further, charters are an institution that is

enabling the privatization of public schools by creating a competition of resources, and the lack of regulation surrounding them allows charters to make all kinds of sordid business deals that benefit private pockets but not necessarily public students.

Endorsed by: Jag Bains, former trustee Natomas Unified School District; Ting Sun, co-founder, Natomas Charter School; Alan Rowe, United College Action Network; Jeremy Greene, school psychologist; Bob Huff, Former state senator; Josh Hoover, state Assembly member (MAGA Republican); Julie Henning Constant, Roseville City School District; Larry Meeks, former trustee, Natomas Unified School District; Charlie Leo, co-founder, Natomas Charter School; Micah Ali, founder of CA Association of Black School Educators, trustee of Compton Unified School District; Sabrina Jackson, principal, Highlands Community Charter; Janae Grant, board member, Natomas Community Association

Jonathan Cook is arguably the most progressive candidate in this race as far as we know, although some on the Electoral Committee have heard unconfirmed rumors that he has reactionary views on the genocide in Palestine. But with that said, little to no information could be found about Sally T. Goeba, her policies, or any endorsements. Further, the incumbent, Micah Grant, used his seat on the board to advocate for and support the growth of charter schools, which do irreparable damage to unions and create competition for resources between non-charter and charter students. Favoring programs that make it harder for unions to organize makes him antithetical to DSA's beliefs, and therefore he should not be re-elected. It should be noted that the information we could find on the candidates in this race was minimal. Candidates for public office have an obligation to make their platforms well-known to their public. No matter who wins, clearly there is work to be done in Natomas.

Area 5

Our recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Monique F. Langer

Langer is a program manager, a former special adviser on tribal affairs to former Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante and former chair of the Lone Band of Miwok Tribe's

Finance Committee. Her platform revolves around “Education as an Equalizer,” per her website:

“I was the first in my family to attend college. This was a monumental culture shift for me and has also opened doors to places I didn’t know existed. With four children in public schools, I have also learned that one size does not fit all when it comes to education. Families should have options that suit their children’s learning and personality. This is where Natomas schools excel.”

Endorsed by: Dr. Sue Heredia, President of Natomas Unified School District; Betty Yee, Former CA state controller; Scott Dosick, Natomas Unified School District trustee; Lisa Kaplan, Sacramento City Council member; Natomas Teachers Association; United Association Local 447; Laborers Local 185; Sacramento-Sierra’s Building & Construction Trades Council; Stonewall Democrats of Sacramento

Sumiti Mehta*

Mehta is the incumbent trustee for this district. She is campaigning on the following platform, according to her website: safety for students in the form of increased access to counselors and mental health resources, protection against cyberbullying, increased funding for before- and after-school programs, and affordable childcare options for parents; equity and Inclusion for minority students and students with learning disabilities; supporting teachers and staff; and transparency.

Endorsed by: Angelique Ashby, former Sac City Council member and state Senator; Ami Bera, Congress member for District 6; Darrell Steinberg, outgoing mayor of Sacramento; Karina Talamantes, mayor pro tem; Caity Maple, vice-mayor; Mai Vang, Sacramento City Council member; Heather Fargo, former mayor of Sacramento; Dr. Richard Pan, former state senator

Both of these candidates are running on fairly progressive platforms, but not so progressive that we can make a recommendation on either one. Both also have a mixed bag of endorsements; while Langer has the endorsement of the Natomas Teachers Union and reactionary city council member Lisa Kaplan, Mehta has the endorsement of both progressive city council member Mai Vang and reactionary former city council member Angelique Ashby. As such, all we can say is that members should weigh the information we have provided here and vote according to their conscience.

Recommendations: Sacramento City Unified School District

Area 3

Our recommendation: **Jose Navarro**

Jose Navarro

Navarro ran for a seat on the SCUSD Board in 2020 but lost. He is campaigning once again and has garnered several respectable endorsements. It should be noted that he was found in violation by the Fair Political Practices Commission in 2020 for failing to include proper advertisement disclosure on mailers paid for by his campaign committee. A minor offense, his campaign was fined \$452 for the violation. According to his website, Navarro is now campaigning on a simple three-tiered platform: collaboration with staff, strong foundation, and career pathways.

Endorsed by: Sac City Teachers Association; Services Employees International Union Local 1021; Sacramento Central Labor Council; Democratic Party of Sacramento County; Latino Democratic Club of Sacramento County; Latinx Young Democrats of Sacramento; Laborers International Union of North America Local 185; Roger Dickinson – Former Assembly member; Taylor Kayatta – trustee, Sacramento City Unified School District; Orlando Fuentes – Director, Cosumnes Community Services District and CADEM regional director; Katie Valenzuela – Council member, city of Sacramento; Noel Mora – trustee, Natomas Unified School District; Michael Vargas – trustee, Elk Grove Unified School District; Caity Maple – vice mayor, city of Sacramento; Darrell Steinberg – mayor, city of Sacramento; Marta Guerrero – mayor, city of West Sacramento; Mariana Corona Sabeniano – trustee, Sacramento County Board of Ed.; Eric Sunderland – Former CADEM regional director; Zach Freels – director, North Highlands Recreation & Parks District; Eric Guerra – Council member, city of Sacramento; Harold Fong – trustee, Sacramento County Board of Ed.

Rolanda Wilkins

Rolanda Wilkins is the founder of Earth Mama Healing Network

<https://www.emhnetwork.org>. Her organization promotes black wellness and health and runs youth programs, workshops, and seminars related to these issues. Wilkins at one point presented herself as a grounded, progressive candidate but has since lost that clout due to scandal. [She lost progressive Sacramento City Councilor Mai Vang's endorsement in February 2024](#) after a livestream video was found in Facebook's archives. The video shows Wilkins complimenting Donald Trump, threatening local black leaders, and using derogatory language about women when talking about Vice President Kamala Harris, including the now popular racist trope that Kamala Harris, "isn't black."

A direct quote from her video about Black leaders and elected officials, "Those fake Black leaders, we gotta kill them." She has since apologized but her apology seemed more like she was worried about saving face than she was genuinely sorry. In her apology, she also used the old excuse that the video was "taken out of context," an excuse that politicians often use to avoid taking responsibility.

She also made inappropriate comments about Latinos in a Facebook comment section in 2018. "I am not of Latino Ancestry and an [sic] a pure blood Black Woman. Please stop trying to make me be concerned with other group [sic]. Because at the end of the day. They do nothing for us. Unlike you I worked and travel thought out [sic] South and Latin American as well as the US and most of them are anti Black. We are not in the same situation. If you cannot just focus on Black People please block me. I have no need for people like you. We are at war."

Endorsed by: Lisa Murawski, former SCUSD trustee, Area 1; Christina Pritchett, SCUSD trustee, Area 3; Jamee Villa, SCUSD trustee, Area 4; Bina Lefkowitz, Sacramento County Office of Education Board trustee, Area 1; Jay Hansen, former SCUSD Board president; Michael Minnick, former SCUSD Board trustee; Ms. Jackie Rose, CEO of Rose Family Foundation; Tina Roberts, COO of Roberts Family Foundation; Dr. Tamu Green, CEO of the Equity and Wellness Institute; Dr. Aleka Jackson-Jarrell, founder/CEO of Five Black Women Who Care; Christi Ketchum, founder & director of Our Rightful Place; Ernest Uwazie, professor, criminal justice, CSU Sacramento; Deanna Alexich, former teacher, Marysville Unified School District; Dr. Erika Newman-Leak; Dr. Stacey Bell; Dr. Cecil Canton; Jo Watts, director, B.E.S.T.; Jeanine Gaines, Parks and Community Enrichment commissioner; Jayvon Muhammad, CEO of Good Health Family Healing Center; Tarik McFall, former principal, Albert Einstein Middle School

Navarro is endorsed by several unions and progressives, including Sac DSA member and City Council member Katie Valenzuela. Further, the disturbing comments made by his opponent in support of Donald Trump and on other topics demonstrate that she is too unbalanced and unrestrained for public service. There is no need to expand on this any further, we recommend Jose Navarro for SCUSD School Board.

Area 4

Our recommendation: **April Ybarra**

Jennin Martinez

Jennin Martinez is a conservative activist who recently lost a race in the 2024 primary election for Sacramento County Board of Education and is now running for a seat in the Sacramento City Unified School District. No website or list of endorsements was found for this race, but we do know he was endorsed by Sacramento County GOP, Sac County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, and California Parents United for the previously mentioned race. According to Capital Public Radio, he would be a vocal advocate for, “school choice (especially charter schools).”

Victoria Vasquez

Victoria Vasquez is the Chair of the Parks Commission and the grants and policy manager at California ReLeaf, an environmental group. Regarding her platform, her website says, “Her priorities will be to strengthen health and special education services, to advocate for more resources for our school facilities, and to reduce the opportunity gap.”

Endorsed by: Eric Guerra, City Council member; Dave Tamayo, SMUD Board member; Jamee Villa, current Area 4 SCUSD trustee; Heather Fargo, former mayor of Sacramento; Michael Minnick, former Area 4 SCUSD trustee; Isaac Gonzalez, Active Transportation Commission vice-chair; Marianne Gonzales, Colonial Village Neighborhood lead organizer; Rita Gallardo Good, city commissioner; Kai Hermann, city commissioner

April Ybarra

April Ybarra is an activist and educational advocate who helped with negotiations during the last SCUSD teacher's strike. She is campaigning on a platform centered on the idea of a "school-family" partnership. According to her campaign website, she is a certified trainer for the Parent Teacher Home Visit Program, a program based in Sacramento that she is both a prominent leader of and something she helped expand statewide as the California hub coordinator.

Ybarra is endorsed by the Sacramento City Teachers Association, who Sac DSA has worked closely with and supported in its endeavors for years now. As April is the candidate endorsed by them in this race, it is good form for us to continue to support this union and their chosen candidate. In any case, no Sac DSA member should even think about voting for Jennin Martinez.

Recommendations: San Juan Unified School District

(* = incumbent)

Area 2

Our recommendation: **Pam Costa**

Pam Costa*

Pam Costa is a former educator and administrator and the incumbent trustee in this race. She is currently the sitting president of the SJUSD Board and has served on this board for over a decade. Costa is the only candidate endorsed by the San Juan Teachers Association in the 2024 general election. Some of the accomplishments she lists on her campaign website are:

- All schools modernized with energy-efficient lighting and energy-efficient monitoring of heating, cooling and water with solar panels at some high schools – all to save energy dollars and reduce the carbon footprint
- Two performing arts centers, two science wings, and two career technical centers built
- 10 schools built or completely modernized
- Safe Schools model using district employees to provide proactive prevention and intervention for student and staff safety
- Continued to expand Career Technical Education with multiple career pathways for students, including aviation, agriculture, engineering, health sciences, public services, and many more
- Created the Department of Equity and Student Achievement

- Creation of Innovative School at Woodside K-8 and Meraki High School as an alternative high school model
- Positive, collaborative relationships with our bargaining groups
- MTSS (Multiple Tiers of Student Support) providing academic, social/emotional, psychological support for students
- Added transitional kindergarten at the majority of our TK-8 schools
- Added six electric school buses to our transportation fleet

Endorsed by: San Juan Teachers Association; Democratic Party of Sacramento County; Sacramento Central Labor Council; John F Kennedy Democratic Club of Sacramento; Sacramento Latino Democratic Club; Harry S. Truman Democratic Club; Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 104; Teamsters Union Local 150

Jennifer Morgan

Member of the Curriculum Standards, Instructional, and Student Services Board Advisory Committee for SJUSD; no website or list of endorsements found.

Mohammad Sharif

No website or list of endorsements found.

Pam Costa is the only candidate in this race with any kind of union support behind her campaign as far as our research shows. Further, the fact that neither challenger has made their platform easily accessible to the public does not bode well for their abilities as public servants. Some SJTA members have voiced, in private, to members of the Electoral Committee that Pam Costa has been somewhat of a disappointment as an advocate for teachers, but she remains the only candidate in this race with a teacher union's endorsement.

Area 4

Our recommendation: **Martin Ross**

Nick Bloise

Nick Bloise is a former teacher who ran as a Republican for CA state Assembly in 2016 but lost to Democrat Ken Cooley. He does not make his positions on issues affecting students very clear on his campaign website, but based on his platform for his Assembly campaign we know he is very right-wing, [and is a vocal opponent of gun control legislation](#). Further, he refuses to make his positions clear on LGBTQ and other related issues, something he also did when he ran in 2016. When asked about his stance on gay marriage in 2016, this was his statement on LGBTQ social issues, “The U.S. Supreme Court has decided on this issue. This issue is now a moot point unless we can limit the Supreme Court's ability to overrule the will of the people.” While he keeps his current platform for school board rather abstract, we do know that he is running on a campaign promise to increase the presence of school resource officers on campuses, and his platform invokes the right-wing dog whistle about “parental rights.”

Endorsed by: Ted Gaines, former state senator and Board of Equalization member; Sue Frost, Sacramento County supervisor, District 4; Rosario Rodriguez, Sacramento County supervisor-elect District 4; Pat Hume, Sacramento County supervisor, District 5; David Sander, mayor of Rancho Cordova; Dr. Jayna Karpinski Costa, mayor of Citrus Heights; Tim Schaefer, City Council member, Citrus Heights; Garrett Gatewood, City Council member, Rancho Cordova; Manuel Zamorano, president, San Juan Water District; Ted Costa, vice-president, San Juan Water District; Kevin Thomas, president, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ray Riehle, board member, Citrus Heights Water District, and small business owner; Jeff Nelson, board member, Carmichael Water District; Ron Greenwood, board member, Carmichael Water District

Martin Ross

Ross is a former non-profit executive for organizations like Ready to Work, the Salvation Army, and the Health Education Council. Presently, he works as deputy director of External Affairs at the Health Education Council. His educational background is mostly in engineering and business administration. His campaign platform is rather simplistic, with the following tiers: access to educational excellence; access for careers and workplace development; access to safer schools, “The safety of our students, teachers, and staff is paramount. To create safer school environments,

we propose the implementation of comprehensive safety plans supported by teachers, classified staff, administrators, and of course parents that includes background-checked retired mentors, as well as the adoption of advanced intervention and prevention strategies.

Endorsed by: Darrell Steinberg, outgoing mayor of Sacramento; Porsche Middleton, candidate for CA Assembly District 7; Bina Lefkovitz, president of Sac. County Board of Education; Dr. General Davie, Former superintendent, San Juan Unified School District; Clint Robinson, owner of Robinson's Taekwondo; Malcolm Kushner, writer & founder of Free Books for Kids; Democratic Party of Sacramento County; Latino Democratic Club (Sacramento); JFK Democratic Club-Sacramento; Town & Country Democratic Club; Martha Guerrero, mayor, city of West Sacramento; YK Chalamcherla, vice-mayor, City of Folsom; Rod Brewer, vice-mayor, city of Elk Grove; O. Alfred Brown Sr., president, Sacramento County Board of Education; Brandon Rose, director, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Board; Chris Clark, Board member (trustee), Folsom Cordova Unified School District Board of Education; Rogelia Villagrana, Board member (trustee), Woodland Unified School District; John Upton, former El Dorado County supervisor and past president, California State Association of Counties; Esther Vicente, former Board member (trustee) and president (1993-1998), Natomas Unified School District, founder and executive director of the Caribbean Basin Institute for Education and Culture; Jose Navarro, candidate, Sacramento City Unified School District Board, Area 3; Miranda Viani, Carmichael honorary mayor 2024, owner of All Stage Canine Development; Kerri Mandes, Carmichael honorary mayor 2023, owner of Kerri Mandes Fitness, Del Campo H.S. grad; Ron Greenwood, elected Carmichael official & Realtor; Scott Alvord, Roseville City Council; Karen Alvord, nonprofit director, candidate for Roseville City Council; Michael Seaman, elected director, Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District; Bob Ruffner, Carmichael & state gov. leader & artist; Stephanie Taylor, artist, writer, owner of Willie's Burgers in Carmichael; Ismael Pantojo, owner of Cantina Azteca and Rey Azteca in Carmichael; Craig Manson, former U.S. Asst. Secretary of the Interior, former Sacramento County Superior Court judge, retired law professor, retired colonel, U.S. Air Force; Gary Slavit, president, Sac. Cal Alumni, CSUS instructor, consultant for nonprofit orgs and small business; Evelyn Margolin, ret. San Juan USD special education teacher/leader (Cameron Ranch Elementary & Garden Project, Read Across America); Mike Koerner, ret. San Juan USD administrator; Wayne Reimers, ret. San Juan USD band director; Joe Leavitt, Carmichael & Carmichael Sports leader (softball, flag football, etc.); Johnny Perez, Citrus Heights & Sacramento County workforce community leader; Bob Kerr, Carmichael & Sac. area skateboard and youth advocate leader; Jose Altamirano,

community leader, past candidate for Board of Equalization-1st District; Moe Golshani, businessman & leader (nonprofit, American & Iranian American communities); Beth Kang, former executive director, HomeAid Sacramento; Kirk Tramble, president, Cal Alumni Assoc., owner of Kizata Cybersecurity Consulting; Heidi Bennett, professor, American River College; Trish Caldwell, PhD, retired dean, career tech education, American River College; Nola Castle, San Juan USD teacher of the year, 40 years teacher trainer SCOE, my favorite 5-6th grade teacher (formative years); Katherine Kaylon Hazelwood McBride, Citrus Heights Nonprofit Board, Realtor, M.S. education, San Juan senior class president, '87; Khuram Arif, MD, healthcare mgmt. exec, & Fair Oaks community leader; Philip Bensing, Former American River College quarterback, nonprofit deputy dir.; Markton (Mark) Ross, San Juan student body president class of '87, church leader; Elizabeth Hudson, executive deputy dir. homeless assistance programs; Jean Fox, TV and film professional; Sally Forcier, film producer & casting director; Valorie Ross, professional educator; Reverend Mickey Ross, D.D., DSc, US Navy capt. (ret), founder, Ross Co. Engineering Services LLC; Enmartz Anderson, field clinical rep. Medical Device; Nancy Kunes, AllState; Julia Dare, professor of business/management, business professor; Richard Morfopoulos, professor of business/management, business professor; Tanisha Boardway, mortgage loan originator; John Curtis, CPA; Rodney Hicks, father, educator, U, S, Air Force tech sgt. (ret.); Bill Cross, ret. Inner-city Ministry director; Leland Johnson, Realtor; Daniel Chapnick, talent acquisition specialist

Catreyal Wood

Wood is a former honorary mayor of Fair Oaks. He also served on the Fair Oaks Community Planning Advisory Council and the San Juan School District Curriculum, Standards, Instructional, and Student Services Committee. He is campaigning on what is also a rather simplistic platform with the following tiers: academic excellence, safe and supportive environment, community engagement, resources and infrastructure, future-oriented curriculum, and special education.

Endorsed by: Ben Avey, San Juan Unified School Board trustee, Area 6; Zima Creason, San Juan Unified School Board trustee, Area 3; Manuel Perez, San Juan Unified School Board trustee, Area 7; Paula Villescáz, San Juan Unified School Board trustee, Area; Vanessa Caigoy, Sacramento County Board of Education, Area 4; Dr. General Davie, former superintendent, San Juan Unified School District; Ryan Digman, committee chair, San Juan Special Education CAC; Melinda Avey, chair of the San Juan Unified School District Facilities Committee; Dustin Buck, wealth manager; Dennis Mangers, former CA state Assembly member; San Juan Parents Association;

Sacramento Deputy Sheriffs' Association; Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 104;
Sacramento Central Labor Council; CA School Employees Association;
Sacramento-Sierra Building and Construction Trades Council

Ross and Wood are so similar in their platforms, backgrounds, and endorsements that they might create a split among left-leaning voters in this district and that could hand the victory to Bloise, a right-wing MAGA Republican. The fact that Bloise proudly brags about an endorsement from Sac County Supervisor Sue Frost, a vocal MAGAT and anti-vaxxer, is telling and worrying. Although Ross and Wood are similar, one case we see against Wood is that he has the endorsement of the Sacramento Deputy Sheriffs' Association. There are advantages and disadvantages to either candidate, and a split vote between Wood and Ross means a victory for the far-right Bloise. Use your vote to keep Bloise off the board and vote for Martin Ross.

Recommendations: Statewide Propositions

Proposition 2: YES

Summary of measure: If passed, Prop. 2 would issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund the construction and modernization of public schools grades K-12 and local community colleges. This can mean anything from retrofitting older buildings, construction of new campus amenities, ...

Endorsements in favor: CA Teachers Association, CA Labor Federation, Alameda County Office of Education, Association of California School Administrators, California Builders Alliance, California Chamber of Commerce, California Retired Teachers Association, Community College League of California, Los Angeles Unified School District

Endorsements against: Reform California, State Assembly Candidate Carl Demaio

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! The strongest opposition to this measure is Reform California, a right-wing group that opposes any tax increases and operates as a front for the political will of state Assembly candidate Carl Demaio. Further, an expansion of the public school system and other social welfare programs is very much in line with DSA values.

Proposition 3: YES

Summary of measure: If passed, Prop. 3 would officially repeal Prop. 8 (passed in 2008) and remove the language in the State Constitution that prohibited same-sex marriage. This law was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2012 and this change would formalize that decision.

Endorsements in favor: Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember Evan Low, CA Democratic Party, CA Labor Federation, ACLU Northern California, Equity California, Human Rights Campaign, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA, Trans Latina Coalition

Endorsements against: California Capitol Connection, California Family Council, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee, Freedom in Action, Real Impact

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! As socialists, we are completely in favor of anything that expands the rights of our LGBTQI comrades and neighbors. The fact that this language was not immediately repealed following the Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage is unacceptable. Further, these rights must be enshrined given the current right-wing slant of the undemocratically stacked Supreme Court.

Proposition 4: YES

Summary of measure: According to Ballotpedia, Proposition 4 would authorize a \$10 billion bond to fund environmental, energy and water projects. It also requires that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters. The bond measure would also require the secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to publish a list of programs and projects on the agency's website for the public. The measure would require the report to list the project's location, objective, status, anticipated outcomes, total cost, amount of bond funding and any matching funds. The costs to publish the report would be covered by the bond revenue.

Endorsements in favor: CA Labor Federation, IBEW Local 569, Clean Water Action, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council

Endorsements against: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! Although it is not as comprehensive as the Green New Deal that is part of the DSA agenda, investments in parks (a public good) and in restorative water, energy and other projects benefits workers and the infrastructure of California as a whole.

Proposition 5: YES

Summary of measure: Lower the vote threshold from 66.67% to 55% for local bond measures to fund housing projects and public infrastructure

Endorsements in favor: Sacramento Democratic Socialists of America

Endorsements against: CA Republican Party, California Association of Realtors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayers Association, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, National Federation of Independent Business

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! While it may seem insignificant, lowering this voter threshold would make it easier for the state to finance low-income housing projects. This is why our chapter voted to endorse this measure as part of the package of legislation endorsed by CA DSA related to the repeal of Costa Hawkins (see below) and this election cycle's campaigns related to affordable housing.

Proposition 6: YES

Summary of measure: If passed, Prop 6. would remove language from the CA State Constitution that allows the state to use involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime.

Endorsements in favor: Assembly Member Lori Wilson, state Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, state Senator Steven Bradford, CA Labor Federation, ACLU California, Abolish Slavery National Network

Endorsements against: no information found

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! Sac DSA supports anything that takes power away from the carceral state, defunds our overfunded police and prison systems, and moves us closer to a society of restorative justice. Also, it is the explicit stance of any self-respecting socialist to oppose slavery in all forms, period! No worker's labor should come free, and all workers should control the wealth created by their labor!

Proposition 32: YES

Summary of measure: If passed, Prop. 32 A.K.A. The CA LIVING WAGE ACT would increase the statewide minimum wage to \$18 an hour by January 1, 2025, for workplaces with 26 or more employees. Workplaces with 25 or fewer employees would see an increase in wages by Jan 1, 2026.

Endorsements in favor: Former Assembly Member and California Labor Federation President Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, Joe Sanberg, Sara Jayaraman, director of Food Labor Research Center, UC Berkeley, SEIU California, The San Jose Mercury News

Endorsements against: National Federation of Independent Business, Reform California

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! The biggest issue with this proposition is that it does not go far enough! \$18 per hour is by no means a livable wage in this state. But any increase to the state's minimum wage is long overdue. Further, its only opponents are capitalist Republicans and organizations antithetical to DSA's program.

Proposition 33: YES

Summary of measure: Repeals Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act. Costa Hawkins is a state law that bans cities from implementing rent control on certain housing developments and any that were constructed after 1995.

Endorsements in favor: Sac DSA! CA DSA, Senator Bernie Sanders, Huntington Beach Council member Tony Strickland, CA Democratic Party, CA Nurses Association, Americans for Democratic Action, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, Housing is a Human Right, Pomona United Stable Housing Coalition, Social Security Works - CA, Veterans' Voices, Unite Here Local 11, CSUN Young Democratic Socialists of America, SF DSA, San Francisco Tenants Association

Endorsements against: state Senator Toni Atkins, state Senator Buffy Wicks, CA Republican Party, California Apartment Association, CA YIMBY, Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles

Our recommendation: VOTE YES! That is why our chapter voted to endorse this statewide ballot measure along with multiple CA DSA chapters. We have been a part of the fight to repeal this bill for nearly a decade and the time has come for this draconian, anti-worker, anti-renter law to end.

Proposition 34: NO

Summary of measure: If passed, Prop 34 would 1) require health care providers that spent over \$100 million in any 10 years on anything other than direct patient care and operated multifamily housing with over 500 high-severity health and safety violations to spend 98% of revenues from the federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care; 2) penalize violators of the initiative with loss of tax-exempt status and licenses to operate health insurance plans, pharmacies and clinics; and 3) permanently authorize Medi-Cal RX in state law.

Endorsements in favor: California Apartment Association, CA Republican Party, ALS Association, Looms for Lupus, California Professional Firefighters, California Chronic Care Coalition, state Assemblyman Evan Low

Endorsements against: AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Housing Is a Human Right, Consumer Watchdog

Our recommendation: VOTE NO! Aside from this measure carrying the support of at least 2 groups antithetical to DSAs politics (CA GOP and CA Apartment Association) the language in the bill regarding “operated multifamily housing with over 500 high-severity health and safety violations” targets low-income renters. This measure was created by the California Apartment Association in retaliation against Aids Healthcare Foundation (which prominently fights for rent control in CA), and its purpose is to kneecap the AHF to prevent it from running any more Costa-Hawkins repeal campaigns in the future should Prop 33 fail. This is a fraudulent measure being pushed by the strongest opponents of the working class and it must be defeated.

Proposition 35: No Recommendation

Summary of measure: The initiative would permanently establish the tax on managed care health insurance plans, which is used to fund Medi-Cal health care services. The tax is a charge on the number of monthly enrollees of a plan with a higher rate on plans within Medi-Cal. This initiative would require that raised revenues be used only for specified Medi-Cal services, including primary and specialty care, emergency care, family planning, mental health, and prescription drugs.

Endorsements in favor: CA Democratic Party, CA Republican Party, SEIU CA State Council, CA Dental Association, CA Hospital Association, CA Medical Association, CA Primary Care Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA

Endorsements against: ACCE (Allied Californians for Community Empowerment), Courage California, League of Women Voters

Our recommendation: none. While the language of the measure is confusing, if the ballot title is to be believed this measure would provide permanent funding for Medi-Cal, California's state-run healthcare system for low-income people. In a sense, the measure simply makes the current system for funding Medi-Cal permanent with some changes to what services are funded, whereas without this passing the current funding system would expire in 2026 and have to be re-negotiated by the state Legislature.

Some believe this could complicate our ability to advocate for a universal, Medicare for All program in the state later on, which is a fair point. Further, some analysts believe that this measure would lock in the collected taxes at the lower commercial rate [that could lead to future underfunding](#).

But some on the Electoral Committee worry about the prospect of Medi-Cal being defunded without establishing the current form of funding, especially those who are Medi-Cal patients.

There are too many complicating factors on both sides of this issue for us to make a firm recommendation. Further, this measure would not be a concern if we had a universal public healthcare system. This is why our chapter's Healthcare Committee refuses to give up the fight for single-payer CalCare in California and Medicare for All nationally.

Proposition 36: **NO**

Summary of measure: According to Ballotpedia, this would increase drug crime and theft penalties and allow a new class of crime to be called treatment-mandated felony, which gives the offender the option to participate in drug and mental health treatment

Endorsements in favor: Walmart, Target, CA Republican Party, Walgreens, CA District Attorney's Association, CA Police Chiefs Association, CA Retailers Association, CA State Sheriffs' Association, American Petroleum and Convenience Store

Association, CA Correctional Peace Officers Association, CA Grocers Association. CA District Attorney Thein Ho

Endorsements against: Decarcerate Sacramento, CA Democratic Party, ACLU of Northern CA, Anti Recidivism Coalition, Civil Rights Corps, Disability Rights California, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, state Assembly Members Mia Bonta, Isaac Bryan, Reggie Jones, Ash Kalra, Alex Lee and Tina McKinnor

Our recommendation: VOTE NO! Although the language of the measure claims that offenders will have the “option” to participate in drug and mental health treatment programs to avoid jail time, the measure does not effectively fund such programs. Further, it increases the punishments for petty crimes such as minor acts of larceny and drug possession. It also has the endorsements of multiple groups antithetical to DSA’s politics, including multiple DA and police associations, and the co-chair of the campaign is the notoriously anti-Black, anti-homeless, anti-worker former Sac County DA Anne Marie Schubert! All self-respecting socialists should vote no on this measure.

Recommendations: Sacramento Area Ballot Measures

Most of the local measures revolve around bonds to fund public projects for schools and parks. (See our introduction for more information about bonds.) Measure E, however, establishes a permanent parcel tax which would be used for library funding, and Measure G establishes a sales tax in Folsom to fund the police and other public matters.

To simplify things, the Sac DSA Electoral Committee makes the following recommendations about the measures, and a summary of each measure can be found beneath our list of recommendations. Because these measures mostly revolve around school funding, some on the Electoral Committee were concerned that these funds might be allocated disproportionately to charter schools over traditional public schools. The fact is the allocation of funds is subject to several complicating factors and is ultimately decided by the school boards, state and county officials, and others. As such, the best we can do is look into the measures and districts to see how prominently charters are mentioned or featured.

Measure D: YES

Summary of measure: Sac City Unified District is authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$543 million to finance various projects. Only affects local schools, and cannot be used for administrator salaries and pensions. Accountability measures include mandatory audits and an oversight committee. Includes charters explicitly.

Endorsements against: Sacramento Taxpayers Association, Sac GOP

Measure E: YES

Summary of measure: Combine and extend existing parcel taxes (54.50 per single-family residential), generating approximately \$9.6 million a year for library services. Our endorsed candidate for mayor, Dr. Flo Cofer, has been fliering for this measure at her recent tabling events. If it does not pass, Sacramento County libraries lose a primary source of their current funding and this could affect their ability to stay open and serve the public.

Measure G: No Recommendation

Summary of measure: 1% additional sales tax in Folsom, providing a \$29 million split as follows: 20% - police services, 20% - fire protection, 15% - parks/trail improvement, 15% - traffic/street maintenance, 15% - community enhancement/economic development, and 15% - major capital improvement projects.

Endorsements against: Sacramento Taxpayers Association

Measure H: YES

Summary of measure: \$27 million bond authorization, \$1.96 million a year, for Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, to be used for improving school infrastructure. Specifically: To provide a high-quality education for all students by keeping schools safe/clean; repair deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating and ventilation systems; improve school security/fire safety, upgradescience/engineering/technology classrooms/labs; increase disability access. Does not mention charters.

Measure J: YES

Summary of measure: \$4.3 million bond authorization, \$276,190 a year, for Elverta Joint Elementary School District, to be used for improving school infrastructure. Specifically: upgrade inadequate electrical systems; replace leaky roofs; modernize outdated classrooms, restrooms , and school facilities; and make health, safety and

handicapped accessibility improvements. Charters are not mentioned explicitly, although they are very present in the district.

Measure K: YES

Summary of measure: \$598 million in bonds, \$34.8 million a year for San Joaquin Delta Community College District. To be used for improving local community college classes and school infrastructure. Specifically: student safety; remove asbestos, lead paint, and mold; ensure safe drinking water; repair deteriorating sewers and roofs; acquire, construct, and repair classrooms, sites, facilities, and equipment.

Measure L: YES

Summary of measure: \$24 million in bonds, \$1.4 million a year for Orangevale Recreation and Park District, for improving parks and recreation infrastructure. Specifically: upgrade and replace outdated restrooms; renovate the 60-year-old Youth Center; make safety and security improvements; upgrade playgrounds; and improve trails.

Measure M: YES

Summary of measure: \$5.8 million in bonds, \$451,000 a year for Arcohe Union School District, for improving school infrastructure and getting teachers. Specifically: To provide clean/safe classrooms; provide science/engineering/technology/agricultural education labs; prevent overcrowded classrooms; continue to provide safe drinking water; improve safety/security; improve disabled accessibility; provide high-quality education, retain/attract quality teachers.

Endorsements against: Sacramento Taxpayers Association, Sacramento GOP

Measure N: YES

Summary of measure: \$542 million in bonds, \$37 million a year, for Elk Grove Unified School District to improve schools and infrastructure. Specifically: to repair, modernize, and construct classrooms, labs, school, and career technical facilities to relieve overcrowding and support college/career readiness in science, technology, engineering, math, arts and skilled trades, fix roofs, plumbing, electrical, water and safety/security systems. No charters are mentioned in the measure's language.

Measure O: YES

Summary of measure: \$415 million in bonds, \$24 million a year, for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District for improving fire/emergency medical response quality. Specifically: to maintain 911 fire/emergency medical response times, attract/retain qualified professional firefighters/paramedics, support local fire protection, and prevent firefighter exposure to cancer-causing air pollution by upgrading outdated/deteriorating lifesaving equipment, engines and stations.

Measure P: YES

Summary of measure: \$950 million in bonds, \$55.6 million a year, for San Juan Unified School District to improve school infrastructure. Specifically: to prepare students for college/careers by repairing/upgrading aging classrooms, leaky roofs and math/science labs, removing asbestos/lead and improving education by retaining/attracting quality teachers in safe/clean schools. Charters are not explicitly mentioned, but several exist within the district.

Measure Q: YES

Summary of measure: \$24 million in bonds, \$1.38 million a year, for Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District for improvement of parks and recreation infrastructure. Specifically: to improve parks and recreation for children, families, senior citizens and

residents; make safety/security improvements; renovate, construct and expand parks and facilities; upgrade old restrooms and provide shade structures/new playgrounds.

Measure R: YES

Summary of measure: \$144 million in bonds, \$8.8 million a year for Folsom Cordova School District School Facilities Improvement District 4 (elementary schools) to improve school infrastructure. Specifically: to repair/upgrade existing Rancho Cordova elementary schools' deteriorating classrooms, electrical systems/wiring, leaky roofs and school playgrounds; improve safety/security/fire systems and disabled accessibility; acquire, construct and repair facilities, sites and equipment. Charters are not explicitly mentioned but are present within the district.

Measure S: YES

Summary of measure: \$144 million in bonds, \$8.8 million a year for Folsom Cordova School District School Facilities Improvement District 4 (middle/high schools) to improve school infrastructure. Specifically: to repair/upgrade existing Rancho Cordova middle/high schools' vocational/career classrooms/labs, deteriorating electrical systems/wiring, leaky roofs; improve safety/security systems; acquire, construct, repair, facilities, sites, equipment. Charters are not explicitly mentioned but exist within the district.