

Voter Guide for Los Angeles County

STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018

Polls open 7 AM - 8 PM



MAY 7: First day to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot MAY 21: Last day to register or re-register to vote MAY 29: Last day to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot

JUNE 5: ELECTION DAY

Polls open 7 AM - 8 PM



This Voter Guide contains information about:

STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

and about the following non-partisan Los Angeles County Offices:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASSESSOR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DISTRICTS 1 AND 3

On June 5, 2018, voters will also be voting for:

Candidates for statewide office—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Board of Equalization candidates

Federal Congressional and Senate candidates

State Assembly and State Senate candidates

For more information about candidates, issues, and voting, go to:

www.votersedge.org/ca or www.lavote.net



About the Voter Guide

This Voter Guide is provided by the League of Women Voters' Education Fund. The Education Fund encourages active and informed participation in government and increased understanding of public policy through education.

Esta guía también está disponible en español. Para más información, llame (213) 368-1616.



California Primary Election June 5, 2018

This election is a county, state, and federal primary election. California voters will choose among all candidates for state and congressional elective offices, regardless of party preference, and the two candidates in each race who receive the most votes will advance to the November general election, regardless of party preference. California voters will also decide on the state propositions beginning on page 11 of this guide.

All Los Angeles County Voters will choose among the candidates for Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge and for Assessor and Sheriff of Los Angeles County. **Some** Los Angeles County voters will be selecting their representative to the County Board of Supervisors.

Visit <u>www.votersedge.org/ca</u> to see everything on your ballot, find your polling place, and get information about your voting choices. Candidates provide information about themselves in their own words.

Voters registered in Los Angeles County will receive a sample ballot at the address on record after May 7. This sample ballot shows the candidates and measures that will be on your ballot.

Go to <u>www.lavote.net</u> in Los Angeles county to:

- ★ Check your registration status—including your party choice
- ★ Register to vote if you have moved or changed your name
- ★ Register to vote if you want to change your political party

Find your path at the Los Angeles Public Library

Los Angeles Public Library offers a variety of free in-person and online educational opportunities including:



Education and Lifelong Learning

ONLINE COURSES TO SUPPORT YOUR CAREER AND LIFE GOALS.

www.lapl.org/collectionsresources/online-learning



Money Matters

LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU. KNOW MORE, MAKE MORE.

www.lapl.org/money-matters



Health Wellness

WORKSHOPS AND RESOURCES ON AN ARRAY OF HEALTH TOPICS

www.lapl.org/health



Cultural Enrichment and Exploration

YOUR COMMUNITY
DESTINATION TO STIMULATE
CREATIVITY & IMAGINATION

www.lapl.org/whats-on

Ready to start on your path?
Visit one of our 73 libraries, call, or visit us online.
213.228.7272 www.lapl.org



Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge

TERM: 6 years

TERM BEGINS: January 2019 SALARY: \$190,219 per year

Elections for Superior Court Judges in Los Angeles County are held in even numbered years at the scheduled Primary Election. The California Constitution requires that a candidate for Superior Court Judge be a member of the State Bar for ten years or serve on a court of record. A vacancy in a Superior Court office is to be filled by appointment by the governor. The appointed judge must stand for election at the next general election.

There are 483 judicial offices in 12 judicial districts in Los Angeles County. When a judge runs for re-election and there is no other candidate for the same office, his/her name does not appear on the ballot. In cases where more than two candidates are running and no one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes. a run-off is held at the November General Election. In the June 2018 election, eleven Superior Court offices are being contested.

Each candidate for Superior Court Judge was asked to submit a statement of qualifications and respond to the following question using no more than 50 words.

Most defendants are held in County jail before trial because they are not able, due to low income or homelessness, to secure bail imposed by the Court at their arraignment. Does California's system of imposing bail on defendants need reform? If so, what would you recommend?

Superior Court Judge Office 4

CANDIDATE

Alfred A. Coletta



OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, Los Angeles County

WEBSITE: www.colettafor judge.com

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ LA Judge, Roy Paul has endorsed me for his Seat #4.
- ◆ 31 years criminal and civil trial experience
- ◆ 120 felony jury trials to verdict
- ◆ 43 murder jury trials to verdict
- Prosecuted police officers and lawyers

ANSWER

The judicial code of ethics precludes me from expressing an opinion regarding controversies that may come before me. I am aware the legislature has drafted Senate Bill 10 to reform bail. As a judge I will respect any new bail law and apply the law fairly, objectively and with integrity.

A. Verónica Sauceda



OCCUPATION: **Superior Court** Commissioner, Los Angeles County

WEBSITE: www.saucedafor judge.com

- Superior Court Commissioner, Los Angeles County (2015- present)
- ◆ Non-profit attorney (2002-2015); helped clients assert rights; removed barriers and helped them access justice
- J.D. UCLA School of Law, 2001
- ◆ B.A. Political Science and Chicana/o Studies, UCLA 1997

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye convened a committee of judges to explore the current money bail system. The committee made various recommendations, including a new system based on pretrial assessments of a defendant's flight risk and danger to public safety. The committee raised valid concerns on how the system can be improved.

Matthew Schonbrun



OCCUPATION: **Deputy City**

Attorney III, City of Los Angeles

E-MAIL: matthew4judge@ gmail.com

No response provided as of the press deadline.

No response provided as of the press deadline.

Superior Court Judge Office 16

Patricia "Patti" Hunter



OCCUPATION: **Deputy City** Attorney, City of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.pattihunter 4judge.com

- Over 30 years experience
- Prosecuted thousands of criminal cases
- ◆ Jury trials include: domestic violence, child endangerment, driving under the influence, firearm crimes and more
- Criminal and civil background
- Extensive trial experience

Bail reform is happening in California. A recent ruling in the Humphrey case requires judges to consider a defendant's financial situation when setting bail. Courts may only set unaffordable bail for those who are too dangerous to be released before trial.

Herbert S. Yun



OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.yunforjudge. com

- Gang Murder Prosecutor
- Deputy District Attorney, Hardcore Gang Division
- Supported by Judges, Law **Enforcement and Attorneys**
- Civil litigation experience
- ◆ Graduate of Loyola Law School

A hybrid system may be appropriate. For violent and/or serious offenses, the current system will keep most offenders, rich or poor, in custody while awaiting trial, ensuring public safety. For all other crimes, an individualized assessment of the offender, including criminal history and finances should be undertaken before setting bail.

CANDIDATE



OCCUPATION: Senior Deputy City Prosecutor, City of Redondo Beach

E-MAIL: www.michelfor judge.com

QUALIFICATIONS

- Senior deputy city prosecutor
- Prosecuted complex criminal cases, including serious violent crimes
- ◆ Partner in premiere international civil law firm
- Endorsed by Hon. Steve Cooley, former district attorney for Los Angeles County, numerous Superior Court judges

ANSWER

The bail system in California needs reform. The Constitution allows for reasonable bail. Courts should consider personal factors of a defendant in deciding on conditions of pretrial release and make use of non-monetary conditions, if possible, to ensure that the defendant returns to court and does not endanger the community.

Superior Court Judge Office 20

Mary Ann **Escalante**



OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.escalantefor judge.com

- ◆ 30 years of experience as a deputy district attorney
- Gang homicide and child molester prosecutor
- ◆ Tried over 100 jury trials including 34 murders
- ◆ Endorsed by the presiding and assistant presiding judges of all of the Superior

There needs to be a balance between public safety and the rights of the accused. Although destitute defendants can end up spending more time in custody than those defendants of means, abandoning the system may put victims in jeopardy. The bail schedule is put in place to assure court attendance and for public safety...*

Wendy Segall



OCCUPATION: Deputy District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.wendysegall forjudge.com

- ◆ I am a 28 year attorney with extensive legal experience in civil, criminal defense and prosecution
- ◆ I am a career public prosecutor with 23 years of service
- I am endorsed by over 100 Superior Court judges, labor unions and law enforcement

California's system of imposing bail on defendants was in dire need of reform. Today, that bail system has fundamentally changed; if a court finds a defendant does not have the financial ability to pay the bail, the court is obligated to consider less restrictive alternatives to continued confinement in jail.

Superior Court Judge Office 60

Holly Hancock



OCCUPATION: Attorney at Law

E-MAIL: skyspeak1@gmail. com

- ◆ 12-year defense counsel to thousands of clients
- ◆ Tried to verdict 55 cases; 34 felonies; acquittals in 29 felonies and 18 misdemeanors
- ◆ Straight not guilty verdicts on the last 11 trials
- Flight attendant for United and union representative for AFA trials

Yes, the system of securing bail has been made unaffordable by all but the wealthy. I would venture to say that in Los Angeles County the middle class struggle to put up secured property sufficient for a bond release. Remember that this is pretrial detention...*

Ben Colella



OCCUPATION: Deputy District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

E-MAIL: colella4judge@ icloud.com

- ◆ Deputy district attorney, over 28 years of extensive experience
- ◆ Seasoned in alternative justice including juvenile mental health and drug courts
- ► Efficient, thousands of cases yearly in the busiest juvenile court in Los Angeles
- ◆ Skilled trial prosecutor, 50+ jury cases

California's bail system is broken, and reform is needed. The right to remain free should not depend upon the size of one's wallet. A pretrial release assessment must occur using a series of risk factors which need to include history and character, probability of returning to court, and victim impact.

Tony C. Cho



OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.cho4judge. com

- ◆ Over 17 years of legal experience in both civil and criminal law
- ◆ 13 years as a LA County deputy district attorney, with 68 jury trials
- ◆ Specialized in elder abuse prosecution for the past 5 years
- ◆ 8 years as a military lawyer with the CA State Military Reserve

The Judicial Ethics Canon 5B(1) prohibits a candidate in a judicial election from making statements that would commit the candidate with respect to issues that could come before the courts. I would note, however, that the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court has publicly stated that the bail system is in need of reform....*

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16407?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16408?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

Superior Court Judge Office 63

CANDIDATE

Malcolm Н. Mackey



OCCUPATION: Judge, L.A. Superior Court

WEBSITE: www.mackey 4judge.com

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Elected to Judge of Los Angeles Superior Court, 1988-2018
- ◆ Elected Judge of Los Angeles Municipal Court, 1978-1988
- ◆ Trial lawyer—own law practice for 19 years
- ◆ Associate Attorney, Bolton, Groff & Dunne
- ◆ Southwestern Law School, L.L.B. Juris Doctor

ANSWER

Yes, it should be reform. I recommend that the bail system be modified to allow defendants to be released to their own recognizance while awaiting trial where it appears they would be able to return to court.

Anthony Lewis



OCCUPATION: Attorney at Law WEBSITE: www.tony4judge.

- ◆ Career dedicated to fighting discrimination, harassment, and abuse
- Experienced criminal and civil trial attorney
- ◆ Experienced appellate attorney
- ◆ J.D. Northwestern University School of Law (1999)
- ◆ M.P.A. Florida State University School of Public Administration and Policy (1996)

People should not be punished for being poor. The current bail system causes great harm to many poor people (and their families) who will not be convicted of any crime and who do not pose any public threat. Change is needed. We should take approaches that are better at protecting the public ...*

Superior Court Judge Office 67

Onica Valle Cole



OCCUPATION: Attorney/Mother WEBSITE: www.onicafor judge.com

- ◆ Career prosecutor w/ Ivy League education
- ◆ Significant jury trial and courtroom experience
- ◆ Married to law enforcement officer and committed to protecting our community
- Appointed as a judge, Los Angeles Superior Court, Temporary Judge Program
- ◆ Committed to fairness and transparency

Yes, we need to reorganize our priorities, for example what is often prosecuted within the City of Los Angeles as a misdemeanor, is often prosecuted as a felony.

Maria Lucy Armendariz



OCCUPATION: Judge of the State Bar Court, State Bar of California

WEBSITE: www.judgelucy2018. com

- ◆ Judge of the State Bar Court, appointed in 2007
- Presided over thousands of cases in 11 years
- ◆ Entire career dedicated to public service
- ◆ UCLA and UC Hastings Law School educated

Yes, too many people are held in County Jail simply because they are too poor to post bail.

Dennis Vincent



OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, County of Los Angeles

E-MAIL: dennisvincent 4judge@outlook.

- USAF retired
- ◆ 2017 Deputy District Attorney of the Year
- ◆ Criminal prosecutor with 23 years of courtroom experience
- Handled hundreds of serious and violent felonies
- Alternative sentencing subject matter expert

Bail reform is underway in California. (See "In Re Humphrey".) I cannot comment further because the Code of Judicial Ethics prohibits judicial candidates from making statements that commit them in cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the courts. I'm sorry but Bail is one such issue.

Superior Court Judge Office 71

Danielle R. A. Gibbons



OCCUPATION: Superior Court Commissioner, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.daniellegib bons4judge.com

- Current Superior Court commissioner, I am already doing the job of a judge
- ◆ Currently presiding over a Domestic Violence Prevention Act restraining order courtroom
- ◆ Over 18 years of legal experience
- ◆ Endorsed by over 70 judges and commissioners

As a current bench officer, I am not permitted to make any recommendation regarding the status of bail reform.

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16409?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

CANDIDATE

David A. Berger



OCCUPATION:
Deputy District
Attorney, County
of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.bergerfor judge.blogspot.com

QUALIFICATIONS

- Career public prosecutor with 22 years of service
- Extensive legal experience with victims of domestic violence, child and elder abuse
- ◆ Endorsed by over 100 Superior Court judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys
- ◆ I will provide balance, fairness, and access to justice

ANSWER

Judges must consider whether the accused can afford bail, and whether any less-restrictive means than incarceration exists (e.g. electronic monitoring, drug testing) while still ensuring public safety. I would follow any further reform to bail either through the proposition process (e.g. Prop 47) or legislation (e.g. AB109).

Superior Court Judge Office 113

Javier Perez



OCCUPATION: Deputy District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

www.javierperez2018. com

- ◆ Prosecutor for approximately 27 years
- Tried misdemeanor and felony trials, assigned to special units such as major narcotics and environmental crimes
- Worked throughout the county in nine different courthouses
- Supervised in excess of one-hundred employees over seven years

Too many people are held in custody before trial because of their economic conditions. A recent case held that a person's financial situation should be considered in determining bail. Other factors to be considered are safety to the community and securing the defendant's appearance in court.

Steven Schreiner



OCCUPATION: Deputy District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

www.schreinerfor judge.com

◆ After working as a legal aide in the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office, I joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in 1987. In the ensuing 31 years I have done misdemeanor trials, felony trials, the Career Criminal Unit...

Recent case law has addressed the issue of low income defendants being unable to secure bail due to economic circumstances. Courts now must consider this issue, and balance it with the need to assurance the defendant's appearance at trial and public safety. As a judge I would take all these issues into consideration...*

Michael P. Ribons



OCCUPATION: Arbitrator/Lawyer

WEBSITE: www.ribonsfor judge.com

- Judge Pro Tem, Los Angeles County; 8 years hearing approximately 300 calendars and over 7,500 cases
- ◆ Fee Arbitrator, San Fernando Valley Bar, State Bar
- ◆ Civil litigator 22 years
- ◆ Realtor
- ◆ J.D., Whittier Law School

No one should be in jail simply because they are disadvantaged. I support bail reform for low-level offenses/low-risk defendants. Judges would set bail terms as appropriate, provided the public is not in danger and there is a high likelihood the defendant will appear in court as required.

* Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16402?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

Superior Court Judge Office 118

David D. Diamond



OCCUPATION:
Police
Commissioner/
Attorney

WEBSITE:www.diamondforjudge.com

- Litigated thousands of misdemeanor and felony matters
- ◆ LACBA indigent criminal defense appointments, appointed counsel
- lacktriangle Handled hundreds of civil law matters
- Argued before the District Court of Appeals multiple times
- ◆ Argued before the Los Angeles and...

The current changes to the bail system are more than overdue. New case law requires a Judge to make a full and detailed inquiry about an individual's financial status. This will allow many to return to their families and places of employment while the court process moves forward and allows for a just resolution...*

Troy Davis



OCCUPATION: Deputy District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

www.troydavisfor judge.com

- Extensive experience prosecuting felony child molestation, child physical abuse, violent sex crimes, human trafficking, and domestic violence
- Reputation for remarkable ethics, fairness, and discretion
- ◆ Commitment to ensuring justice is served, holding the guilty accountable, while...

Pursuant to California Supreme Court Judicial Canon 5(B)(1)(1), a candidate shall not "make statements to the electorate...that commit the candidate...with respect to...issues that are likely to come before the courts." However, I will strongly consider all legal factors in determining appropriate bail in each person's situation.

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16403?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

Superior Court Judge Office 126

CANDIDATE





OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.fullerfor judge.com

QUALIFICATIONS

- Criminal prosecutor of gang murder, environmental crimes, child molestation, and domestic/elder abuse
- ◆ J.A.G. military in-house counsel/officer with criminal and civil experience
- ◆ Tried 75 jury trials and 150 court trials
- ◆ Endorsed by elected officials, judges, prosecutors, and unions

ANSWER

A judge's duty in setting bail is assessing to what extent the defendant is a flight risk and also the danger to the community if the defendant were released based on the alleged facts of the crime. Deviations from the bail schedule can be made based on economic hardship and lack of resources...*

Rene Caldwell Gilbertson



OCCUPATION: Senior Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.gilbertson forjudge.com

- ◆ Prosecutes child abuse cases in Los Angeles Juvenile Court
- ◆ Served as legal advisor for the County Sheriff's Department
- ◆ Represented indigent children and youth in the foster care system
- ◆ Dedicated 24 years to protecting the children of Los Angeles County

California has been in need of bail reform. The recent First District Court of Appeal (Humphrey) case gives direction in this regard and emphasizes that the bail system should not imprison a defendant solely because of poverty and an inability to afford bail. Unaffordable bail must be justfied by factors...*

Shlomo **Frieman**



OCCUPATION: Attorney/ Volunteer Adjudicator

WEBSITE: www.facebook.com/ Shlomo-Frieman-for-LA-County-Superior-Court-Judge-153702252070393

- ◆ J.D. NY Law School
- ◆ B.S. ChemE/B.A. Liberal Arts Rutgers University
- ◆ Temporary Judge, LA County Superior Court
- Volunteer Mediator, LA County, Court-Connected Mediation Program
- Volunteer Mediator, LA City Attorney's Office, Dispute Resolution Program

Because California's bail system needs reform and because alternative release systems exist, we should determine which alternatives achieve the best results and are potentially suitable for California; pilot test the most promising alternatives; implement the best alternative throughout California; then, when needed, modify or change it to obtain further improvements...*

Superior Court Judge Office 146

Armando Durón



OCCUPATION: Superior Court Commissioner, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.duronfor judge.com

- ◆ Elected by the 500 judges of Los Angeles Superior Court to serve as Commissioner in 2015
- ◆ Three important assignments: domestic violence restraining orders
- ◆ Requiring specific skills: Manage heavy calendar; everone feels they were heard; render just and fair decisions

Yes. But the new system should not solve one problem and create another. The process should be tested before it is implemented to make sure that it will work for the defendants, victims and the public.

Emily Theresa Spear



OCCUPATION: **Deputy District** Attorney, County of Los Angeles

WEBSITE: www.emilyspear forjudge.com

- Prosecuting rapists, child murders and molesters, and gangs
- ◆ Over 59 complex litigation felony trials to verdict
- ◆ 2014 Deputy District Attorney of the Year
- ◆ Train with support dog to comfort child molestation victims

How a judge determines bail is based on a subjective interpretation of a set of criteria. This highlights the need for judges who are temperate, level headed, and thoughtful, as whatever further reform is determined, ultimately there will be an element of subjectivity in these determinations.

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16404?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

TERM: 4 years

TERM BEGINS: December 5, 2018 **SALARY:** \$190,219 per year

Elections for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors are held in even numbered years. In 2018, Supervisors in the First and Third Districts are up for election. Supervisors are limited to 12 years in office.

The five member Board of Supervisors acts as the governing body of Los Angeles County;

has administrative, legislative, and quasi-judicial duties; provides for county-wide services; is local government in unincorporated areas; governs many special districts; adopts County budget. Each district has a population of approximately 2 million residents.

Each candidate for Supervisor was asked to submit a brief statement of qualifications, and to answer the following two questions:

QUESTION 1: How can the level of services to the mentally ill in LA County be improved? What more effective programs can the County implement as an alternative to jail?

QUESTION 2: What steps do you think the Board of Supervisors should take to improve the foster care system and in particular to provide safe emergency or temporary placement for infants and children?

Supervisor District 1

Los Angeles County Supervisor for District 1 Hilda Solis is running unopposed.

At press time, there was no response from the following candidate for the position of Supervisor District 1: Hilda Solis

Supervisor District 3

CANDIDATE

Eric Preven



OCCUPATION:
Journalist
WEBSITE:
www.ericpreven.
com

QUALIFICATIONS

Since 2015, Eric and his brother Joshua Preven have been writing a watchdog column for CityWatchLA.com. About a year ago the column started running as "The Preven Report." Government and politics in Los Angeles is the focus of their work. In June Eric and Joshua won the 2017 LA Press Club Award for Online Political Commentary for their CityWatchLA article...*

ANSWER

Q1: Haven of Hope has been operating in San Antonio, Texas for the past eight years, during which time the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in that city has decreased by 15%. Haven of Hope is centered on a 22-acre "one-stop shop" campus, where 30 agencies provide services such as housing, food, job training, child care and even kennels for pets. Mental health and addiction treatment is done across the street at the Restoration Center...*

Q2: There is a good 'simulation' training program currently in use, where actors play the roles, and new social workers can break down the scenes in the interest of learning. I think more seasoned workers, should participate, too. Everyone can improve. And those who don't want to improve, ought to call it quits. Trainings like this can also give supervisors a real feeling for who would be best for various assignments...*

Daniel Glaser

No photo provided

OCCUPATION:
Owner/President

at Dan Glaser Properties

WEBSITE:

www.facebook.com/ danielglaserLA County No responses provided at time of printing.

At press time, there was no response from the following candidates for Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3: Sheila Kuehl

No qualifications provided at time of printing.

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16400?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

Los Angeles County Assessor

TERM: 4 years

TERM BEGINS: December 1, 2018 SALARY: \$209,912 per year

DUTIES: The County Assessor locates all taxable property in the County and identifies ownership, values all property taxation, reassesses property upon change of ownership or completion of new construction, appears be-

fore the Assessment Appeals board, lists the value of all property on the assessment roll by Assessor's parcel number, produces Assessor's parcel maps, and processes all property tax exemptions.

Each candidate for Assessor was asked to submit a brief statement of qualifications, and to answer the following two questions: **QUESTION 1:** What criteria should voters use to evaluate candidates for Assessor? What are your strongest qualifications for office? QUESTION 2: What steps would you take to reduce the possibility of favoritism or corruption when reassessing property in Los Angeles County?

CANDIDATE

Krish Indra Kumar



OCCUPATION: Deputy Assessor, Los Angeles County

WEBSITE: www.krishkumar.

QUALIFICATIONS ANSWERS

- ◆ Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, Riverside 2004
- Santa Barbara County Assessor's Office 2006-
- ◆ Los Angeles County Assessor's Office 2007-Present
- State Board of Equalization Advanced Appraisal Certificate 2009

Q1: The Assessor office should be run by someone that has worked in the office as an appraiser for many years. This will allow the Assessor to really understand how to do this job and how to run the office effectively.

Q2: Part of my campaign is not to take donations, therefore if elected there would not be any suspicion of favoritism. Also I would want to make the office as transparent as possible. This includes openly making public reductions made in assessments and the reasons why they were done. It is public information anyways but I want to make it much easier displayed.

Jeffrey Prang



OCCUPATION: Assessor, Los **Angeles County** WEBSITE: www.jeffreyprang. com

- Los Angeles County Assessor since 2014
- West Hollywood Mayor/ Councilmember, 1997-2014
- Over 25 years in public service in LA County
- Assessor Jeffrey Prang's leadership has earned the endorsements of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, and LA County Supervisors Sheila Kuehl, Hilda Solis, Janice Hahn, and Mark Ridley-Thomas

Q1: With 1400 employees and a nearly \$200 million budget, the Assessor's Office is a complex agency that requires an experienced administrator. The Assessor needs to work effectively with other county departments to support vital local services. As the incumbent, with extensive experience as an elected official and public administrator, I have undertaken substantial technological innovation, increased access to information, and worked with other county offices and the State to improve the quality of public service.

Q2: I can proudly say that I have worked successfully in my first term to address these issues. Our new technology system has multiple layers of security to prevent abuse at any level. Additionally, we have implemented a Quality Assurance Unit, and new policies that limit the assessment authority of any individual employee and mandate supervisorial review of assessment changes. If reelected, I will continue to ensure the utmost integrity in the Assessment process.

Sandy Sun



OCCUPATION: Deputy Assessor, Los **Angeles County** WEBSITE: www.sandysun.net

- Deputy Assessor, Los Angeles County (2000 current)
- ◆ 18 years in public service
- Advanced Appraisal Certificate, State Board of Equalization (2004)

Q1: In 168 years, there has never been a female Assessor. As an 18 year veteran of the Assessor's Office, I'm fully trained in both Real and Personal Property Appraisal. Appraisal is the primary job at the Assessor's Office. With 18 vears actual hands-on work experience in multiple sections and regions throughout the years; I bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to this position. I have the qualifications, desire and passion to serve the public...*

O2: In order to stop favoritism and/or corruption it would require complete transparency and accountability, starting with top management on down to the employees. If elected, I would have an open door policy where employees can share their concerns freely without fear of retaliation.

At press time, there was no response from the following candidates for Los Angeles County Assessor: John "Lower Taxes" Loew

^{*} Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16398?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

Los Angeles County Sheriff

TERM: 4 years

TERM BEGINS: December 1, 2018 **SALARY:** \$303,098 per year

DUTIES: The County Sheriff administers the police function of the County, and is responsible for enforcement of all laws and regulations as required or requested by statute, participates in programs for rehabilitation, prevention of

crime and suppression of delinquency; directs and coordinates emergency services; maintains security and assists in the functions of the Superior Courts; and operates five County iail facilities.

Each candidate for Sheriff was asked to submit a brief statement of qualifications, and to answer the following two questions: **QUESTION 1:** What can the Sheriff do to deal more effectively with mentally ill prisoners incarcerated in County jail?

QUESTION 2: What steps do you feel should be taken to correct the problems of brutality that have been identified within the County jails?

CANDIDATE

Alex Villanueva



OCCUPATION: Sheriff's Lieutenant, Los Angeles County

WEBSITE: www.alexvillan

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Sworn member, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 1986-2018
- Planning Commissioner, La Habra Heights, 2015-present
- Adjunct Professor, Criminal Justice, California State University, Long Beach 2006-2010
- Doctor of Public Administration, University of La Verne, 2005
- ◆ Founding President, Los Angeles Sheriff's Professional Association

ANSWERS

Q1: We can start by diverting many of those who suffer from mental illnesses from ever setting foot in the County jail. Those initial contacts in the community are the vital first step towards triaging the mentally ill person and finding ways to accommodate the intervention and treatment in the least restrictive environment available. That means finding alternative housing and sufficient support resources to keep them engaged with their...*

Q2: In order to properly address the issue of brutality, or better yet described as violence within the County jails, requires a healthy organizational culture within the entire department, one that values the services provided by those who are assigned to the County jails. There needs to be a robust force prevention effort, coupled with quality training that complies with Standards of Training for Corrections (STC), mandated by the state....*

At press time, there was no response from the following candidates for Los Angeles County Sheriff: Jim McDonnell, Robert "Bob" Lindsey

* Complete information at: www.votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/area/69/contests/contest/16399?&county=los%20angeles%20county&election_authority_id=19

How Do I Evaluate Ballot Propositions?

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish. Do you agree with those goals? Is the measure consistent with your ideas about government? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
- Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Check where the money is coming from on the Voter's Edge California website: www.VotersEdge.org/ca
- Is the measure written well? Will it create conflicts in law that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it "good government," or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?
- Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict, or obligate government revenues? If so, weigh the benefit of securing funding for this measure against the cost of reducing overall flexibility in the budget.
- Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?

- ◆ Does the measure deal with one issue that can be easily decided by a YES or NO vote? Or, is it a complex issue that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?
- If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose? All constitutional amendments require voter approval; what we put into the Constitution would have to come back to the ballot to be changed.
- Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure. Beware of half-truths.



www.votersedge.org



Authorizes Bonds Funding Parks, Natural Resources Protection, Climate Adaptation, Water Quality and Supply, and Flood Protection.

THE QUESTION: Should the State sell \$4.1 billion in bonds to fund parks, natural resources protection, climate adaptation, water quality and supply, and flood protection?

THE SITUATION

California operates programs to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, prevent floods, ensure safe drinking water, other water related programs, and parks. The State also provides grants and loans to local governments and other organizations for similar programs. Almost \$5 billion each year is spent on such programs. The money comes from a combination of the sale of general obligation bonds issued by the State, revenue generated by fees, and the State's General Fund, which is the state's main operating fund.

During the past 17 years voters approved almost \$27 billion in general obligation bonds for various natural resources projects, of which the State still has almost \$9 billion available. Most of that money is available for water quality, supply and infrastructure purposes authorized by Proposition 1 in 2014.

General obligation bonds are sold to investors and are paid off from the State's General Fund. The State repays the principal and interest over time, often several decades.

THE PROPOSAL

This proposition will allow the State to sell \$4.1 billion in bonds. The amount includes \$4 million new bonds and \$100 million previously authorized, but unsold bonds.

The proposition provides funding to state departments and local agencies for specific natural resources related purposes. The money is designated for a wide range of projects across the State including: natural resource and wildlife conservation; climate preparedness to address the effects of climate change; ocean, coastal, and river improvements; maintenance of and creation of parks and recreation projects; flood protection; and water quality and groundwater preservation projects.

Proposition 68 requires at least 15%-20% of the funds for each use specified for use in "disadvantaged communities." Local governments will be affected by this proposition because they can use bond money by agreeing to cost sharing to pay for projects.

Proposition 68 requires at least 15%-20% of the funds for each use specified for use in "disadvantaged communities." Local governments will be affected by this proposition because they can use bond money by agreeing to cost sharing to pay for projects.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Repaying the bonds is expected to cost an estimated \$200 million each year for 40 years, resulting in a total cost of \$7.8 billion. There may be savings to local governments in tens of millions of dollars because the bond money available will relieve the local governments from paying for all of a project. There are unknown costs and savings associated with the actual operation and impacts of the projects produced.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ★ Prop 68 is an investment to safeguard water quality and to protect natural resources in uncertain environmental
- Prop 68 brings safe drinking water and parks for communities in need.

OPPONENTS SAY

- ★ Not enough money is actually dedicated to improving parks in all parts of the state.
- ★ California has enough debt and does not need to add to it by having to pay for a new bond measure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Supporters: This proposition is on the ballot by action of the Legislature and the Governor.

Yes on 68 Californians for Clean Water and Safe Parks. yes68ca.com

Opponents: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association: www.hjta.org

(The president of this group wrote the opposing argument in the Voter Information Guide. At press time, there is no known campaign opposing this Proposition.)

© 2018 League of Women Voters of California Education Fund

About Bonds:

What are Bonds? Bonds are a form of longterm borrowing that the state uses to raise money for infrastructure projects. The state sells bonds to investors and agrees to repay the investors, with interest, according to a specified schedule.

Why are Bonds Used? Projects such as roads, educational facilities, prisons, parks, office buildings, and housing for veterans involve large dollar costs, and are used over many years. The use of bonds helps to fund the initial large dollar costs, which would be hard to fund out of dayto-day operating revenues. Also, the repayment of these bonds over time means that future taxpayers who benefit from the facilities will help to pay for them.

What are the Direct Costs of Bond Financing?

The state must repay the principal amount of the bonds, plus interest, over time to the investors until the bonds are fully paid off. The interest cost of repaying bonds depends primarily on the current interest rate and on the time period over which the bonds have to be repaid.

Requires That Certain New Transportation Revenues Be Used for Transportation Purposes.

THE QUESTION: Should the Legislature be required to dedicate and direct revenues from the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1) to transportation purposes and exempt this revenue from California's annual spending limit?

THE SITUATION

This Proposition was part of a legislative package which included SB 1, signed by Gov. Brown in April 2017.

SB 1 increased the state's excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel, dedicating this revenue to transportation purposes as provided by the Constitution. In addition, SB 1 increased sales taxes on diesel fuel and created a new vehicle registration fee, the Transportation Improvement Fee (TIF) based on a vehicle's value. The Constitutional provision restricting the use of the excise tax on diesel fuel to transportation purposes does not to apply sales tax on such fuel; nor does it apply to the newly created TIF.

THE PROPOSAL

Prop 69 would amend the State Constitution to:

- ★ Restrict the new diesel sales tax revenue and a Transportation Improvement Fee (TIF) on vehicles from SB 1, to be used solely for transportation purposes,
- ★ Prohibit borrowing from the Public Transportation Account for non-transportation purposes or using TIF revenues to repay state transportation bonds without voter approval.
- ★ Allow revenues from SB 1 to be excluded from California's spending limit which places an "upper bound" each year on the amount of monies that can be spent from state tax proceeds.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Because Prop 69 does not change the tax and fee rates established in SB 1, there is no direct fiscal effect. Prop 69 could affect how some monies are spent in the future by restricting the use of revenues from diesel sales taxes and TIF fees.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ★ Prop 69 won't raise taxes one cent. It ensures recentlyenacted transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can be used only for road and transportation improvement projects.
- ★ Prop 69 constitutionally protects transportation funds by prohibiting the Legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes and prioritizes repair of deteriorating roadways.
- ★ We need Prop 69 to protect revenues to fix the poor condition of our roads which pose a major safety threat to California drivers and to provide smoother, less congested roads and highways.

OPPONENTS SAY

- ★ Sacramento has had plenty of money to fix crumbling roads through transportation-related fees and taxes, but the state has repeatedly spent money on everything but transportation.
- ★ Proponents say Prop 69 will safeguard dollars to fix the poor condition of our roads, but a portion of the money is for transit, including high speed rail and bike lanes, not roads.
- ★ Prop 69 fails to protect ALL transportation dollars such as the \$1 billion annually collected in vehicle weight fees used to backfill the State's General Fund through debt service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Supporters: This proposition is on the ballot by action of the Legislature and the Governor.

Yes on 69 Committee

fixcaroads.com/yes-prop-69/

Opponents: At press time, there is no known formal campaign opposing this Proposition.

Choosing YES or NO on a Proposition

A YES vote means that you approve of the change a proposition would make, and a NO vote means that you want to leave things as they are now.

Requires Legislative Supermajority Vote Approving Use of Cap-and-Trade Reserve Fund.

THE QUESTION: Should (a) California's cap-and-trade greenhouse gas reduction disbursements and (b) a related partial sales tax exemption be made subject to a two-thirds vote in the state Legislature in 2024 to continue the program and the exemption?

THE SITUATION

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) including carbon dioxide, arising from sources like gasoline-powered cars and industry, contribute to climate change. One of California's programs to reduce GHGs is referred to as "cap-and-trade," beginning in 2012 and continuing until 2030.

The state issues a limited number of permits to emit GHGs, about half to be given away and half to be sold at auction. Companies must obtain a permit for each ton of GHG they emit. Permit auction receipts are deposited in a special Fund and are disbursed for GHG programs through the annual budget process, requiring a majority vote in both houses of the Legislature. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates that about \$3 billion will be disbursed from the Fund in 2017-18.

California charges a sales tax on retail sales of most goods but not on the purchase of certain types of equipment through 2030. The LAO estimates that this exemption currently reduces state revenue by about \$250 million annually.

THE PROPOSAL

Prop 70 requires that, beginning in 2024, (a) cap-and-trade disbursements and (b) the sales tax exemption would be suspended until the state Legislature, by a two-thirds vote in both house (rather than by a majority), passes a bill authorizing both to continue. Thereafter, future disbursements would only require a majority vote and the exemption would be reinstated.

FISCAL EFFECTS

The suspension of the sales tax exemption could increase sales tax revenue, by an amount dependent on the length of the suspension period. For a lengthy delay, the increase could be up to a few hundred million dollars annually.

The 2024 two-thirds vote requirement could, temporarily, delay and/or change the mix of state and local programs disbursements compared to what would otherwise occur. The fiscal results are unclear.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ★ Prop 70 forces two-thirds of the legislature reach agreement in 2024 to evaluate if the cap-and-trade has been beneficial for all Californians.
- ★ Prop 70 is part of a historic bipartisan effort to achieve our climate goals, retain good paying jobs to sustain our economy, and protect air quality and public health.

OPPONENTS SAY

- ★ The 2024 two-thirds vote requirement is not achievable, undermining clean energy progress, and empowering special interests out of step with most Californians.
- ★ Prop 70 was passed in only four days with a single committee hearing and no opportunity for public comment. Why was it passed with such speed and secrecy?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Supporters: This proposition is on the ballot by action of the Legislature and the Governor. At press time, there is no known campaign supporting this Proposition.

Opponents: Vote No on Proposition 70, No to Big Oil, a coalition of environmental groups. stopprop70.org

Choosing YES or NO on a Proposition

A YES vote means that you approve of the change a proposition would make, and a NO vote means that you want to leave things as they are now.

Sets Effective Date for Ballot Measures.

THE QUESTION: Should ballot measures approved by a majority of voters take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the results of the election?

THE SITUATION

California's Constitution states that approved measures take effect on the day after the election unless otherwise specified by the measure.

Election officials in each county must count every legally cast ballot, including vote-by-mail ballots received soon after Election Day and provisional ballots once a voter's eligibility is confirmed. The current vote counting process lasts for several weeks after Election Day. The amount of time required to validate a signature on a vote-by-mail ballot and to confirm a voter's eligibility when casting a provisional ballot can take a minimum of two to five minutes and sometimes up to half an hour to research databases to determine if a voter's address has changed and didn't cast a ballot elsewhere.

Each county then forwards the results to the Secretary of State who certifies a formal "statement of the vote" no later than 38 days after Election Day.

THE PROPOSAL

Prop 71 would amend the State Constitution so that:

- ★ The effective date for state initiatives and referenda passed by a majority of voters shall be on the fifth day after the Secretary of State files the "statement of the vote," or no later than forty-three days after the election.
- ★ If a referendum petition is filed against a part of a statute, the remainder of the statute shall not be delayed from going into effect.
- ★ A measure may provide that it becomes operative after its effective date.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Little or no fiscal effect is likely with Prop 71 because it is rare for state ballot measures to create substantial changes in revenues or spending in forty-three days after an election.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ★ Ballot measures should not go into effect until all votes have been counted.
- ★ Prop 71 is an update of our election laws that also allows authors to specify the date a measure becomes effective.

OPPONENTS SAY

- ★ Prop 71 is not necessary. The law as it exists works well.
- ★ There may be times when it is good for laws to go into effect immediately after Election Day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Supporters: This proposition is on the ballot by action of the Legislature and the Governor.

California Democratic Party

cadem.org

Opponents: Gary Wesley

E-mail: Gary.wesley@yahoo.com

(Mr. Wesley, a northern California attorney, wrote the opposing argument as an individual. At press time, there is no known campaign opposing this Proposition.)

Who can vote?

You may register to vote in California if:

- ★ You are a U.S. citizen and California resident.
- ★ You will be at least 18 years old on election day.
- ★ You are not in prison or on parole for a felony.
- ★ You have not been judged mentally incompetent.

When must you re-register to vote?

You need to fill out a new voter registration form if:

- ★ You change your residence address or mailing address.
- ★ You change your name.
- ★ You want to change your political party affiliation.

If you registered and your name does not appear on the voter list at your polling place, you have a right to cast a provisional ballot at any polling place in your county.

Permits Legislature to Exclude Newly Constructed Rain-Capture Systems From Property-Tax Reassessment Requirement.

THE QUESTION: Should the value of new construction of rain-capture systems be excluded from reassessment of property for property taxes purposes?

THE SITUATION

California property taxes are typically charged at 1.1% of the full cash value of the property, initially assessed at the time of purchase or construction. This taxable value can be adjusted for inflation at a rate of no more than 2% per year. Normally a property's value is not fully updated until it is sold or changes owners, but certain improvements can also trigger an updated value. In that case, only the value of the improvement (usually a major renovation or new construction) is considered, and this value is then added to the taxable base value of the property. A few types of improvements are already excluded from reassessment: solar energy systems, fire sprinkler systems, changes to increase accessibility for people with disabilities, and seismic retrofitting.

THE PROPOSAL

Prop 72 would add systems installed by property owners or developers to catch rainwater and store it for use on the property to the list of improvements excluded from reassessment for property taxes. The exclusion is only for systems installed between January 2018 and the end of 2028. The exclusion ends when the property is sold.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Tax exemptions are generally thought to provide incentives, in this case to encourage property owners to install raincapture systems by exempting them from property tax reassessments at the time of installation. Because these systems are usually not very expensive compared to the total cost of real estate, individual tax savings would be fairly small. The loss to local government revenue from property taxes would also be correspondingly small, though this amount would increase if the incentive succeeds in encouraging construction of more rain-capture systems. The property owner would save money on water bills by using the water captured by the system, also conserving water from public utilities for other uses, including drinking water and agricultural irrigation.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ★ In a state prone to drought, Prop 72 provides a financial incentive for homeowners to help conserve water.
- ★ Savings from Prop 72 will extend to lower water bills for people with rain-capture systems.

OPPONENTS SAY

★ There are no official arguments against and no opponents to this bill.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Supporters: This proposition is on the ballot by action of the Legislature and the Governor. At press time there is no known formal campaign supporting this Proposition. **Opponents:** At press time there is no known formal campaign against this Proposition.

© 2018 League of Women Voters of California Education Fund



The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) produced these nonpartisan explanations of state propositions, with supporting and opposing arguments. The arguments come from many sources and are not limited to those presented in the Official Voter Information Guide. The LWVCEF does not judge the merits of the arguments or guarantee their validity.

Visit our website, **CAvotes.org**, to:

- Learn more about the ballot measures and voter registration
- See a list of local Leagues
- Sign up and become a member, and to donate or volunteer

GET THE FACTS BEFORE YOU VOTE!





Get in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports them

Use your address to get a personalized ballot

Check where, when, and how to vote

Keep track of your choices and use them to vote

Share and start the conversation!

www.votersedge.org

Brought to you by





MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®

The *League of Women Voters* is a non-partisan political organization of women and men that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join Us Now!



Contact your local chapter of the League of Women Voters today!

Antelope Valley (661) 274-2704 www.lwvav.org

Beach Cities (310) 793-0569 www.lwvbeachcities.org

Claremont Area (909) 624-9457 www.claremont.ca.lwvnet.org

East San Gabriel Valley (626) 967-8055 www.esqv.ca.lwvnet.org

Glendale-Burbank (818) 925-4598 www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org

Long Beach Area (562) 930-0573 www.lba.ca.lwvnet.org Los Angeles (213) 368-1616 www.lwvlosangeles.org

Palos Verdes Peninsula (310)784-7787 www.lwvpalosverdes.org

> Pasadena Area (626) 798-0965 www.lwv-pa.org

Santa Monica (310) 692-1494 www.lwvsantamonica.org

Torrance (310) 223-6897 www.lwvtorrancearea.org

Whittier (562) 947-5818 www.whittier.ca.lwvnet.org