



# 2024 Voting Guide

# Introduction

**APLA Health is proud to provide you with our 2024 Voting Guide for the upcoming national election on November 5, focused on the issues, races, and candidates that will have the greatest impact on healthcare, LGBTQ+ rights, and HIV policy at the federal, state, and local levels.**

As a non-profit organization, APLA Health cannot endorse individual candidates. We provide insights only on races where we operate clinics or facilities in Congressional, state Senate, Assembly, and City Council districts. We've gathered information from campaign websites and other reliable sources to help you make informed decisions.

While we cannot endorse candidates, we can take positions on local and statewide ballot initiatives relevant to our mission and the communities we serve.

Voting is one of the most important rights we have in a democracy and it is important to make your voice heard to influence the policy decisions that will affect your daily life.

We encourage you to participate! In California, all registered voters can vote by mail. If work is a barrier, remember that California law allows you to take up to two hours off to vote without losing pay. For more details, please refer to the Secretary of State's [voting rights notices](#), available in several languages.

In this guide you will find information on candidate positions regarding HIV, healthcare, LGBTQ+ issues, and statewide and local initiatives that may affect all underserved communities.

Thank you for being an engaged voter!

## Voter registration and Election Day information:

- Election Day is **Tuesday, November 5**, and polling locations are open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
- If you are already registered to vote, make sure to [verify your registration status](#).
- [Check your polling location](#) so you know where to go on Election Day.
- If you have *not* registered to vote or have recently moved to a new address, [make sure to register to vote!](#) The deadline is **Monday, October 21**.

**Eligible voters who miss the deadline to register or re-register to vote** within 14 days of an election can complete this process to register and vote at their county elections office, polling place, or vote center.

For more information on restriction and requirements for voter registration, [visit the California Secretary of State website](#).

## Alternative Voter Guides

For more details on all the races and state initiatives in the upcoming election, visit one of the following non-partisan voting guides:

- [League of Women Voters' of California Easy Voter Guide](#)
- [California Voter Foundation's recommended nonpartisan voter guides](#)
- [Vote Smart](#)

# President

*The President of the United States wields enormous powers that affect all Americans, as well as people around the world. The President's foreign and domestic policy initiatives, funding priorities, legislative measures, executive actions, cabinet and court appointments all impact our daily lives and most certainly civil rights and access to healthcare. All presidential elections are consequential and the 2024 election is no exception, so please exercise your constitutional right and vote on November 5!*

## Vice President Kamala Harris, Democratic Presidential Candidate

Vice President Kamala Harris has centered her presidential campaign on reproductive rights and healthcare, firm support for the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare, and on her [campaign website](#) has pledged, if elected, to pass the Equality Act, which would expand protections for LGBTQ+ people in housing, employment, education, healthcare, and more. Harris has a long history of supporting LGBTQ+ rights as California's Attorney General, and officiated at some of the first same-sex marriages in San Francisco. During her term in the U.S. Senate, Harris introduced a bill to mandate cost-free PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) for people at risk of HIV. Harris speaks frequently on racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ+ discrimination. The Biden/Harris Administration reversed a Trump Administration regulation that had removed protections for gender identity and sexual orientation in Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. She has also promised, if elected, to pass federal legislation restoring the national standard of abortion legality up to viability, which was undone when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The Biden/Harris Administration expanded subsidies for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act, which has helped reduce the nation's uninsured population to historically low levels and, while Vice President Harris once supported Medicare for All, she now promises to improve access and coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Harris has also centered her candidacy on the nation's housing crisis, with a promise to build some three million new housing units during her administration and has advanced a proposal to give first-time homebuyers \$25,000 in down payment assistance.

## Former President Donald Trump, Republican Presidential Candidate

Former President Donald Trump has a decidedly mixed history on HIV and healthcare in general. While President, Trump initiated the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative that has provided hundreds of millions of dollars to support ending HIV/AIDS, including funding to support PrEP for people at risk of HIV. That said, Trump has repeatedly advocated and attempted to eviscerate the Affordable Care Act (ACA), passed under President Obama. Trump promised to replace the ACA with a better plan during his term as President, but a plan has never materialized. When pushed on that plan during this year's presidential debate, Trump said there was a "concept" for his plan, but could not detail any such plan. Trump's [campaign website](#) promises to improve healthcare, reduce the cost of prescription drugs, and close the border and deport immigrants. The Trump Administration issued revised regulations on Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, removing protections in healthcare based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Trump also addressed transgender care during the current campaign, stating, falsely, that schools are performing gender-affirming surgeries on students: "Can you imagine you're a parent and your son leaves the house and you say, 'Jimmy, I love you so much, go have a good day in school,' and your son comes back with a brutal operation?" His campaign website also touts his support for ending "men in women's sports," which is a key feature of the ongoing right-wing campaign to stigmatize the transgender people and roll back LGBTQ+ rights, including book bans, bans on gender-affirming care, and gender-appropriate bathroom access in schools.

# U.S. Senate

## Steve Garvey

Republican Steve Garvey is a political newcomer who says on his website that he is not defined by party. Garvey was born in [Tampa, Florida](#) and earned a B.S. from Michigan State University. He was a first baseman for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres from 1969 to 1987, and played with the Dodgers when they won the World Championship in 1981. He founded Garvey Marketing Group and worked with causes such as the Special Olympics, Juvenile Diabetes, The Blind Children Center, The Sisters of Carondelet, United Way, Ronald McDonald House, St. Vincent DePaul Center, and Pediatrics AIDS.

On his [campaign website](#), Garvey promotes stronger border protections, new approaches to end homelessness including ending Housing First, better funding and resources for police, as well as stiffer criminal penalties. On healthcare, Garvey stands for lowering costs through competition, ensuring all Americans have access to health coverage, reforming Medicare and Medicaid to ensure sustainability. He opposes one-size-fits-all solutions to healthcare access like Medicare for All.

## U.S. Rep Adam Schiff

Democratic U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff has been representing California in the U.S. House since 2000 and is likely best known statewide as the lead prosecutor in the first impeachment trial of President Trump. He later participated in the House investigation of the January 6 attack on the capitol. Schiff's Southern California district covers Pasadena, Burbank, Glendale, Hollywood, and West Hollywood. Schiff has been a longtime supporter of healthcare for all, the expansion of Medicaid, the Equality Act (which would expand protections for the LGBTQ+ population), and in 2023 introduced the PrEP Access and Coverage Act that would have eliminated out-of-pocket and other costs to increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis. Schiff's [website page on LGBTQ+ issues](#) addresses his efforts to expand protections and ensure LGBTQ+ rights, including in blood donations and equal treatment for LGBTQ+ couples hoping to adopt children. He is vice-chair of the House LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus.

# U.S. House of Representatives — Congressional District 44

*Congressional District 44 extends from West Hollywood to Pasadena and from Echo Park to the Angeles National Forest. It includes Atwater Village, Burbank, East Hollywood, Echo Park, Elysian Valley, Fairfax, Glendale, Griffith Park, Hancock Park, Hollywood, Hollywood Hills, Larchmont Village, Los Feliz, Mid-Wilshire, Miracle Mile, Park La Brea, Pasadena, Shadow Hills, Silver Lake, Sunland, Tujunga, Universal City, and West Hollywood.*

## Alex Balekian

Alex Balekian is a Glendale native and an intensive care physician. The son of immigrants, he positions himself as someone who is out of step with the current Republican Party and argues that progressive government has become intrusive. Balekian's [campaign website](#) calls for lower costs for healthcare and term limits for political offices which, he states, will reduce the influence of pharmaceutical companies and other lobbying groups that drive up medical costs. He supports single-use bathrooms for transgender individuals, does not believe the government should be telling people who can play sports, and that parental control over whether their children can attend drag performances eliminates the need for government bans. On immigration, Balekian supports a points-based system employed in Canada to admit immigrants with skills, language proficiency, higher education, and relevant work experience. On homelessness, Balekian proffers institutionalization for those too mentally ill to provide for themselves, stipends for low-income families to achieve independence, and says each state must create programs tailored to address drug addiction.

## Laura Friedman, Democratic California Assembly Member

Democratic California Assembly Member Laura Friedman is running for the House seat previously held by U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff. Friedman addresses a broad range of issues on her [campaign website](#) including expansion of healthcare for all, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive rights, and more. She receives an A+ rating from both Health Access and Equality California. In the Assembly, Friedman authored a bill extending full rights to domestic partners, including property taxes, co-authored a bill allowing for third genders on state documents, and supported legislation protecting individuals seeking gender-affirming care.

# U.S. House of Representatives — Congressional District 43

*Congressional District 43 spans South Los Angeles and LAX, Westchester, Playa Del Rey; the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County comprised of Lennox, West Athens, West Carson, Harbor Gateway, El Camino Village, and Watts; Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Torrance, Compton, and Willowbrook.*

## U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, a Democrat, is currently serving her 17th term in the House of Representatives. She is widely recognized as an outspoken voice on housing, civil rights, maternal health in minority communities, and has been a leader in the fight against AIDS since the onset of the epidemic. Rep. Waters spearheaded the Minority AIDS Initiative in 1999 to build capacity and reduce HIV in communities of color. The initiative now provides hundreds of millions of dollars to combat AIDS among communities of color, who continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV. Waters has been a fierce advocate for HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS), and has consistently led Congressional efforts to maintain funding for all Ryan White programs despite House Republicans' attempts to gut this funding. She sits on both the Congressional Black and Equality Caucuses. As of this writing, Rep. Waters' campaign website is not functioning.

## Steve Williams

Republican Steve Williams is a native of Harbor City, a real estate broker, and a sales representative in the telecommunications industry. His [campaign website](#) advances protecting retirement income, reforming long-term care, reducing prescription drug costs, decreasing living expenses, and raising property values.

# U.S. House of Representatives — Congressional District 34

*Congressional District 34 lies entirely within the City of Los Angeles and covers Central, East, and Northeast LA, Boyle Heights, Chinatown, City Terrace, Cypress Park, DTLA, Eagle Rock, El Sereno, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Koreatown, Lincoln Heights, Little Tokyo, and Little Bangladesh, Montecito Heights, Monterey Hills, Mount Washington, and Westlake.*

## U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez, Democrat, was elected to Congress in 2017, having previously served in the California State Assembly. Gomez' [campaign website](#) touts his background as an educator, advocate for renters' rights, and union organizer. As the son of immigrants who grew up without health insurance, Gomez advocates for Medicare for All, reproductive rights, expansion of paid family leave, and affordable housing. In the California Assembly, Gomez successfully sponsored bills to train nursing home staff on working with LGBTQ+ populations, another to change birth certificates for same-gender couples, another to require the state to collect data on sexual orientation, and a bill to eliminate "gay panic" as a legitimate defense in criminal trials. Gomez supports expanding child care for all families, and in 2022 Gomez' office led on a letter to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare services to secure payment to community health centers for administering the mpox vaccine.

## David Kim

David Kim is also a Democrat, the son of a Korean pastor, a community organizer, and an attorney in Los Angeles County's children's courts. Kim's [campaign website](#) addresses a broad range of issues including poverty in his district, protecting reproductive rights, social determinants of health in housing, income, education, expansion of mental health care, parity for women in the workplace, and more. Kim also addresses health disparities in the LGBTQ+ population and calls for passage of the Equality Act which would protect against discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in housing, education, employment, and healthcare. Kim also calls for federal laws that protect bodily autonomy and the recognition of non-binary gender identities in federal documentation.



# Congressional District 29

*Congressional District 29 is in the norther San Fernando Valley and includes San Fernando, Van Nuys, Pacoima, Arleta, Panorama City, Sylmar, and parts of Sun Valley and North Hollywood.*

Current U. S. Rep. Cárdenas announced his retirement in November 2023, leaving the seat open.

## Benito “Benny” Bernal

Benito “Benny” Bernal is a Republican candidate focused on “protecting the rights of parents and the innocence of children.” On his [campaign website](#), he criticizes the Governor for signing Assembly Bill 1955 (Ward), which protects the privacy rights of transgender and gender-expansive youth by prohibiting school board policies that require teachers and school staff to notify parents that their children request accommodations for their gender identity that do not align with their sex assigned at birth. Bernal’s platform also focuses on national security and stronger border policies, increasing veteran services, youth programming, education, and housing affordability.

## Luz Rivas

Luz Rivas is a Democrat and the current state representative of Assembly District 48. Rivas’s [campaign website](#) does not list her policy priorities for the House of Representatives, but it does list state legislative accomplishments in youth education, environmental protection, and preventing youth homelessness. In 2023, she authored AB 1163, which expands data collection efforts by the state departments of public health and health care services. Rivas has earned a score of 100% on Equality California’s (EQCA) legislative score card and has earned their endorsement.

# Congressional District 37

*This district covers parts of southwest Los Angeles County including Culver City, Ladera Heights, View Point-Windsor Hills, Mid-City, Century City, Beverlywood, South Robertson, Exposition Park, University Park, Vermont Knolls, West Adams, Leimert Park, Jefferson Park, Vermont Square, Hyde Park, Crenshaw, and Baldwin Hills.*

## Democratic Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove

Democratic Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove was elected to the California State Assembly in 2018 and to the state Senate in 2021. She previously worked in the non-profit sector on job creation and public arts, and served as district director for then California Assembly Member and Senator Holly Mitchell. Her [campaign site](#) prioritizes expanding voting rights, reproductive justice, healthcare for all, criminal justice reform, job creation, more investment in housing, a Green New Deal and immediate climate action, and investments in education and the arts. Kamlager-Dove is a member of the House Equality Caucus and is a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ+ community.

## Juan Rey

Juan Rey is a political independent and has worked as a train mechanic for LA Metro for 21 years. His [campaign site](#) calls for a working-class political party to combat big corporate interests to fight economic inequity, support workers' rights, and an end to financing of U.S. wars overseas.

# Congressional District 42

*Congressional District 42 covers central Long Beach and suburbs, and extends north through Signal Hill, Bellflower, Norwalk, Downey, and Commerce.*

## John Briscoe

John Briscoe is a Republican who earned a master’s degree in public administration from California State University at Long Beach and a master’s degree in business administration from Claremont Graduate University in 1989. His career experience includes working as a broker and a property asset manager, and service as the vice president of the Ocean View School District Board of Education. Briscoe’s [campaign website](#) calls for lower prices for consumer goods, increased funding for police, and tighter border controls. On healthcare, Briscoe supports maintaining protections on pre-existing conditions in the affordable Care Act, lower healthcare costs and allowing cross-state health insurance sales to increase competition.

## Democratic U.S. Rep. Robert Garcia

Democratic U.S. Rep. Robert Garcia was the first LGBTQ+ mayor of Long Beach and as a Peruvian American, the first Latino elected to that office. His [campaign website](#) addresses the consolidation of wealth in the hands of the powerful few, leadership on pandemic preparedness and bio-security, voting rights, raising the minimum wage nationally to \$15 an hour, strengthening Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, protecting immigrant rights, background checks on gun purchases and a ban on assault weapons, protecting LGBTQ+ healthcare, the Green New Deal, expansion of affordable housing, and more. As Mayor of Long Beach, Garcia ensured the availability of transgender healthcare in the city and supported the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative.

# State Legislative Elections

*In addition to researching publicly available information via campaign websites and other reputable sources, the team consulted Equality California's (EQCA) 2023 legislative scorecard, which is the most recent version available. EQCA is a statewide advocacy organization that focuses on LGBTQ+ equality in several sectors, including healthcare, education, public safety, and others. Scores are based on how state representatives have voted on EQCA's key legislative priorities. For candidates who were not serving in the state legislature in 2023, no score is available.*

## State Senate

### Senate District 33

*Senate District 33 includes the following cities portions or all of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Lynwood, Maywood, Huntington Park, portions of Lakewood, most of Long Beach, Paramount, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, and Walnut Park.*

#### Lena Gonzalez

Lena Gonzalez is a Democrat and the incumbent candidate seeking re-election for SD 33. She has been serving the City of Long Beach since 2014, first as a City Council member and then as a State Senator when she won the 2019 special election to replace then-State Senator Ricardo Lara. Gonzalez' [campaign website](#) promotes fully funding schools, green energy, affordable housing, lower drug prices, increased access to healthcare, and expanding aid to make a college education cost-free. Gonzalez has a 100% score on EQCA's 2023 legislative scorecard. In her first year, Gonzales authored SB 283, the Equal Insurance HIV Act, which prohibits life insurance companies from discriminating against people with HIV.

#### Mario Paz

Mario Paz is a Republican candidate running for SD 33. According to [Ballotpedia](#), Paz has 30 years of accounting experience. Paz is running on a platform that supports limited government spending, housing affordability, and parental rights. Paz's [campaign website](#) outlines his top policy issues, which include addressing the state's budget deficit, the costs of "illegal immigration," education, and limiting access to abortion. With regards to LGBTQ+ policy issues, Paz states that the Los Angeles Unified School District's trans-affirming curricula contributes to the ways that the State of California "fails...Education."

## Senate District 35

*State Senator Steven Bradford is terming out, ending 12 years of service to the communities of South Los Angeles, including the following cities, portions of cities, neighborhoods, and unincorporated communities: Carson, Compton, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, a portion of Long Beach, a portion of Torrance, San Pedro, Watts, West Carson, West Compton, Willowbrook, and Wilmington. Both candidates running for Bradford's seat are Democrats.*

### Michelle Chambers

Michelle Chambers has over 30 years of public service experience at the local, state, and federal levels. She previously served as a City Council member for Compton and most recently as the External Affairs Manager at the California Department of Justice. Her [campaign website](#) focuses on protecting reproductive freedom, ending homelessness and building affordable housing, and public safety.

### Laura Richardson

Laura Richardson served in the Long Beach City Council from 2000-2006 and then served in the State Assembly for one term. She then served as a member of Congress from 2007-2013. Her [campaign website](#) focuses on creating housing, reducing homelessness, supporting organized labor, and protecting seniors, reproductive healthcare, and LGBTQ+ people.

# State Assembly

## Assembly District 43

*Assembly District 43 includes the cities and neighborhoods of Arleta, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sylmar, San Fernando, Sun Valley, and Valley Glen.*

### Victoria Garcia

Victoria Garcia is a Republican running for AD 43. She was elected to the San Fernando City Council in March 2024, in a special election following Council member Cindy Montañez's death. Garcia's [campaign website](#) lists her top policy issues as public safety, cost of living, and parental rights. The [San Fernando Sun reports](#) that Garcia had the support of local conservative groups that advocate forced outing policies at school boards, and that her platform supports parental rights policies that hinder youth access to gender-affirming care.

### Celeste Rodriguez

Celeste Rodriguez is a Democrat running for AD 43. She is the current mayor of the City of San Fernando, where she has served on the city council since 2000. According to Rodriguez's [campaign website](#), her platform focuses on economic empowerment, environmental equity, and housing justice. She has the endorsement of EQCA.

## Assembly District 51

*Assembly District 51 includes the cities and neighborhoods of Beverly Hills, Cheviot Hills, Fairfax, Hollywood, Rancho Park, Santa Monica, Sawtelle, West Hollywood, West Los Angeles, and Westwood.*

### Stephan Hohil

Stephan Hohil is the Republican candidate running for AD 51. His platform runs on "family, freedom, and parental rights." His [campaign website](#) has videos in which he mentions that he is running for Assembly District 51 and the Republican Central Committee. He moved to California in January (presumably of 2024).

### Rick Chavez Zbur

Rick Chavez Zbur is the incumbent candidate and a Democrat seeking reelection to AD 51. Before assuming the office, he was the executive director of Equality California. An environmental lawyer by profession, Chavez Zbur has authored legislation on environmental sustainability and bills that expand healthcare access for the LGBTQ+ community. His [campaign website](#) includes several priorities, including the homelessness crisis, housing affordability, and civil rights for LGBTQ+ people and other communities. He has a 100% score on EQCA's legislative scorecard. Disclosure: APLA Health has cosponsored legislation authored by Assembly Member Zbur.

# Assembly District 54

*State Assembly Member Miguel Santiago is terming out, ending 12 years of service to downtown Los Angeles and surrounding eastside communities, including the cities and neighborhoods of Boyle Heights, Chinatown, Commerce, downtown Los Angeles, Koreatown, Macarthur Park, Montebello, Pico-Union, Vernon, and Westlake. Both candidates seeking the office are registered Democrats who are members of the LGBTQ+ community.*

## Mark Gonzalez

Mark Gonzalez is the current District Director of outgoing Assembly Member, Miguel Santiago. Gonzalez has also served as the Chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. According to his [campaign website](#), his platform includes reproductive freedom, economic justice, homelessness, health equity, environmental justice, and civil rights. He has received EQCA's endorsement.

## John Yi

John Yi is a nonprofit leader and community activist. According to Yi's [campaign website](#), his platform focuses on building affordable housing, improving public transit with trains and buses, improving services for older adults, and enhancing public health infrastructure.

# Assembly District 55

*Assembly District 55 includes the following cities and neighborhoods: Baldwin Park, Culver City, Exposition Park, Ladera Heights, Mar Vista, Mid-City, Palms, Pico Robertson, Vermont Square, West Adams, and Windsor Hills.*

## Isaac G. Bryan

Isaac G. Bryan is the incumbent Assembly member seeking re-election. He is a Democrat whose [platform](#) focuses primarily on criminal justice reform, poverty alleviation, and the safety net. He has a 100% score on EQCA's legislative scorecard.

## Keith Cascio

Keith Cascio is a Republican candidate running for AD 55. He is a software developer whose [platform](#) focuses on reducing government spending, supporting law enforcement, and supporting public health as a cost-saving measure for health care.

# Assembly District 65

*Assembly District 65 includes the cities, neighborhoods, and unincorporated communities of Compton, North Long Beach, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro, Watts, West Athens, West Carson, Willowbrook, and Wilmington.*

## Mike Gipson

Mike Gipson is a Democrat and incumbent running for re-election for AD 65. His [platform](#) focuses on education equity, public safety, and reproductive rights. In 2019, Assembly Member Gipson was a principal coauthor of [SB 159 \(Wiener\)](#), an APLA Health-cosponsored bill that allowed pharmacists to provide emergency PrEP and PEP without a doctor's prescription. He was also the Chair of the State Legislative Standing Committee on Infectious Diseases and paid particular attention to disparities in HIV acquisition among young men of color. He has a 100% score on EQCA's legislative score card and has their endorsement.

## Lydia A. Gutierrez

Lydia A. Gutierrez is a Republican candidate running for AD 65. She is a write-in candidate who has also run for LAUSD school board races. At the time of this writing, no additional information is available about Gutierrez's bid for the Assembly seat. However, [her candidate statement for LAUSD school board bid](#) states that she supports parental notification policies at school boards, alarmed that "students could choose their sex and pronouns because of the way that they feel..."

# Assembly District 69

Assembly District 69 includes the cities and communities of Avalon, Catalina Island, Carson, Hawaiian Gardens, Long Beach, and Signal Hill.

## Josh Lowenthal

Josh Lowenthal is a Democrat and incumbent candidate seeking re-election for AD 69. He is the son of former U.S. House Representative Alan Lowenthal and State Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal. Prior to becoming an Assembly member, he ran startup companies in telecommunications and tech. His [platform](#) runs on supporting people experiencing homelessness, strengthening the economy, and creating "good jobs." He has a 100% score on EQCA's legislative scorecard.

## Joshua Rodriguez

Joshua Rodriguez is the Republican candidate running for AD 69. At the time of this writing, he does not have a campaign website beyond an Instagram account for his Assembly bid. The [Instagram account](#) has several posts with captions that are anti-LGBTQ+, including posts of a Pride event at a Long Beach public library and raising of Pride flags, alleging that children are being "groomed." He is a police officer and has run for Long Beach City Council in the past.



# Los Angeles City Council

*Members of the Los Angeles City Council are responsible for creating local ordinances and approving city contracts, imposing and regulating city taxes, ordering elections, managing traffic regulations, overseeing public improvements, and voting on the Mayor's proposed budget. Councilmembers represent people living in the City of Los Angeles across 15 districts.*

## Los Angeles City Council District 2

*Los Angeles City Council District 2 includes the communities of North Hollywood, Studio City, Sun Valley, Valley Glen, Valley Village, Van Nuys, and Toluca Lake.*

### Jillian Burgos

Originally from Ohio, non-partisan candidate Jillian Burgos is a licensed optician, writer, and director. She also owns and runs a murder-mystery theater business. Burgos is a member of LA Forward, Our Revolution, Feel the Bern SFV and LA, and served on the NoHo Neighborhood Council as the arts organization representative, treasurer, and chair of the Housing and Services Committee. Burgos does not note any healthcare-related goals on her campaign site, though she is linked to the Democratic Socialists of America-Los Angeles (DSA-LA), who acknowledge her as an essential healthcare worker through her work as an optician. She also supports the creation of unarmed crisis response teams to assist people experiencing mental health crises. Burgos has voiced support for the LGBTQ+ community on X (formerly Twitter), and supported LGBTQ+ parents at Saticoy Elementary during protests in June 2024. Burgos' key campaign priority, as outlined on her [campaign website](#), is creating healthy communities through affordable housing for all. Her goal is to "rebuild the 'missing middle' of housing" for Angelenos. She supports updating zoning regulations, creating density bonuses for developers with at least 50% affordable units in their buildings, ending illegal short-term rentals, and adding vacancy taxes to empty commercial spaces. She also supports capping annual rent increases at 3% for rent-controlled units, prioritizing street outreach, and opposes sweeps of encampments. Burgos supports Measure HLA and wants to make safety improvements along key streets in District 2, and supports the expansion of City Council and other local government reforms. Burgos also supports universal basic income for people below the federal poverty line. She does not support increasing officer pay and instead proposes shifting funds to community cleanups, volunteer days, and resource fairs.

### Adrin Nazarian

Democrat Adrin Nazarian served in the California State Assembly for a decade, representing District 46. He served as outgoing Los Angeles Council member Krekorian's Chief of Staff before serving in the legislature, and is a member of the State Labor Board. Nazarian sat on the State Assembly Health Committee for several years and passed almost a dozen bills on topics including improved access to healthcare, healthcare financing and hospital services that benefit the patient, prescription drug pricing, support for seizure disorders, dementia care, substance use disorder services, and childhood mental health. He also authored a bill creating Los Angeles County's Abortion Access Safe Haven Pilot Program. He is a long-time ally of the LGBTQ+ community, supporting the GALA LGBTQ+ Armenian Society, and passed a bill in 2021 requiring that professional fiduciaries receive LGBTQ+ cultural competency and sensitivity training as part of their licensing. As outlined on his [campaign website](#), Nazarian is a strong supporter of affordable housing and supports rent control, including the repeal of Costa-Hawkins, as well as housing policies that lead to long-term housing solutions, prioritize shelter, and offer supportive services. He supports local authority over zoning regulations. He also opposes the arrest of unhoused persons who camp in public spaces following *Grants Pass v. Johnson*. Nazarian supports reforming the City Charter and enhancing public safety through infrastructure improvements that support public transit, enhance community policing, and increase pay for officers. He has sponsored several bills to improve the public school system and one to reduce gun violence. Disclosure: Nazarian is a long-time supporter of APLA Health and AIDS Walk Los Angeles.

# Los Angeles City Council District 10

*Los Angeles City Council District 10 includes the communities of Arlington Heights, Koreatown, Mid-City, Palms, South Robertson, West Adams, and Wilshire Center.*

## Heather Hutt

Democrat Heather Hutt is the current Council member for District 10 and lifelong resident of the district. She was appointed caretaker of the district following Council member Ridley-Thomas' departure in 2022. Hutt also served as former Senator Kamala Harris' state director and former Council member Herb Wesson's chief of staff. She supports increased investment in mental health crisis care and other emergency services to reduce the homelessness crisis. Hutt has supported APLA Health and AIDS Walk Los Angeles since her appointment in 2022 and has expressed support for the LGBTQ+ community on X (formerly Twitter). Hutt's priority is to ensure that affordable housing units are truly affordable for working families, and she plans to increase affordable housing units for seniors. Hutt also wants to address bureaucratic delays and supports Housing First solutions, as described on her [campaign website](#). In her role as chair of the Transportation Committee, Hutt supports more transparency and efficiency in the City's transportation and public works departments. Hutt supported Measure J and increases in LAPD officer pay, and wants to create an unarmed traffic response team. Hutt also supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission, expansion of City Council, and other reforms to the City's Charter.

## Grace Yoo

Democrat Grace Yoo is an attorney, former Los Angeles City Commissioner for the Department of Transportation, and was formerly executive director of the Korean American Coalition and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Yoo supports dedicated resources for social workers, mental health clinicians, and community outreach teams for unarmed crisis response to Angelenos experiencing homelessness, as well as expansion of LAPD's SMART teams that pair officers with mental health clinicians. She also urges LA County to provide more temporary healthcare beds for homeless Angelenos experiencing mental health crises and substance use issues. Yoo has not made any statements on LGBTQ+ issues. She supports the creation of more permanent affordable housing units and would prioritize support for developers who want to build 100% affordable housing. She also wants to convert existing empty commercial properties to affordable housing and address bureaucratic challenges and reduce construction delays. More information is available on her [campaign website](#). Yoo supports state legislation that pilots speed cameras in Los Angeles. She also supports changes that rebuild public trust including the creation of an independent ethics commission and redistricting process, a set city budget through the controller's office, and more audits across city departments.

# Statewide Ballot Measures

*The 2024 November election includes 10 statewide ballot measures, many of which deserve your consideration. APLA Health has taken positions on the following ballot measures that would impact LGBTQ+ rights, healthcare, and safety net services.*

## Proposition 2 — Authorizes Bonds for Public Schools and Community College Facilities

**APLA Health takes no position on this measure.**

This measure would allow the state to sell a \$10 billion bond to fund the construction of public and charter schools and community college facilities. \$8.5 billion would be available for public schools, broken down in the following ways: \$4 billion for renovation of existing buildings; \$3.3 billion for new construction and buying new lands; \$600 million for facilities for career and technical education programs; and \$600 million for charter schools. \$1.5 billion would be available for community colleges, which would not be earmarked in prescribed ways. The state would pay the bond back \$500 million per year over the next 30 years.

## Proposition 3 — Marriage Equality

**APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.**

This measure would remove the unenforceable, discriminatory language embedded in the state constitution by Proposition 8 in 2008, which defines marriage as being between a “man and a woman,” with language that recognizes the fundamental right to marry, regardless of race or sex. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in *Windsor v. United States* that the Defense of Marriage Act (1996), which defined marriage as being between “one man and one woman,” was unconstitutional, removing the federal ban on marriage between same-sex couples and invalidating the state constitution’s discriminatory language. However, the language remains in the state constitution. If the U.S. Supreme Court decides to reverse its decision, the state would be constitutionally unable to recognize same-sex marriages again. Voting “yes” on Proposition 3 means that the civil rights of all married couples in California would be protected. For these reasons, APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote on Proposition 3.

## Proposition 4 — Authorizes Bonds for Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands from Climate Risks

**APLA Health takes no position on this measure.**

This measure would authorize a \$10 billion bond to support several projects related to climate change, including \$3.8 billion for safe drinking water; \$1.95 billion for forest health and wildfire prevention; \$1.2 billion for sea level rise and coastal health; \$1.2 billion for land conservation and habitat restoration; and more. The measure specifies that 40% of funds would be allocated to support low-income and vulnerable communities and that an annual audit would be conducted to help ensure that the funds are being distributed equitably. The state would pay the bond back \$400 million per year over 40 years.

## Proposition 5 — Allows Local Bonds for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure To Be Approved by Voter Approval From 66% to 55%

**APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.**

This measure would lower the voter approval requirement for general obligation bonds issued by local governments for affordable housing and infrastructure (roads, etc.) projects from 2/3 to 55%. This measure would also require a citizen’s oversight committee to assess the results of annual financial and performance audits on issued bonds. Lowering voter approval for bonds to fund construction of more affordable housing may increase the availability of affordable throughout the state. The existing 2/3 voting threshold is seen as an obstacle to more affordable housing. The Legislative Analyst’s Office found that, “Recent local election results suggest that an additional 20 percent to 50 percent of local bond measures would have passed under Proposition 5’s lower voter approval requirements.” APLA Health offers housing services to clients living with HIV through the federal Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and Section 8 programs. Bonds issued by local governments are paid by their general funds. They accumulate interest, meaning that the local government would pay back more than the bond was initially worth. APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.

## Proposition 6 — Removes Involuntary Servitude as a Punishment for Crime From the State Constitution

**APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.**

This measure would remove “involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime” from the state constitution. Although the state of California entered the union in 1851 as a free state, California would “lease convicts” for involuntary labor before and after the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were ratified in the U.S. Constitution. By removing involuntary servitude from the state constitution, state prisons would not be able to compel incarcerated people to perform labor against their will, nor would they be able to penalize incarcerated people for refusing to perform said labor. An [American Civil Liberties Union report](#) published in 2022 states that incarcerated people in California state prisons often lose privileges, are subjected to solitary confinement, and receive administrative “write ups that can keep people from attaining parole” when they refuse to work. Furthermore, incarcerated people are often assigned to work jobs that are scheduled at the same time as rehabilitative programs, such as behavioral health services that could help people prepare for life outside. Removing involuntary servitude would not prohibit prisons from granting credits for good behavior that shorten prison sentences. The Legislative Analyst Office’s fiscal analysis states that this measure could have a potential increase or decrease on state funds depending on how jails and prisons adapt their work programs to the measure. For these reasons, APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote on Proposition 6.

## Proposition 32 — Raises Statewide Minimum Wage

**APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.**

This measure raises the statewide minimum wage across all industries and sectors from the current minimum wage of \$16 hourly. If an employer has 25 or more employees, the minimum wage is increased to \$17 effective upon the measure’s approval and \$18 beginning on January 1st, 2025. If an employer has fewer than 25 employees, the minimum wage increases to \$17 beginning on January 1st, 2025, and \$18 on January 1st, 2026. This measure would also require minimum wage increases to keep up with inflation annually. The statutes this measure would amend make no mention of exempt employee salaries. APLA Health raised its minimum wage to \$25 hourly on January 1, 2024, because a living wage is essential to developing and retaining our healthcare workforce. Data from the Office of AIDS most recent [HIV/AIDS Epidemiology and Health Disparities Report](#) shows that census districts with lower rates of poverty—among other social factors—also have lower rates of new HIV diagnoses. For this reason, APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote on Proposition 32.

## Proposition 33 — Expands Local Governments’ Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Properties

**APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.**

This measure would eliminate the Costa-Hawkins Act, which would allow local governments to enact rent control laws on single-family homes and units built on or after February 1, 1995. Rent control only applies to renters who are currently renting. State law limits rent increases to no more than 10% per year on rent-controlled units. This limit lasts until 2030. By eliminating Costa-Hawkins, this measure would also remove “vacancy decontrol,” whereby landlords can raise the rental price on their housing units to market rates when a tenant moves out, even if that tenant had rent control. Removing vacancy decontrol could help preserve the supply of affordable housing units. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) postulates that the measure could have many effects on renters, landlords, rental properties, including that some renters may spend less money on rent and move less often; some landlords may charge some renters more on non-rent controlled units or sell their rental assets outright; some landlords may invest less money in maintaining their rental properties, lowering the quality of the units. The LAO also suspects a reduction of local property tax revenues in the tens of millions of dollars.

## Proposition 34 — Restricts Spending of Prescription Drug Revenues by Certain Health Care Providers

**APLA Health recommends a “no” vote.**

This measure would create state penalties for organizations based on the following criteria: participates in the federal 340b drug pricing program; has or has ever had a health plan, clinic, or pharmacy licensed in California; has a ten-year period of spending \$100 million on services other than direct patient care; owns and operates or has owned and operated multifamily housing units with at least 500 violations with a severity of “high.” This measure would require affected entities to report annually how much revenue they have earned from 340b and how much of that revenue has been spent on direct patient care. This measure allows the state to charge affected entities fees for enforcement of this requirement. If affected entities are found to have violated this measure’s requirement on direct patient spending, this measure would allow the state to penalize said entities by removing their tax-exempt status in California; revoking licenses to operate in California; prohibiting state and local contracts to provide services; prohibiting entity leadership to serve leadership roles in health plans, pharmacies, and clinics in California. Last, this measure would codify in state law the Governor’s 2019 Executive Order on Medi-Cal RX, which is the state’s mechanism for purchasing prescription drugs for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Although the impact to state spending would likely be limited, the consequences could be palpable for Californians with HIV. Based on these criteria, the sponsors of this ballot measure narrowly target AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), which is the largest provider of HIV care in the world and which operates managed care plans for people living with HIV in Los Angeles County. Penalizing AHF by revoking its licenses to provide clinical care, prescribe drugs, and manage a health plan would disrupt patient care for people living with HIV in California and possibly around the world. AHF is headquartered in Los Angeles. For these reasons, APLA Health recommends a “no” vote on Proposition 34.

## Proposition 35 — Protect Access to Care Act

**APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote.**

This measure would require the state to authorize the Managed Care Organization Provider Tax (MCO tax) every year and put limits on how those revenues can be used by either the state legislature or the Governor. The MCO tax has been a feature of the state’s budget and health care spending since 2009. Managed care organizations are commercial health plans that provide almost 90% of health care services to California’s over 15 million Medi-Cal recipients. The MCO tax is federally matched, meaning that the federal government helps cover Medi-Cal costs based on a ratio of the revenue generated from the MCO tax; in other words, by increasing the state tax, the federal government increases the funds it sends to the state. The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates that the state would generate an additional \$2 - \$5 billion annually for Medi-Cal and other health care costs in the short-term. The measure also sequesters these funds in Medi-Cal spending only, meaning that neither the state legislature nor the Governor’s administration can use these revenues for purposes other than Medi-Cal, such as filling the state’s budget deficit. Investing in Medi-Cal providers means more services, shorter wait times, and better health outcomes for Medi-Cal recipients. For these reasons, APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote on Proposition 35.

## Proposition 36 — Increase Drug and Theft Penalties and Reduce Homelessness Initiative

**APLA Health recommends a “no” vote.**

According to the Vera institute, no provisions in Proposition 36 directly address homelessness. This measure increases penalties for drug possession from a misdemeanor to a felony offense, meaning longer sentences for people who use hard drugs and increased state spending on state prisons and trial courts.

### ***Drug Trafficking***

People charged with trafficking certain hard drugs would receive “sentence enhancements,” which extend the time required to carry out a prison sentence based on the amount of drug possessed. Hard drugs, as codified in state law, include heroin, fentanyl, cocaine and cocaine base (rock), methamphetamine, amphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), and their “analogs,” also known as synthetic drugs. For example, people in possession of more than 4 kilograms (approximately 8 pounds) of a hard drug would have an additional five years added to their sentence. Judges would also be required to warn people who sell drugs that kill their consumers that they could be charged with murder.

### ***Treatment-mandated Felonies***

This measure also introduces “treatment-mandated felonies,” a new class of crime for people who have two prior convictions of drug possession that would require substance use disorder treatment or send people to state prison to serve a maximum three-year sentence. To be clear, even possession of more than an ounce of marijuana counts as a misdemeanor, despite its legalization in 2016. [Harm reduction advocates argue that forced treatment actually increases a person’s risk of overdose once a treatment program has been completed.](#)

### ***Retail Theft***

This measure also increases penalties for retail theft from misdemeanor to felony when a person has a record of two or more past convictions of some theft crimes.

### ***Proposition 47***

This measure is understood as a repeal of Proposition 47, which lowered certain shoplifting and drug possession crimes from minor felonies to misdemeanors. Since California voters approved it in 2014, Proposition 47 has saved the state \$800 million in prison spending and has funded behavioral health initiatives instead. The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates that Proposition 36 would increase state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars by increasing the state prison population and the length of prison sentences and by requiring transfer of some people serving county sentences to state prison. Prop 36 also increase the workload of trial judges because felony charges take longer to process, adding an additional cost to county budgets. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed [a motion to oppose Proposition 36](#) on Tuesday, September 24th, stating that the measure would cost the county millions and divert funds from critical substance use disorder, mental health, and housing programs. All of these programs are crucial to supporting people living with and vulnerable to HIV, Hepatitis C, and overdose. Increasing state spending on incarceration and trial court adjudication does not support people who are experiencing drug addiction, and tough-on-crime approaches to punishment are harmful to communities that are vulnerable to biased policing, including LGBTQ+, immigrant, and BIPOC communities that experience worse outcomes in policing, sentencing, and incarceration. With regards to public health, this measure would do more harm than good. With regards to LGBTQ and racial equity, this measure would do more harm than good.

**APLA Health recommends a “no” vote on Proposition 36.**

# County and municipal ballot measures

Los Angeles County is comprised of 88 municipalities and numerous unincorporated communities. Nearly 10 million people reside in the county, making it larger than several states in terms of geography, economy, population size, and demographic diversity. None of the five County Supervisorial seats are up for reelection this year. Many voters will have the option to make choices for local representation and on ballot propositions that will affect several services, such as public school education, zoning, and redistricting. These local issues are important and deserve your attention. This voter guide is focusing on issues that align closest with APLA Health’s mission and vision statements and services and will not be detailing the numerous local initiatives that are appearing on ballots throughout the county.

## Measure A: Homelessness Services and Affordable Housing Ordinance

### **APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote**

Measure A would establish a permanent half-percent (.5%) sale and use tax in Los Angeles County to fund homelessness and affordable housing services. The measure would **allocate 61.25% to homelessness solutions** and 35.75% to affordable housing services; domestic violence, rental assistance, mental health and addiction, and veterans services would also benefit. This measure also replaces Los Angeles County Measure H of 2017. Measure H established a quarter-percent sales and use tax in Los Angeles County (groceries were exempt from this tax) to fund homelessness services. This tax has generated hundreds of millions of dollars each year since its implementation. However, Measure H is due to expire in 2027, meaning that funds it generates for homelessness services will end as well. Measure A would not expire unless registered county voters chose to end it. Increasing funds for housing and other supportive services is critical to promoting public health overall, and much research has been published that establishes the connection between housing security and lowered rates of HIV acquisition and higher rates of treatment adherence. For these reasons, APLA Health recommends a “yes” vote on County Measure A.