



Inland Empire DSA Voting Guide for the November 2026 General Election

Endorsed by Membership: Oct. 11, 2026

At a Glance

IE DSA Endorsed Positions:

- **YES** on Props 3, 40
- **NO** on Props 41, 42
- Joz Sida for Fontana City Mayor
- Joe Alvanez for Fontana City Clerk

Recommendations:

- **YES** on Props 1, 4, 5, 44
- **NO** on Props 38, 39, 43, 45
- Tessa Lynn Hodge for CA-23 (U.S. House of Representatives)
- Tiffany Tate for SD-32 (California State Senate)
- Randall Putz for AD-34 (California State Assembly)
- Leila Namvar for AD-47 (California State Assembly)
- Clarissa Cervantes for AD-58 (California State Assembly)
- Kevin Akin for AD-63 (California State Assembly)
- Kamal Namou for Treasurer (Fontana)
- Nubia Diaz for District 1 Councilmember (Fontana)
- Luz Perez for District 4 Councilmember (Fontana)
- Ulisses Cabrera for Mayor (Moreno Valley)
- Liza Arellano for District 2 Councilmember (Moreno Valley)
- Nikita Wilson for District 4 Councilmember (Moreno Valley)
- Jaskirat Sondh for Mayor (Rancho Cucamonga)

Recommendations (Cont.):

- Ana Gonzalez for City Council (Rialto)
- Derek Marshall for District 4 Councilmember (Victorville)
- Andrea Garcia for Office No. 10 (Superior Court of Riverside County)

Table of Contents

How to Read This Voter Guide.....	4
Frequently Asked Questions.....	6
Ballot Measures.....	10
Prop 1.....	10
Prop 2.....	10
Prop 3.....	11
Prop 4	11
Prop 5.....	11
Prop 37.....	12
Prop 38.....	13
Prop 39.....	13
Prop 40.....	14
Prop 41.....	14
Prop 42.....	15
Prop 43.....	15
Prop 44.....	16
Prop 45.....	17
United States House of Representatives.....	18
CA-23.....	18
CA-25.....	19
CA-28.....	20
CA-31.....	21
CA-33.....	21
CA-35.....	22
CA-39.....	23
CA-40.....	24
CA-48.....	25

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

California State Senate.....	27
SD-18.....	27
SD-22.....	28
SD-32.....	28
California State Assembly.....	30
AD-34.....	30
AD-36.....	31
AD-39.....	32
AD-41.....	32
AD-45.....	33
AD-47.....	34
AD-50.....	35
AD-53.....	36
AD-58.....	36
AD-60.....	37
AD-63.....	38
AD-71.....	40
Local Elections.....	41
Fontana City Council.....	41
Moreno Valley City Council.....	47
Rancho Cucamonga City Council.....	51
Rialto City Council.....	53
Riverside City Council.....	55
Victorville City Council.....	57
Riverside County.....	59

How to Read This Voter Guide

Chapter Endorsed Positions are in **DSA Red**

IE DSA endorses candidates and campaigns usually after a recommendation from our chapter's Electoral Committee (EC), but always after a vote of our general membership wherein the endorsement vote must receive a two-thirds majority.

IE DSA-endorsed candidates must meet our electoral Hard Lines as laid out in [Resolution \(Res.\) 18](#) and adhere to our commitment to being an Anti-Zionist Chapter as stated in [Res. 10](#). In short, they must take no money from any companies involved in warehouses, oil and coal production, land development, weapons manufacturing, real estate management or charter schools. They must agree to never help break a strike and must publicly oppose new jails and detention centers, expanding policing and immigration enforcement like ICE, restrictions on the right to strike, and military aid to U.S. client states. They must also support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement which is a Palestinian-led campaign of nonviolent economic pressure on Israel, and refuse ties to Zionist lobby groups.

A Chapter Endorsement also comes with a large commitment of our members' time and chapter resources. It binds us to an ongoing relationship of support and accountability after the endorsed candidate's election.

Recommendations

A recommendation reflects our Voting Guide Subcommittee's political assessment, approved by IE DSA members, and should **NOT** be seen as a Chapter Endorsement.

Most recommended candidates are not socialists nor would they necessarily pass our endorsement requirements. However, we recommend them when parts of their record will materially benefit working people in the Inland Empire, or when a tactical vote can keep a dangerous opponent out of office.

A recommendation commits no chapter resources and will never protect a candidate from criticism.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

However, in accordance with Res. 10, any recommendations or endorsements are contingent on these candidates retracting any statement, praise, or endorsement received by any candidate who has received money from Zionist lobby groups.

No Recommendation

Sometimes no candidate or measure earns our support. In those races, we still share our analysis so you can vote with as much information as our authors had.

When one candidate poses a clear threat, we name them and tell you not to vote for them, but we also lay out your real options. This can include leaving a race blank when no candidate deserves your vote.

Ballot measures

We recommend YES or NO based on who funds each measure, who it helps, and who it harms.

Frequently Asked Questions

Isn't a vote for the lesser evil still a vote for evil?

We will never win a socialist world through elections alone, but they carry real consequences for working people. This is especially true at the local and state level where decisions about policing, housing, warehouses, and schools land directly on our neighbors.

The far right organizes hard in these races across the Inland Empire. By keeping them out of office, we can protect immigrant families, tenants, workers, and trans youth while we build the power to win something better.

At the same time, our support has to mean *something*. Our [Hard Lines](#) exist because the pressures on elected officials run deep, and we refuse to hand our name to candidates who fund genocide, imprison our neighbors, or take money from the industries poisoning our Earth. That's why some races in this guide carry a recommendation and others don't.

How did you research these races?

IE DSA's Electoral Committee (EC) sanctioned a Voting Guide Subcommittee where members volunteered to review campaign finance filings, voting records, public meeting videos, news coverage, and candidates' own websites and statements. Where possible, we reached out to candidates directly. Some local candidates publish very little about their positions, and we note those gaps where they exist.

This Voting Guide was then reviewed by the EC and recommended for an endorsement vote by the Chapter's general membership. It was then discussed, amended, and debated by IE DSA members at a chapter-wide meeting, eventually being endorsed after receiving a two-thirds majority.

Why don't you just recommend the Democrat?

A party label tells us little about how a candidate will treat working people.

Some Democrats in the Inland Empire champion expanded policing, surveillance, and warehouse development, while other lesser-known candidates have spent

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

years fighting for tenants and their neighbors. We judge each candidate on their record, their donors, and our Hard Lines, not just their party affiliation.

Why does a local voting guide take positions on Palestine?

IE DSA's commitment to Palestinian liberation doesn't stop at city limits.

Politicians build their careers locally, and the money and relationships they form early on follow them to higher office. Under [Res. 10](#), IE DSA holds every candidate we support to the same standard, whether they're running for City Council or Congress.

Our tax dollars fund the genocide in Gaza, and the fight against it runs through every level of government.

What is the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement?

BDS is a powerful movement that Palestinian civil society groups launched in 2005, calling for nonviolent economic and cultural pressure on Israel until it meets three demands: ending its occupation of Palestinian land, granting full equality to Palestinian citizens of Israel, and respecting Palestinian refugees' right to return.

The three parts of BDS work like this:

- **Boycott:** Refusing to buy products from, or take part in cultural and academic events with Israeli institutions and companies that participate in the occupation.
- **Divestment:** Pressuring universities, pension funds, churches, and governments to pull investments from companies that profit from the occupation.
- **Sanctions:** Pushing governments to impose penalties on Israel, such as ending military aid or arms sales.

What is bullet voting?

In some local races, voters are allowed to fill more than one seat at once. For example, in Rialto voters will get to choose two City Council members and the top two vote-getters win. Just because you can vote for up to two candidates, you don't have to.

Bullet voting means casting just one vote for the candidate you most want to win, even when you're allowed to choose more. Every candidate competes against each other for those top spots, so a second vote for anyone else can help that candidate edge out your first choice. By voting for only **one** candidate, you give them the strongest possible chance of finishing in the top two.

Bullet voting makes the most sense when one candidate clearly stands out and no one else in the race seems to deserve your support. When two candidates both earn your support, use both votes.

Why didn't you cover the race I care about?

IE DSA members research and write this guide on their own time. We focused on the races where our analysis can make the most difference for working people in the Inland Empire. For statewide races and most judicial seats, we largely defer to our statewide organization California DSA's voting guide at <https://www.californiadsa.org/voterguide>.

The one exception is for Office No. 10 of the Superior Court of Riverside County, which is covered in this guide.

How do I get involved with IE DSA's work?

Join DSA today by visiting <https://act.dsasusa.org/donate/membership/>.

If your mailing address zip code is in our service area then you will be automatically placed in our chapter after signing up for dues with National DSA.

We also love working with community members and other organizations who aren't necessarily DSA affiliated. All you have to do is show up to one of our public

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

events by following us on Instagram ([@inlandempiredsa](#)) or by keeping an eye on our event calendar at <https://iedsa.org/calendar/>.

If you have any questions, you can email us at inlanddsa@gmail.com.

How and when do I vote?

The November 2026 General Election takes place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The deadline to register online is October 19, 2026, but you can still register and vote in person through Election Day at your county elections office or a voting center.

Find more info on your ballot or voter status, how to register to vote, and where is your nearest polling place by visiting our website at <https://iedsa.org/elections/>.

Ballot Measures

Proposition 1 – Recommend: YES

Prop 1 would authorize just over \$11 billion in bonds for affordable housing, supportive housing, veterans' housing, down-payment assistance, farmworker housing, student housing, and other similar programs. This measure represents a significant public investment in expanding access to housing, particularly for low-income and vulnerable Californians. While the measure relies on bond financing rather than directly taxing wealth or high incomes, its investment in affordable and supportive housing is broadly aligned with IE DSA's emphasis on treating housing as a public need rather than simply a commodity.

We do want to note that the \$10 billion housing bonds would balloon into repayments of \$500-600 million over 25 years, making it a total cost of at least \$12.5 billion. This would be an interest of 25%. For context, the state is currently making \$6 billion in bond repayments each year. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), if the federal reserve continues to print lots of money, inflation will drive the effective interest down to about 15%.

Despite the measure's alignment with IE DSA's emphasis on improving housing affordability on the supply end, it is seen as a raw deal on the taxpayer since we are getting 87¢ on the dollar of housing investment, and that's using a charitable estimate. Part of the appeal of bond propositions is that they are easier to pass than direct tax hikes since it avoids the word "tax" and capitalizes on the electorate not associating bonds with future taxes.

Proposition 2 – No Recommendation

Prop 2 would change California's rules for building state budget reserves and paying down debt, resulting in the state maintaining larger budget reserves and making additional debt payments over a longer period of time. While maintaining fiscal stability can protect public services during economic downturns, directing additional resources towards reserves and debt repayment may also limit funding available for current public programs. Because the measure involves a tradeoff

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

between fiscal stability and the ability to immediately invest in public services, we do not believe there is sufficient basis for a chapter recommendation.

Proposition 3 – YES

Prop 3 is meant to continue existing income taxes on very wealthy Californians which funds public education in the state.

If Prop 3 does not pass, the richest Californians will be getting a major tax break in 2031 and education funding will be gutted. For these reasons, IE DSA's members have voted to formally endorse a YES vote for Prop 3!

Proposition 4 – Recommend: YES

Prop 4 would repeal California's prohibition on using public funds to finance candidates' campaigns and allow state and local governments to establish public campaign-finance programs. The measure itself does not create a program or require governments to spend money, but it gives governments the ability to reduce candidates' reliance on private campaign contributions. This is broadly aligned with IE DSA's interest in reducing the influence of wealthy donors and expanding democratic participation, while leaving the specific design and cost of any future public-financing programs to state and local governments.

Proposition 5 – Recommend: YES

Prop 5 is meant to reform the current recall process, one many Californians are familiar with, given Newsom's recall attempt by the GOP and conservative radio talk show host Larry Elder in 2021.

The current recall process prompts a ballot that comes with two prompts. The first, "Shall the sitting governor be recalled?". The second, "Candidates to succeed the sitting governor if recalled:" followed by a list of all candidates vying for the seat.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

This process allowed for the only successful Governor recall in California state history, the recall of corporate Democrat Gray Davis, who was replaced by Republican actor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Prop 5 means to change this process, with one vote asking if the current Governor should be recalled. Then if successful, it would then trigger a special election to replace the Governor and the Lt. Governor takes the place of the Governor until the special election is over.

From a socialist perspective, the current recall process is a massive double edged sword. On one hand, it can make the process easier to recall and replace an unpopular corporate Democrat with a popular socialist candidate. On the other hand, it can and has been used to redirect the energy of popular anger against an elected candidate into a chance for conservatives to take the reins.

We as socialists should fight for the ability to preserve this useful direct democracy tool without risking a major swing to the right that isn't as likely when voters are able to separate the two decisions in recall and reelection. With Becerra all but guaranteed to take the top spot in November, a YES on Prop 5 would empower the California left to build momentum and take the fight to him without risking a Republican takeover.

Proposition 37 – No Recommendation

Prop 37 would establish a state program that provides financial assistance to qualifying middle-income buyers purchasing newly constructed homes and is backed by up to \$25 billion in revenue bonds.

While expanding access to homeownership can provide material benefits to working class and middle income households, the measure primarily subsidizes individual home purchases rather than directly expanding public, social, or permanently affordable housing. Because of this distinction, and because the measure does not directly address the broader housing affordability crisis through

public housing or tenant protections, we do not believe there is sufficient basis for a chapter recommendation.

Proposition 38 – Recommend: NO

Prop 38 would authorize \$8.4 billion in bonds for immunology and immunotherapy research, with more than half of this bond awarded to the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy (CIII).

This measure is undeniably a pet project for Dr. Gary K. Michelson, a billionaire surgeon who accrued most of his wealth through patenting medical inventions.

While his work has been beneficial to California's advancements in medicine, Michelson has utilized his capital to push an initiative that directly benefits his nonprofit, making him the primary beneficiary of Prop 38.

Ultimately, the measure is a fairly inoffensive policy that carries long-term scientific benefits, but its use of undemocratic machine politics should be discouraged. Therefore, we recommend a NO vote.

Proposition 39 – Recommend: NO

Proposition 39 would amend the California Constitution to include a provision that would require Photo-ID every time someone votes in person and when they register to vote by mail.

Not only could Prop 39 cost the state up to \$100 million per year, but Photo-ID laws are little but unfounded, regressive, undemocratic musings from the far-right.

Our statewide organization, California DSA (CA DSA), has endorsed a "NO on Prop 39" campaign, so it goes without saying that we recommend the same.

Proposition 40 – YES

Prop 40, also known as the “Billionaire Tax,” is meant to be a means towards funding public healthcare after the cuts in Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill” come into effect in 2027, which will gut Medicare and MediCal.

If passed, the Billionaire Tax would levy a 5% tax on **ALL** assets valued over a billion dollars, mainly to fill the gap in funding for healthcare. However, portions of the funding are also dedicated to education and food assistance programs.

We know that California billionaires are scared and looking for any way to kill this ballot measure, including spending over \$140 million on a campaign to convince voters to vote no.

We won't let their endless pocketbooks outweigh the voice of the people!

Therefore, IE DSA members voted to strongly endorse a YES vote for Prop 40!

Proposition 41 - NO

Prop 41 is meant as revenge against the Billionaire Tax (Prop 40). If passed, Prop 41 will create a roadblock for any future Billionaire Tax, not including if Prop 40 passes.

The Billionaire Tax has a safety clause that exempts any of the tax’s money from being spent on any other initiative or program that is not already specified in the measure. But Prop 41 will require ***any*** new special tax to fit in the state’s spending limit, essentially curbing the amount Prop 40 will bring in for public healthcare.

Another Prop 41 clause will require additional auditing of special tax initiative campaigns like the one for the Billionaire Tax, making it difficult for future wealth taxes to get on the ballot.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

The billionaire class and their fan club is using Prop 41 as a way to give the Billionaire Tax a “downside.” For these reasons, IE DSA members voted to publicly oppose Prop 41 and endorse a NO vote on the measure!

Proposition 42 – NO

Prop 42 is another direct response to Prop 40, but a far more direct response than Prop 41. This measure is meant to completely block and eliminate the Billionaire Tax if passed with a higher number of YES votes.

Prop 42 aims to completely eliminate any taxation on personal assets in California, with exact language preventing any kind of taxation, like the Billionaire Tax, to come into effect after January 1, 2027.

Much of the Anti-Prop 40 advertising frames the measure as a “tax on retirement savings” or a “tax on the elderly” when that is **absolutely not the case**.

Prop 42 helps with that narrative since it eliminates taxes on personal assets, retirement holdings, and other forms of personal savings.

California’s Election Code states that when competing ballot initiatives both pass, the initiative with the higher number of YES votes wins. This means that even if Prop 42 passes, Prop 40 can get a higher number of YES votes and will beat out Prop 42.

In hopes of eliminating any confusion, legal squabbles, and more claims of election fraud, especially by the Trump administration, IE DSA members have voted to publicly oppose Prop 42 and endorse a NO vote on the measure!

Proposition 43 – Recommend: NO

Prop 43 would amend the California Constitution to include a provision requiring that citizen-led ballot initiatives earn two-thirds (66.67%) of the vote to become law.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA) authored this initiative in line with their mission to reinforce the pro-wealthy-landowner Prop 13. Prop 43 means to increase the bounds of Prop 13's strict property tax system, a proven factor in California's high housing costs, making it much, much harder for communities to acquire funding for affordable housing, public transportation, and public schools.

We have seen that requiring only **some** ballot initiatives to earn more than a majority vote is a common right-wing tactic where the objective is to undercut popular public input as in [Florida Amendment 4](#).

CA DSA has endorsed a "NO on Prop 43" campaign, seeing it as a naked attempt to undercut democracy at the behest of wealthy landowners. Therefore, we also recommend a NO vote on Prop 43.

Proposition 44 – Recommend: YES

Prop 44 would amend current law to require non-profit Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to spend a minimum of 90% of their revenue on patient care and mission services in order to be considered non-profits.

Prop 44 is union-born and recommended by CA DSA. Because state laws define FQHCs as nonprofits, the vast majority of their funding comes from Medicare/Medi-Cal. As we feel the consequences of Trump's budget cuts to these programs, it is important to bear in mind that low income Californians are the most vulnerable and Prop 44 would ensure that **patient care and services are the priority for FQHC's regardless of budget cuts**.

Many FQHCs claim that Prop 44 would lead to the closing of facilities and leave patients without care, but if we look at who is funding a majority of the NO on Prop 44 campaign we find Altamed who has contributed \$5 million.

Altamed CEO Cástulo de la Rocha is facing a potential IRS investigation for enriching his family via more than \$21 million in life insurance loans taken through Altamed. It is important to note that de la Rocha's wife and five children

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

hold high paying executive roles in Altamed. California's FQHC rules uphold this corruption since nonprofit executives are not required to disclose net worth or stock trades.

The Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW) and SEIU 72 are directly fighting against a coalition of clinic ownership, hospital ownership, and the Democratic Party, with their only support coming from explicitly left-wing political organizations like CA DSA.

Non-Profit CEOs make millions annually, and many of them have ways of using the current system to enrich themselves and their families as reported by [the Campaign for Accountability](#). Labor believes Prop 44 would help alleviate the large wealth and resource disparity between workers and CEOs in these non profits.

Therefore, in solidarity with these workers and CA DSA, we recommend a YES vote on Prop 44 and carry the *utmost disdain* for de la Rocha and the executives like him.

Proposition 45 – Recommend: NO

Prop 45 would modify the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite environmental review for housing, transportation, water, health, wildfire, education, broadband, and clean-energy projects. This would impose tighter deadlines on agencies and courts, limit the range of alternatives that agencies are required to consider, and restrict aspects of judicial review.

If passed, Prop 45 may reduce delays for some needed public and housing projects, but it **will reduce** community and environmental protections.

Our key concern is that Prop 45 weakens the ability of working class communities to challenge environmentally harmful development without establishing stronger public control over what gets built and where. Given the breadth of the CEQA changes and opposition from environmental justice and community organizations, IE DSA recommends a NO vote on Prop 45.

United States House of Representatives

California's 23rd Congressional District (CA-23) –

Recommend: Tessa Lynn Hodge

IE Cities Included

Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Hesperia, Loma Linda, Redlands, Twentynine Palms, Victorville, Yucaipa

Analysis

Republican incumbent Jay Obernolte is running against Democrat Tessa Lynn Hodge. Obernolte has voted for cuts to Medi-Cal, supported continued funding for Israel, backed expanded surveillance infrastructure, and has accepted substantial contributions from corporate interests, AI companies, AIPAC, and other Political Action Committees (PACs). His support for the Adelanto ICE detention facility and record on immigration and surveillance are particularly at odds with IE DSA's commitments to working class communities, immigrant rights, and civil liberties.

Hodge is a lifelong CA-23 resident and social worker who supports single-payer healthcare, workers' rights, environmental protections, humane immigration policy, and an end to U.S. military funding for Israel. She has also refused AIPAC money and supports a ceasefire and Palestinian rights. While Hodge is not a socialist candidate, her platform and independence from corporate and pro-Israel PAC money has moderate alignment with IE DSA's political program.

Therefore, we recommend Tessa Lynn Hodge for CA-23.

California's 25th Congressional District (CA-25) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Banning, Beaumont, Hemet, Indio, San Jacinto

Analysis

Incumbent Democrat Raul Ruiz received 60% of all votes in the primaries, while his opponent, Joe Males, received just 18%.

Ruiz, a physician and Mexican immigrant, has recently focused his tenure in Congress on immigrant rights and advocating for improved healthcare within detention centers as well as simplifying pathways for DREAMers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders. At the same time, Ruiz has yet to endorse abolishing ICE and describes abolition as an “overly simplistic solution.” Recently, he voted for House Resolution (H.Res.) 488, which included language thanking ICE and other law-enforcement agencies. He is also co-sponsor of the Protecting the Rights to Organize (PRO) Act, a strong vocal supporter of organized labor and worker protections, and is backed by unions such as the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), United Auto Workers (UAW), and the San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council.

Ruiz has received just short of \$200,000 from pro-Israel lobby PACs in the 2026 election cycle as well as a slew of endorsements from groups like Democratic Majority for Israel (DMFI) and J Street. He has spent the last few years in Congress simultaneously voting to send money and munitions to Israel while also co-sponsoring bills like H.Res. 3045, also known as the “West Bank Violence Prevention Act.”

Republican Joe Males is currently a Hemet City Councilmember, former marine and small business owner; the conservative holy trinity. Males has no policy platform listed on his website, just the campaign slogan, “I’m running for congress.” So, there you have it, folks.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Raul Ruiz has an incredibly substantial lead over Joe Males and does not need, nor has he earned, our support in this race, but his constituents should remember to hold him accountable for his actions when he is re-elected.

California's 28th Congressional District (CA-28) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Claremont, Rancho Cucamonga, Upland

Analysis

CA-28 is an incredibly safe Democrat race that only partly reaches into the IE. The district stands out because incumbent candidate Judy Chu is one of the most progressive voices Southern Californians have in Congress.

Chu co-sponsored the Green New Deal and supports solid progressive policies like Medicare for All, overturning the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission, and ICE reform.

Seeing as CA-28 only includes tiny portions of the IE we will, in part, defer to DSA LA's voter guide, which notes that Chu has been amenable to moving her position on the genocide in Gaza due to the tireless efforts of protestors who have had to organize around Chu's office for weeks.

However, Chu must make more concessions to National DSA's electoral strategy in order to merit an endorsement. Therefore, we agree with our sibling chapter in LA and will not actively recommend a vote for any candidate in CA-28.

California's 31st Congressional District (CA-31) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Chino, Montclair, Pomona

Analysis

CA-31 is a safe Democratic seat held by Gil Cisneros, who faces Republican Eric Ching in the November election.

Cisneros is what we have come to expect from the democratic establishment; loud, vocal statements about the sanctity of Palestinian life while continuing to vote YES on sending money for munitions to Israel and proudly accepting money from pro-Israel PACs. He emphasizes lowering costs and expanding healthcare access, but won't go so far as to sign support on Medicare for All. Cisneros has been a vocal opponent of ICE, but has stopped short of calling for abolition.

Cisneros does not need our recommendation, nor does he want it. Therefore, we give no recommendation on this race.

California's 33rd Congressional District (CA-33) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Muscoy, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino

Analysis

Incumbent Democrat Pete Aguilar is running against Republican Stephanie Vargas.

While Aguilar has support from organized labor and has a record of delivering federal funding for the IE, his politics are ultimately those of a mainstream

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Democratic establishment figure and falls well outside of IE DSA's political program in significant areas.

Most notably, Aguilar has maintained a strong pro-Israel position despite Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians. Aguilar has accepted multiple trips to Israel sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation, received massive support from AIPAC, earning him the nickname "AIPAC Pete," and, in July 2026, opposed an amendment to remove funding for Israel from the federal appropriations bill.

Aguilar's continued support for U.S. military assistance to Israel is fundamentally at odds with IE DSA's position on Palestinian liberation and ending any support for Israeli state violence. Combined with his broader establishment Democratic politics and reliance on corporate and PAC funding, we do not believe Aguilar's labor relationships or local record are sufficient to warrant a chapter recommendation. We strongly urge constituents in Aguilar's district to hold him accountable for his actions once he is re-elected.

California's 35th Congressional District (CA-35) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Bloomington, Chino Hills, Claremont, Corona, Eastvale, Fontana Norco, Pomona, Ontario, Upland

Analysis

Incumbent Democrat Norma Torres is up for re-election for her seventh term in Congress and is running against Republican Mike Cargile.

Torres has been a vocal opponent of ICE abuses, repeatedly visited the Adelanto detention facility, sued the Trump administration over congressional access, and has called for Adelanto and other for-profit detention facilities to close. However, her approach remains focused on reform rather than abolition.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Torres has consistently maintained a strong pro-Israel position and has voted accordingly during her tenure in Congress, which makes sense considering her substantial funding and backing by pro-Israel PACs. As part of the House Appropriations Committee, Torres's votes and stance on Israel directly impact the continuing genocide in Palestine.

Republican Mike Cargile is running on a platform of far-right, conservative buzz words and fear mongering that honestly doesn't even deserve our time regurgitating.

Norma Torres has an incredibly safe margin in this election. Therefore, we have no recommendation in this race. We ask that her constituents hold her accountable for her actions when she is re-elected.

California's 39th Congressional District (CA-39) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Jurupa Valley, Mead Valley, Moreno Valley, Nuevo, Perris, Riverside

Analysis

Incumbent Progressive Democrat Mark Takano is facing Republican Steve Manos.

While Takano has been the most progressive congressman from the IE and a vocal contributor to left wing policy in Congress, his acceptance of pro-Israel PAC money and some of his endorsements cross our [Chapter's Hard Lines](#).

Furthermore, Takano is facing an underfunded Republican opponent in a safe Democrat district in an expected "Blue Wave" year– needing no extra support from IE DSA.

Ultimately, voters should weigh the positive and negative aspects of Takano's tenure, and decide for themselves whether or not he is worthy of a vote.

California's 40th Congressional District (CA-40) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Corona, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Temescal Valley

Analysis

CA-40 became a safe Republican district after the passage of the Election Rigging Response Act (Prop 50) and covers both the former seats of Republicans Young Kim and career politician Ken Calvert. Both Calvert and Kim are the only choices on CA-40 ballots this election cycle and both are pro-Trump, pro-Israel, and pro-corporations.

Ken Calvert is a long-standing name in Riverside County. He's sat in the House of Representatives since 1992 and is known for rarely showing up to vote on bills. Whenever Calvert actually shows up to his job, he votes for sending tax dollars to defend Israel, against certifying the 2020 election results, and staunchly supports the repeal of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v Wade*.

Young Kim is a new representative, only taking her seat in 2021, but has made sure all of her promotion highlights her Trump association– even putting out campaign ads smearing Calvert for not being pro-Trump enough. Kim, in her short tenure, has voted against codifying same-sex marriage, the Affordable Care Act, and has spoken against Sanctuary Cities.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that we have no recommendation for this race.

California's 48th Congressional District (CA-48) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Anza, Murrieta, Hemet, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Palm Springs, Temecula

Analysis

NOTE: This analysis has been co-drafted with our sibling chapter San Diego DSA.

CA-48 was redistricted to be a likely democratic win with the passing of Prop 50, but has been unfortunately bungled by an insanely crowded Democratic Primary, resulting in Democrat Marni Von Wilpert facing off against Republican Jim Desmond.

Von Wilpert, a Democratic San Diego City Councilmember and workers' rights attorney, has emphasized labor rights, expanding the Affordable Care Act, and opposition to the Trump administration during her campaign. She is backed by the SEIU and California Teacher Association (CTA). Notably, she has taken millions in dollars from pro-Israel PACs like DMFI and J Street and has vowed to continue strengthening U.S. relations with Israel.

Von Wilpert is also an uncompromising supporter of Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras, better known by its generic trademark "Flock cameras," repeatedly voting against cancelling the City of San Diego's contract with Flock Safety.

Desmond is everything you would expect from a hopeful Republican candidate backed by Trump. He has a deep reverence and admiration for the work of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE and is backed by every law enforcement agency in the region. While Desmond has not taken any money from pro-Israel PACs, he is undoubtedly someone who would proudly vote to continue arming Israel's genocide if elected.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Von Wilpert has a narrow opportunity to flip CA-48 from “Red” to “Blue,” and this race has national implications for whether Republicans maintain control of the House of Representatives. However, Von Wilpert has shown throughout her campaign that despite being a champion for workers’ rights, she will be a loyal vote to continue the genocide in Palestine and endless wars in the Middle East using worker’s tax dollars, exasperating the affordability crisis and killing countless more people in its wake.

Therefore, we have no recommendation in this election.

California State Senate

Senate District 18 (SD-18) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Coachella Valley, Indio

Analysis

SD-18 stretches all the way from the U.S.-Mexican border in Chula Vista to IE DSA's desert communities in Indio and Coachella. This district is presently represented by progressive democrat Steve Padilla who lives in the district's San Diego county area. Padilla is facing Republican pastor and businessman Art Hodges.

Padilla is a standard Southern California progressive Democrat, centering affordability and housing throughout his campaign. Although Padilla has little financial ties, if any, to Israel, his support for Assembly Bill 715, which shields Israel from legitimate criticism and criminalizes honest discussions on Palestinian human rights issues, is noteworthy among progressive lawmakers who abstained.

SD-18 is a safe democratic district that is sure to be won by Padilla. While Hodges uses AI images for his reactionary campaign issues, Padilla needs no help from IE DSA to defeat him. However, voters should be aware that Padilla has accepted contributions from massive corporations like Bank of America, Home Depot, and Southern California Edison.

Therefore, we have no recommendation for this race.

Senate District 22 (SD-22) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Chino, Montclair, Ontario

Analysis

SD-22 is a heavily Democratic, extremely safe seat held by Susan Rubio and covers parts of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Rubio is a former undocumented immigrant and longtime public school teacher, but her record and donor base, which includes real estate companies, Uber, Meta, StubHub, and Kalshi, reflects corporate money interests instead of the working class people of SD-22.

Republican challenger Mike Netter is running on a “law and order,” anti-trans, buzz-word laden campaign whose website hosts a myriad of typos.

Rubio will safely be re-elected for another term, but we urge her constituents to hold her accountable and ask for more representation for issues that matter to them not Rubio’s corporate donors.

Therefore, we have no recommendation for this race.

Senate District 32 (SD-32) - Recommend: Tiffanie Tate

IE Cities Included

Menifee, Murrieta, Temecula

Analysis

SD-32 covers the IE’s core conservative cities of Menifee, Murrieta, and Temecula. While this area is a battleground for federal elections, SD-32 itself is solidly “Red” and presently represented by Republican incumbent Kelly Seyarto. Democrat Dr. Tiffanie Tate, who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology (OB-GYN), is challenging Seyarto.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Seyarto is supported by the HJTA, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, and is primarily financed by energy and real estate corporations. Throughout his tenure Seyarto has been a pillar for right-wing legislation, even authoring Senate Bill (SB) 385, which loosened regulations on new police hires. Seyarto has affirmed "Israel's right to defend itself."

Dr. Tate is endorsed by key unions, neighboring democratic elected officials, and primarily funded by individual contributions. While her issues page leaves something to be desired in terms of detail, Tate would legislate along the lines of standard progressive Democrats which is much more amenable to democratic socialists than her opponent.

Tate isn't perfectly aligned with IE DSA's vision, and is unlikely to flip SD-32, but the fact of the matter is that she would be unseating a prominent Republican voice for corporations and real estate. Therefore, we recommend Tiffanie Tate for SD-32 and emphasize the benefits of Tate unseating Seyarto, since she is definitively the better of the candidates.

California State Assembly

Assembly District 34 (AD-34) – Recommend: Randall Putz

IE Cities Included

Barstow, Big Bear, Hesperia, Victorville

Analysis

Incumbent Republican Tom Lackey has termed out of the State Assembly and left an open seat with two candidates up to bat in a historically Republican district; Democrat Randall Putz and Republican Charles Hughes.

Putz is running on a platform of renter protections, making corporations pay their fair share, holding polluters accountable, supporting rural healthcare, funding public schools and infrastructure, and advocates for environmental justice. All of these issues speak to the material problems being faced by working class communities in the High Desert. Putz is not exactly a socialist, and there's definitely more we'd want to see when it comes to labor and building real worker power, but his platform is considerably more progressive than what his Republican opponents are offering.

Republican Charles Hughes is running on the usual mix of cutting taxes and regulations, expanding school choice, and taking a hard-line approach to policing and criminal justice.

While Putz isn't completely in line with National DSA's vision for change, this is still a rare opportunity to flip a State Assembly seat and put a Democrat in a historically difficult district. Therefore, we recommend Randall Putz for AD-34.

Assembly District 36 (AD-36) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Hemet, Indio, Meniffee

Analysis

AD-36 is presently represented by Republican businessman Jeff Gonzalez, who is being challenged by Democratic City of Imperial Mayor Dr. Ida Obeso-Martinez. This district is competitive, but with a democratic lean, and is expected to flip come November.

Gonzalez is a standard right-wing IE Republican, endorsed by the HJTA and Riverside County Sheriff Bianco, sporting a bland platform dedicated to tax cuts and “bipartisanship.”

Dr. Obeso-Martinez is a standard issue democrat– less progressive on the issues than many other democrats challenging Republican State Senate and Assembly members.

It is noteworthy that ALPR cameras were deployed under Obeso-Martinez’s mayorship and, [when questioned by the right-leaning "Orange County Register"](#) about the specifics of her policy positions, she was unable to answer nearly every question they gave her.

Despite her seeming preparedness for the office, Obeso-Martinez’s deployment of ALPR cameras is condemnable. A candidate like this is not normally in line with IE DSA standards. Therefore, we have no recommendation for this race and urge Obeso-Martinez to learn about the privacy issues ALPR cameras cause to our communities.

Assembly District 39 (AD-39) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Adelanto, Hesperia, Victorville

Analysis

AD-36 is presently represented by democratic incumbent Juan Carrillo, who is being challenged by Republican and mortgage broker Paul Marsh. This district is a safe Democratic district, represented by a nominally progressive Democrat who is facing an underfunded Republican. AD-36 is not expected to flip come November.

Marsh is another right-wing Republican, whose focus is on “family values” and transparent government spending.

While Carillo has garnered endorsements from some prominent IE progressive organizations and unions, his record and campaign finance records do not meet IE DSA's standards. His campaign finance records show that he is a heavy recipient of corporate contributions, specifically from AirBnB, AT&T, and multiple construction companies.

Therefore, we have no recommendation in this race.

Assembly District 41 (AD-41) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Hesperia, Upland

Analysis

AD-41 is presently represented by Democratic incumbent John Harabedean and is being challenged by Republican Adam Vena who has no official campaign website and is not running a noteworthy campaign. This district is comfortably democratic, and the vast majority of it is centered in Pasadena, rather than the IE.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Harabedian is another standard progressive Democrat, however it is noteworthy that he has been endorsed by DMFI and has accepted contributions from Pro-Israel figures.

AD-41 leaves little room for discourse. The standard “D” incumbent is likely to beat the no-name Republican. Therefore, we have no recommendation for this race.

Assembly District 45 (AD-45) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino

Analysis

AD-45 is presently represented by Democratic incumbent James Ramos, who is facing a challenge from Republican business owner Greg Abdouch. This is another very comfortably Democratic district where there is no chance of a republican victory. It is important to note, however, that AD-45 is prime IE DSA territory and this seat is one we need to pay attention to.

Ramos is a corporate-backed, machine “Dem” who has taken direct contributions from oil and gas companies including Chevron. Whereas Abdouch is the repetitive Republican business figure with no chance of winning.

While this is an obvious non-recommendation, this district poses a great opportunity for analysis, as incumbent Democrat James Ramos has a lot of similarities with Xavier Becerra and may be easy to unseat with a democratic socialist candidate.

Therefore, we have no recommendation for this race.

Assembly District 47 (AD-47) Recommend: Leila Namvar

IE Cities Included

Banning, Palm Springs, Yucaipa

Analysis

Democrat Leila Namvar is running against incumbent Republican Greg Wallis in an incredibly competitive race. Wallis won his 2022 election by a margin of just 85 votes.

Since being elected, Wallis has surprised his Republican peers by defecting from the party line and voting with Democrats 8% of the time— a record high in the State Assembly. To that point, he has proven to be wildly unpredictable on his stances regarding AI regulation and ICE raids in California.

Namvar has an impressive slate of union endorsements for her campaign, which makes sense given her background as a former Chapter President of SEIU 721. Namvar has also worked as an urban planner in Indio since 2005, giving her a unique perspective on solutions for housing and affordability. While Namvar is lacking a detailed policy platform, she shows solidarity with the working class every chance she gets and brings workers' rights to the forefront of every discussion.

Leila Namvar, former Chapter President of SEIU 721, is the clear choice of labor in the district and promises to be a strong pro-union vote in the Assembly.

We recommend Leila Namvar for Assembly District 47.

Assembly District 50 (AD-50) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto

Analysis

Incumbent Democrat Robert Garcia is facing Republican Victoria Mageno in AD-50.

Garcia has a strong record on criminal justice reform and police accountability, while also receiving backing from major labor organizations in the IE like the AFL-CIO, SEIU and CTA. Additionally, Garcia is backed by Pro-Israel PACs like J Street and AIPAC.

Garcia has spent over 20 years in education and served on the Etiwanda School District Board. His legislative record has generally supported public schools and teachers. Despite pushing for greater oversight of charter schools, Garcia stops short of opposing them outright.

With Mageno offering little publicly available information about her platform, the contrast is largely between an incumbent with a documented progressive record and a Republican challenger.

Garcia likely has a safe win in this election and does not need, nor warrant, our recommendation. However, we ask that his constituents hold him accountable when he is re-elected.

Assembly District 53 (AD-53) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Chino, Ontario

Analysis

Incumbent Democrat Michelle Rodriguez is running against Republican Rafaela Romero.

While Rodriguez has significant support from organized labor, including the Inland Empire Labor Council (IELC), progressive organizations have raised concerns about her voting record, particularly surrounding criminal justice.

CA DSA and DSA-LA have taken a “No Recommendation” position. Therefore, with no candidate offering sufficient alignment with IE DSA's political program, we do not believe there is sufficient basis for an IE DSA recommendation.

Assembly District 58 (AD-58) – Recommend: Clarissa Cervantes

IE Cities Included

Corona, Jurupa Valley, Riverside,

Analysis

Democrat Clarissa Cervantes is running against Republican incumbent Leticia Castillo.

Cervantes has strong support from organized labor, including the IELC, SEIU, UNITE HERE, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Teamsters, UAW. Her priorities include workers' rights, affordable housing, healthcare, immigrant rights, and environmental protections. While she is not a socialist candidate and there are areas where IE DSA members may disagree with her, her record and relationship with organized labor provide a stronger basis for an IE DSA recommendation.

Assembly District 60 (AD-60) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Moreno Valley, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto

Analysis

Incumbent Democrat Corey Jackson faces Republican Ed Delgado, a Moreno Valley City Councilmember.

Jackson has built one of the more progressive records among IE legislators. He scores a 97% with the California Labor Federation (CLF), a 95% with Courage California, and a 0% with the California Chamber of Commerce and the HJTA.

As the first Black and openly LGBTQ+ member of the State Legislature, Jackson is the chair of the Select Committee on Racism, Hate, and Xenophobia and wrote a law that stops school boards from banning books over LGBTQ+ and racial content. Jacksons also chairs the Sustainable Trade and Commerce Caucus while representing a region where warehouse sprawl has damaged the health and air quality of working families.

Still, Jackson falls short of IE DSA's standards. He voted and publicly championed AB 715 saying he felt, "proud to stand with the Jewish Caucus in support of [the bill]." The CTA, progressive organizations, and Palestinian solidarity groups opposed the bill because of its ability to silence criticism of Israel in K-12 classrooms. Jackson's vote and advocacy for AB 715 directly conflicts with IE DSA's commitments under [Res. 10 For an Anti-Zionist IE DSA](#).

It is worth noting that Republican Ed Delgado would take AD-60 in a dangerous direction. He has spent 25 years in the Riverside County Sheriff's Office and retired as Assistant Sheriff in charge of the Corrections Division, overseeing operations across three county jails. Delgado teaches leadership courses to students pursuing careers in law enforcement.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

While a city councilmember, Delgado cast the lone vote against declaring Moreno Valley a welcoming community for immigrants. He framed his opposition around following the law, at a time when ICE raids terrorized families across the Inland Empire and residents begged their city council for protection. A career jailer who won't stand with immigrant neighbors has no place representing one of the most Latine and working-class districts in the state.

Neither candidate meets IE DSA's standards for recommendation or endorsement, so we have none for this race. But the two candidates do not pose equal threats and we won't pretend otherwise. Your real options are:

- Vote for Jackson if keeping a career jailer and opponent of immigrant protections out of Sacramento matters most to you. Jackson's record on labor, LGBTQ+ rights, and anti-discrimination stands far apart from Delgado's.
- Leave this race blank if you cannot support Jackson after his advocacy for AB 715. No member of IE DSA should feel obligated to vote for a candidate who works against Palestinian liberation.
- Do not vote for Delgado. Under no circumstances does Delgado's record serve working families in the Inland Empire.

We also call on Jackson to repudiate AB 715 and commit to defending Palestinian voices in California classrooms. His constituents, and our chapter, will continue holding him to that.

Assembly District 63 (AD-63) – Recommend: Kevin Akin

IE Cities Included

Corona, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Riverside

Analysis

Incumbent Republican Natasha Johnson faces Peace and Freedom Party (PFP) candidate Kevin Akin. Democrats flat out did not show up for this race, allowing Johnson to take 99.3% of the primary vote. Akin filed as a write-in after seeing that

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Johnson had no opponent, and under California's top-two system, his second-place finish put him on the November ballot.

Kevin Akin has spent his life as a working-class organizer in Riverside. He has spent more than 50 years as an activist, PFP official, and occasional candidate. Currently retired, Akin has worked as a carpenter, steelworker, and steam engineer in a hospital boiler room– but he's never taken a paycheck for a political position.

Akin's campaign centers on getting money out of politics and taxing the rich. He has earned endorsements from the IELC, PFP, Progressive Party of America, the California Federation of Labor Unions, and the Green Party of California.

His opponent, Natasha Johnson, won her seat in a 2025 special election after Trump appointed Bill Essayli as the top federal prosecutor in LA. Essayli backed Johnson who has previously served on the Lake Elsinore City Council, including as mayor, and works as a marketing liaison for Navy Federal Credit Union.

Johnson's ties to Essayli matter, since Essayli's office has charged people connected to protests against ICE raids, including a man indicted on two felony charges for bringing face shields to protesters. Johnson owes her seat to Essayli's backing. Johnson also holds close associations with the infamous, anti-Trans State Superintendent hopeful and Calvary Chapel devotee Sonja Shaw, need we say more?

This will be an uphill battle for Akin especially since he has very little campaign funding. Akin is the **only** AD-63 candidate running on an explicitly anti-capitalist program, and his decades of organizing experience reflects the working-class politics that our chapter fights for– but don't just take our word for it! Akin's endorsements show that organized labor also sees him as the working-class choice in this race.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Johnson is likely to win, but every vote for Akin shows that IE voters want a working-class alternative to both major parties. Therefore, we recommend Kevin Akin for AD-63.

Assembly District 71 (AD-71) – No Recommendation

IE Cities Included

Murrieta, Temecula

Analysis

Democrat JJ Galvez is running against Republican incumbent Kate Sanchez.

Galvez has significant support from organized labor, including the IELC, CLF, Teamsters, UAW, UNITE HERE, CTA, and Inland Empire Building Trades Council. His platform focuses on affordability, housing, jobs, and community investment. However, CA DSA has taken a “No Recommendation” position in the race since there are areas where Galvez's platform does not sufficiently distinguish itself from mainstream Democratic politics.

While Sanchez's politics are substantially opposed to IE DSA's political program, we do not believe that alone provides a sufficient basis for an organizational recommendation of Galvez. Therefore, we have no recommendation for this race.

Local Elections

Fontana City Council

Mayor – Joz Sida

Fontana is a bustling, multicultural city dominated by industry. With a population of over 220,000, Fontana's poverty rate is nearly ten percent with homelessness, housing affordability, and clashes with immigration enforcement dominating the socio-political landscape. There are seven candidates running for Mayor, but only two are leading the fight; incumbent Republican mayor Acquanetta Warren and independent Jocelyn "Joz" Sida.

Early in Warren's political career, she was appointed to Fontana's City Council by the current Chief Financial Officer of the Water of Life Church and former Fontana Mayor Mark Noemi. Warren's relentless efforts to bring industrial jobs to Fontana has resulted in unprecedented warehouse expansion and real estate development, earning her the nickname "Warehouse Warren." In one specific case, the City of Fontana sold a community park's land to real estate developers for pennies on the dollar, effectively cutting the park in half to pave the way for new housing developments. Recognizing her actions as contentious, Warren convinced the City Council to move their meetings to 2 p.m., creating an obstacle for residents who work a nine-to-five but wish to attend these meetings. Although all of Fontana suffers under Warren's administration, it is particularly South Fontana that suffers the most from an increase of pollution, warehouse expansion, and lack of investment in public services.

Joz Sida is a lifelong community organizer and IE DSA member who is running on a platform of halting reckless development and warehouse expansion, ending sweetheart deals for developers who are buying up public land, increasing accessibility to public services, and combating ICE. Joz is a Chapter Director of the Sierra Club in San Geronio and has served in various organizing roles in progressive organizations for the past fifteen years. Joz is endorsed by Senator Bernie Sanders and many other local community leaders and organizations, including IE DSA.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Warehouse Warren won't bring anything new to the City of Fontana, a city that desperately needs a fresh start. In our opinion, Joz Sida can and will bring that change with local government accountability, economic stability, and quality of life to Fontana residents.

Therefore, IE DSA members have voted to endorse Jocelyn "Joz" Sida for the Mayor of Fontana, and we strongly encourage you to vote for her this November!

City Clerk – Joe Alvanez

Fontana is in a unique position; normally, a City Clerk is appointed, not elected. This presents a unique opportunity to elect a clerk who has the people's best interests in mind.

There are three candidates for Fontana City Clerk: Germaine Key, Joe Alvanez, and Daniel Quiroga.

Germaine Key, the incumbent, was appointed to her position by the Fontana City Council in March 2022 to fill a vacancy, but later elected to office in November 2022. During her tenure, she has continued Fontana's long tradition of obfuscating city records difficult to access. Key is known to work in lockstep with the current City Council and the Mayor and shows no signs of stopping.

Daniel Quiroga sat on Fontana's Planning Commission and is now running for Clerk. Little information is publicly available about him and his campaign.

Joe Alvanez is a longtime community organizer and information technology (IT) professional with a background in public sector management who seeks to bring the mindset of an IT developer to the City Clerk's office. Joe wants to bring accountability and transparency to City Hall and improve how Fontana residents can access records by making meeting agendas, city ordinances, and election information more accessible to the public. Joe is a member of IE DSA and was previously endorsed by the Chapter for his primary run for Riverside County Clerk.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Joe Alvanez is our clear-cut favorite for this position. We believe he will bring much needed accountability and vision to an oft-neglected, but incredibly necessary, public office. To put it simply, Joe will do the “boring stuff” in City Hall well, delivering on his promise to Fontana residents of easy access to the simple things that will make their lives easier.

Therefore, IE DSA members have voted to endorse Joe Alvanez for City Clerk of Fontana, and we encourage you to vote for him this November. “Go Joe!”

Treasurer – Recommend: Kamal Namou

This November, Fontana voters will choose a new City Treasurer for the first time in more than two decades. Janet Koehler-Brooks, who has held the office since 2003, did not file for reelection. The two candidates running are Kamal Namou and Joe Armendarez.

Joe Armendarez chairs the Fontana’s Planning Commission, which reviews development proposals and advises the City Council on zone changes, general plans, and land-use policy– effectively giving him a central role in deciding where warehouses go in Fontana. Armendarez previously served one term on the Board of the Fontana Unified School District and has worked as a track supervisor for Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway. His past campaign materials list public safety as his first priority, but he has yet to publish a platform for this particular race.

Kamal Namou is a public defender and Fontana resident who has volunteered with local schools and environmental initiatives. He is running as part of the Fontana United (FU) Slate which includes Joz Sida for Mayor and Joe Alvanez for City Clerk, both IE DSA endorsed candidates.

Namou’s platform centers on transparency, accountability, and wanting to modernize the Treasurer’s Office with digital reporting. Namou believes that this modernization will allow Fontana residents to see how **every dollar** of the City’s budget is spent. Namou promises to conduct quarterly audits to identify waste,

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

redirect funds toward community projects and local infrastructure, and steer the city's investments toward local businesses and sustainable initiatives.

When asked about policing and city investments, Namou said he would require every department, including the Fontana Police Department, to justify its budget based on measurable needs and outcomes. Any savings found will be directed towards programs that prevent crime and strengthen Fontana neighborhoods. Namou also supports ethical, transparent investment standards for the City's public funds, including avoiding investments that directly support warfare.

The City Treasurer oversees how Fontana manages public money and should serve working families, not the developers and warehouse interests that have shaped Fontana for years. Treasurers should keep public funds out of weapons manufacturers, fossil fuels, and investments tied to Israel's occupation of Palestine.

Therefore, we recommend Kamal Namou for Fontana Treasurer.

District 1 – Recommend: Nubia Diaz

Incumbent Philip Cothran Jr. is facing a challenge from Nubia Diaz for Fontana City Council's District 1 seat.

About 35,000 registered voters in District 1 will have the opportunity to install a progressive candidate who will fight for its residents. The current MAGA enthusiast Cothran Jr. is a registered Republican who has occupied the council seat since 2017 and has done nothing to improve the lives of the average resident.

A nepo baby at heart, Cothran Jr. advocates for private businesses such as his family's insurance agency and warehouse buildings, leaving Fontana residents to fend for themselves. The need to vote Cothran Jr. out is overwhelmingly apparent.

Nubia Diaz is a dedicated community advocate and professional leader who is also running on the FU slate with IE DSA-endorsed Joz Sida and Joe Alvanez. With

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

extensive experience in local governance and a profound passion for public service, Diaz is committed to bringing fresh, accountable leadership to City Hall.

Diaz's platform focuses on community equity, sustainable development, and public safety. She believes in a Fontana where every resident has access to quality public resources and that the city's growth should directly benefit the working families who are the backbone of our communities.

In closing, Cothran needs to go and Nubia Diaz is the one who can defeat him. Therefore, we recommend Nubia Diaz for District 1 of Fontana's City Council!

District 4 – Recommend: Luz Perez

With a population of around 51,000 and an active voter base of only half of that, Fontana's District 4 represents a significant battleground where two progressive candidates are running against a deeply entrenched conservative incumbent. In a race that will undoubtedly be decided by slim margins, the viability of splitting the progressive vote and still defeating John Roberts is an open question.

John Roberts is a registered Independent who was first elected to the City Council in 1992. Roberts was a career firefighter and former division chief but has been presided over District 4 for more than 30 years, earning him the record of longest-serving City Councilmember in Fontana's history. Roberts' reign is so deeply entrenched that his campaign website is inactive and he rarely posts on social media. Outside of putting a few signs up, Roberts hasn't even bothered to campaign for District 4, he just wins every election cycle.

Despite this, Roberts *is* vulnerable to a challenge, which became readily apparent when Fontana's districts were redrawn in 2018 and he won the proceeding election by just 33 votes. Roberts, though nonpartisan on paper, is in favor of all of the textbook conservative policies that Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren supports, including reckless warehouse expansion. He is also a member of the Fontana megachurch Water of Life, which holds shady ties to local government.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

One of Robert's opponents is Luz Pérez, a Fontana native with a background as an educator and a policy staffer. Pérez is running a progressive campaign with advocacy for stronger rent protections and assistance programs, faster and more affordable public transportation, expanding Fontana's green spaces and clean air programs, introducing solar panel shade canopies for parking lots, decriminalizing street vendors with low-cost licensing, and limiting city cooperation with immigration enforcement.

Pérez has also been endorsed by multiple labor and IE progressive organizations, including UAW, SEIU, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), IELC, the Working Families Party (WFP), and Planned Parenthood. Her policy background and openly progressive campaign strategy make her a strong candidate in this race. However, Pérez proudly accepted an endorsement by AIPAC Pete Aguilar (CA-33), an avowed Zionist who has taken nearly a million dollars from pro-Israel PACs.

Ben Vasquez is a lifelong resident of Fontana, a longtime community organizer, and a Commercial Drivers License Class Truck Driver who is running as an open socialist on the FU slate along IE DSA-endorsed Joz Sida and Joe Alvanez.

Vasquez has been endorsed by the Unity and Strength for Workers (USW) union and runs on a platform grounded in the belief that Fontana's growth should benefit all of its residents. He describes himself as "determined to advocate for policies that protect our environment while creating high-quality local jobs for working families."

To put it simply, Roberts needs to go. His lack of campaigning and abysmal effort to listen to the concerns of his constituents put him leagues behind Pérez and Vasquez, who have both been knocking on doors and meeting residents to better advocate for their needs.

Despite being a member of IE DSA, Pérez is not openly running as a democratic socialist candidate. However, Pérez has a solid policy platform and is openly progressive in her clear vision for a better Fontana posing a threat to unseating Roberts. She has been campaigning for over a year, and has been endorsed broadly

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

by local labor unions and progressive organizations. Pérez touting AIPAC Pete's endorsement has raised significant concerns amongst IE DSA members and an endorsement would be in violation of our Anti-Zionist policy. However, we believe that if Pérez was elected, she would be a champion of progressive policies in the City of Fontana.

Though entering his campaign for District 4 later than Pérez, Vasquez is a committed progressive with a background in community organizing. However, IE DSA members are concerned that his late entry into the race, paired with the broad base of support for Pérez, has opened questions about Vasquez's viability. There are concerns that support for Vasquez would split the progressive vote and lead to an easier path to victory for Roberts.

Therefore, we recommend Luz Perez for District 4 and strongly advise residents to not vote for John Roberts.

Moreno Valley City Council

Mayor – Recommend: Ulises Cabrera

Six candidates are running for a two-year term as Mayor of Moreno Valley. They are incumbent Ulises Cabrera, Jaime Hurtado, Rylee Joseph Peak, Christopher Baca, Dr. Patsy Brown, and Vanessa Moore.

Hurtado joined Republican Riverside County Board Supervisor Marion Ashley's staff in 2003, eventually rising in ranks and becoming her chief of staff. Hurtado's 2022 mayoral campaign highlighted endorsements from public safety organizations.

Moore lists proactive policing as her priority and plans to work with developers on housing.

Dr. Brown's 2022 platform called for livable wages for city employees, more affordable housing, and housing for unhoused residents, but she has yet to publish endorsements or a detailed plan.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Peak joined Morena Valley's Parks, Community Services, and Trails Commission at 13 and now chairs it. His campaign speaks about fairness and inclusion but has no record on policing, surveillance, or labor.

Baca has published no platform.

Cabrera's record on surveillance and policing raises real concerns for IE DSA members. He voted in 2023 for the City's \$2.86 million five-year contract with Flock Safety, installing 207 ALPRs across Moreno Valley. Cabrera proceeded to work for Flock Safety while serving as mayor, only to later sue the company, alleging he was terminated partly because he refused to use his office to benefit the company. Since then, he has recused himself from votes on the contract. In 2023, Cabrera expanded the City's contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Recently, Cabrera's alignments have shifted. He now opposes the mass surveillance that ALPRs represent and supports a moratorium on new warehouses to protect Moreno Valley from pollution. Since 2017, Cabrera has pushed for a city police department that can be held accountable to residents rather than the Riverside County Sheriff. Cabrera is one of only two Councilmembers who refuse campaign contributions from the Riverside Sheriffs' Association. Cabrera has support from labor, including the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 1184 and Teamsters Local 369.

Cabrera is not a socialist candidate and his role in bringing ALPRs to Moreno Valley deserves harsh criticism. However, his newfound positions make him the best available option, especially against Hurtado.

Therefore, we recommend Ulises Cabrera for Mayor of Moreno Valley, and look forward to holding Cabrera to his commitments.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

District 2 – Recommend: Liza Arellano

Moreno Valley's District 2 is an open seat because Councilmember Ed Delgado is running for AD-60. There are three candidates in this race: Liza Arellano, JoAnn Martinez Stephan, and David Zeitz.

Martinez Stephan has lived in Moreno Valley for more than 30 years, sits on the City's Planning Commission, and ran for District 2 in 2018. Her platform calls for responsible growth, bringing more businesses to Sunnymead Ranch, and closer coordination between the city and school district. We found no endorsements.

Zeitz also serves on Moreno Valley's Planning Commission, but we found no campaign website, platform, or endorsements.

Arellano serves on Moreno Valley's Parks, Community Services, and Trails Commission, is a longtime resident, and a professor at CalBaptist. Before becoming a professor, she was a Child Welfare Services Manager for San Bernardino County, later leading a graduate program in social work.

Arellano opposes renewing the city's contract with Flock Safety. Instead, she wants to invest in non-traditional forms of public safety that aren't tied to mass surveillance, such as youth programs that keep young people engaged and mental health professionals who respond alongside law enforcement on crisis calls. Arellano's campaign is funded by friends, family, and unions. In fact, none of the candidates in Arellano's coalition take corporate money.

Arellano has the strongest labor support in the race. Her endorsements include the IELC, the Riverside County Democratic Party, IE United, the National Association of Social Workers, the Western States Carpenters Union (WSCU), the Southern California District Council of Laborers, UFCW Local 1167, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District Council 36, and Teamsters Joint Council 42.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Arellano is not a socialist candidate, but her opposition to ALPRs, vision for public safety rooted in prevention rather than surveillance, and broad union support make her the best option for working families in District 2.

Therefore, we recommend Liza Arellano for District 2 seat on the Moreno Valley City Council!

District 4 – Recommend: Nikita Wilson

Incumbent Cheylynda Barnard faces challengers Nikita Wilson and Steven Granda Alvarado.

Barnard is a former Vice President of SEIU 721, a former social worker, and now Executive Director of the IE Labor and Community Center at UC Riverside. She pushed City Council for a stronger, Moreno Valley-specific immigrant welcoming resolution. However, when the Council debated holding city events despite the risk of ICE enforcement, she voted with the majority to move forward, saying she did not want fear to dictate the City's decisions.

Alvarado's platform focuses on cutting red tape for businesses and investing in public safety. Mayor Cabrera and Councilmember Erlan Gonzalez have endorsed him.

Wilson's family moved to Moreno Valley in 1994. Her community work includes outreach to veterans, seniors, and single mothers, supporting tenants in unsafe housing, and advocacy against disability discrimination. She also serves on Moreno Valley's Parks, Community Services, and Trails Commission.

Wilson's campaign grew out of a fight over her own housing. She and her neighbors lived for years with unresolved maintenance issues. Wilson proceeded to document her subnominal living conditions, pressed building management, and researched public records. She reports that she contacted her District 4 Councilmember and spoke at City Hall. Despite being told that both her council representative and Code Enforcement would visit the property, the visit never happened. Her research turned up a \$3 million city loan connected to the

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

developer. The management company was eventually replaced, and residents received long-overdue repairs.

Wilson has turned that experience into sustained research on how the City spends public money. She has filed public records requests on Moreno Valley's ALPR cameras, including their contracts, policies, and total costs. Wilson has also tracked development agreements, the Moreno Valley's Community Benefit Fund, and records tied to Highland Fairview, the developer at the center of a past political corruption probe in Moreno Valley. When Highland Fairview's community manager sought a meeting, Wilson chose to review the public records first, and the meeting never took place.

Barnard brings real labor credentials to the race, but her record on protecting immigrant residents has fallen short when it mattered. Wilson reports that it was Barnard who did not follow through when they came to City Hall for protection from living in unsafe conditions. Though Alvarado runs as Cabrera's candidate on a public safety platform, we believe that it has been Wilson who shows up for her neighbors. Wilson following the money regarding ALPR surveillance and developer deals, and winning results for tenants has proven where she stands in relation to IE DSA's platform.

Therefore, we recommend Nikita Wilson for the District 4 seat on the Moreno Valley City Council!

Rancho Cucamonga City Council

Mayor - Recommend: Jaskirat Sondh

Lynne B. Kennedy, Oliver King, Marjorie Hamada, Michael R. Perez, and Jaskirat Sondh are all in the race for Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga.

Kennedy is the incumbent Mayor Pro Tem and a longtime City Councilmember. Although she brings substantial local government experience, we have not identified clear commitments to stronger tenant protections, restrictions on

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

surveillance technology, or meaningful independent civilian oversight of law enforcement.

King is a business owner and attorney. We have not identified a detailed public platform addressing tenant protections, permanently affordable housing, or government surveillance. More information about his positions on workers' rights and housing affordability would be needed to fully assess his candidacy.

Hamada is also an attorney and business owner. We have not identified clear policy proposals addressing housing affordability, workers' rights, or police accountability, making it difficult to assess how her administration would address the needs of working-class residents.

Perez is retired with a background in education and law enforcement administration. We have not identified a detailed public platform outlining his positions on housing affordability, surveillance technology, or police accountability. Further clarification on these issues would be necessary to evaluate his candidacy.

Sondh is running on a platform centered on housing affordability, workers' rights, privacy, and government accountability. He supports establishing a Tenants Protection Office to provide renters with legal assistance and resources, tenant unions to help renters organize, and a community land trust to preserve permanently affordable housing. Sondh also opposes the city's use of ALPR cameras and supports an independent civilian review board with meaningful oversight of law enforcement.

On development, Sondh has opposed expanding Etiwanda Heights beyond its original plan, arguing that infrastructure, traffic, and wildfire evacuation planning must keep pace with growth. His other priorities include free public transit, protected bike lanes, and attracting employers that provide family-sustaining wages.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

Sondh's platform addresses several issues affecting working-class residents, particularly renters and people concerned about surveillance and police accountability. Further clarification on immigration enforcement and labor policy would help round out our evaluation.

Therefore, we recommend Jaskirat Sondh for Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga!

Rialto City Council

Recommend: Ana Gonzalez

Rialto voters will elect two members to the City Council for four-year terms. A total of nine candidates are running: City Treasurer Edward J. Carrillo, human resources professional Celina Diaz, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Scott, ironworker Robert "Bobby" Bustamante, nonprofit executive director Ana Gonzalez, community advocate Blanca Mondragon, appointed incumbent Edward Montoya Jr., parole agent supervisor Carl Mayfield, and case manager Rafael Trujillo.

Scott has served on the Council for most of the past 30 years. He has run on supporting a strong police and fire department and opposes new taxes or fees. In 2005, he faced a recall election after supporting a plan to replace the Rialto Police Department with a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department contract. Scott ran for State Assembly as a Republican in 2002. When residents urged the Council to appoint Gonzalez to the 2024 vacancy, Scott voted to interview other candidates instead, saying he wasn't convinced she was the right person for the seat.

Trujillo previously served on the City Council and ran for mayor in 2024, finishing with about 23.6% of the vote.

We could not find enough public information on the records or platforms of Carrillo, Diaz, Bustamante, Mondragon, and Mayfield so we could not properly evaluate them.

Gonzalez serves as Executive Director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ), where she leads work on clean air, clean water,

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

and environmental equity across the IE. She has lived in Rialto for almost 30 years and has served on the Rialto's Budget Advisory Committee and the General Plan Community Advisory Committee.

Gonzalez's record on warehouses speaks for itself. In January 2025, Rialto City Council denied a warehouse project and passed a 45-day warehouse moratorium thanks to pushback from residents. CCAEJ, under Gonzalez's leadership, celebrated the win and called for repairs on warehouse-caused damages to Rialto's neighborhoods.

Gonzalez has also stood up for fair elections, publicly opposing the Council-approved changes to Rialto's campaign contribution rules. She argued that this move would let candidates raise \$5,900 every year rather than per election and give corporate candidates an unfair advantage over grassroots candidates who rely on small donations from residents.

Gonzalez was the runner-up in a 2024 council race with 7,209 votes. Residents urged the Council to appoint her to fill the vacated seat by Joe Baca Sr. when he became Rialto mayor. Instead, the Council voted 3-1 to open up the interview process for appointment, eventually choosing former army medic and nonprofit leader Edward Montoya Jr.. This process troubled local residents and only grew mistrust of Baca's leadership.

Infrastructure, affordable housing, health and safety, and support for small businesses, are just a few of Gonzalez's campaign priorities. She also advocates for bilingual meeting agendas and materials so that Rialto's Spanish-speaking residents can take part in city decisions.

Gonzalez has spent years fighting the warehouse industry that has poisoned the air in Rialto and across the Inland Empire. She has championed transparency and fair access to City Hall. Gonzalez is not a democratic socialist candidate and we are waiting on confirmation for her positions on policing and ICE. Her platform's emphasis on "smart growth" and economic development also leaves room for

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

questions about how she would approach new development. Still, her work aligns with our IE DSA's priorities more closely than most candidates in this guide.

Therefore, we recommend Ana Gonzalez for Rialto City Council. Voters are allowed to choose up to two candidates, but we recommend only one. We encourage members to "bullet vote" Gonzalez in order to give her the strongest possible chance of finishing in the top two.

Riverside City Council

Ward 2 – No Recommendation

Ward 2 covers the Eastside, Canyon Crest, Mission Grove, Sycamore Canyon, and the University District. The seat is open, and Gracie Torres and Aram Ayra advanced from a four-way June primary. Third and fourth place finishers, Mike Vahl and Christen Montero, have since endorsed Ayra.

Torres serves on the Western Municipal Water District board and opposes warehouses and data centers near homes, has helped build a water industry training program that she says has placed more than 150 people in careers, and supports local hiring agreements on construction projects. Torres has broad labor support, including the Riverside Firefighters, SEIU 721, WSCU, IUPAT, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 440, UFCW 1167, Operating Engineers Local 12, LIUNA, and the San Bernardino and Riverside Building and Construction Trade Council (BTC).

Her campaign finance filings, however, cross several of IE DSA's Hardlines. Since 2025, Torres has accepted:

- Police money: a \$5,000 in-kind contribution from the Riverside Police Officers Association PAC, plus \$5,000 from Bail Hotline Bail Bonds.
- Developer and real estate money: roughly \$30,000 from land developers, real estate companies, the California Real Estate PAC, and the Building Industry Association, including D & E Land Co., Andalusia Development Company, and March 1 LLC, the master developer of the MarchLife campus.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

- Mobile home industry money: about \$9,750 from park owners and their industry PACs, the same interests that fought Riverside's mobile home rent cap.
- Warehouse and logistics money: about \$6,100, including Eagle Logistics & Warehousing.

When Ayra challenged her on the mobile home donations at a September forum, Torres said that the money wouldn't change her opposition to rent increases, adding that "they know that they can work with me." Her position on University Terrace, the rejected permanent supportive housing project, has also shifted. At an April forum, she said she would have voted against it under the circumstances, and she now says she would have worked to revise it so it could pass. The local water district board censured Torres, citing complaints about her conduct toward staff and in meetings. Torres says the censure followed her report of a suspected Brown Act violation.

Ayra has run the most progressive platform in the race. He calls for a warehouse moratorium, a voter-approved warehouse tax, and a ban on data centers. He proposes assessing large corporate owners of residential property to fund affordable housing, wants to protect mobile home parks, supports University Terrace, and calls for local campaign contribution limits. His donor record is clean by our standards since we found no police, developer, warehouse, or real estate company money. Much of his campaign is self-funded, with roughly \$44,000 from Ayra himself, including loans, and nearly \$15,000 from relatives.

But Ayra's record raises questions about how he presents himself. His ballot designation reads "Educator," a title Torres challenged in court. Records showed his teaching amounted to a single six-session, non-credit adult enrichment course on Huey Long only 12 hours in total. His primary job is Associate Director of Development at Big Brothers Big Sisters. A judge allowed the label to stand, but it stretches the truth. IE United's endorsement goes further by describing him as the Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the IE. Small overstatements matter in a candidate asking voters for their trust, and they can grow once someone holds power.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

His history in student government also raises concerns. As a UCR senator and presidential candidate in 2017, Ayra filed a judicial complaint against two rivals, accusing one of undermining his campaign by dropping out and endorsing another candidate on Facebook. Treating ordinary campaign politics as grounds for a formal complaint suggests a combative approach that could make coalition-building difficult on a seven-member Council. Despite his progressive platform, IE United's endorsement highlights Ayra's focus on making sure police have what they need.

Torres brings real labor support and a record of workforce development, but she has taken money from the police, developers, and mobile home park owners, and her shifting positions give us little confidence she would stand up to them. Ayra holds the strongest platform and the cleanest donor record in the race, but that clean record only clears our Hard Lines, not earns our trust. His pattern of overstating his credentials and treating opponents as enemies raises doubts in members about whether Ayra can deliver on what he promises.

Neither candidate meets IE DSA's standards. Therefore, we make no recommendation in this race. We suggest residents weigh these candidates according to their own priorities, or leave this race blank.

Victorville City Council

District 4 - Recommend: Derek Marshall

Bob Harriman, Kassandra Shamsrouf, and Derek Marshall are running for District 4 in Victorville.

Harriman is the incumbent seeking reelection. His incumbency gives him a record of public service against which voters can evaluate his performance on affordability, neighborhood investment, and the needs of working-class residents.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

For Shamsrouf, we have not identified a sufficiently detailed public platform or record of progressive organizing to assess her commitments to working-class priorities, labor rights, or neighborhood investment.

Marshall is a community organizer and Victorville Planning Commissioner. His campaign focuses on street safety, affordability, local jobs, and making city government more responsive to residents.

Marshall has emphasized improving neighborhood infrastructure, addressing rising living costs, and attracting jobs that allow residents to work closer to home. His experience on the Planning Commission also gives him direct involvement in local land-use and development decisions.

Marshall has participated in community activism opposing federal immigration enforcement, including a student walkout in March 2026.

Marshall's campaign has received endorsements from several labor and progressive organizations, including the AFL-CIO Labor Council of San Bernardino County, SEIU 2015, the California WFP, LIUNA!, WSCU, High Desert Progressive Democrats, and IE United. He was also previously endorsed by IEe DSA in his congressional campaign, reflecting an existing relationship with our chapter.

His priorities around affordability, neighborhood investment, and labor representation align with several concerns facing working-class residents. More information about his specific housing proposals, environmental policies, and positions on policing would help provide a fuller assessment.

Therefore, we recommend Derek Marshall for District 4 Seat on the Victorville City Council!

Riverside County

Superior Court Office No. 10 – Recommend: Andrea Garcia

Two attorneys are running for an open seat on the Riverside County Superior Court: Michelle Paradise, the current Assistant County Executive Officer, and Andrea Garcia, a San Bernardino County Deputy Public Defender.

Judicial races rarely get the attention they deserve. Judges decide who goes home to their families and who goes to jail, whether a tenant keeps their home, and whether an immigrant neighbor faces deportation over a past conviction. The person who wears the robe matters.

Paradise spent 25 years as a prosecutor in Riverside County, specializing in child abuse and homicide cases. She rose to the positions of Chief Deputy District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney and argues that her resume makes her the more experienced candidate.

However, her answer on racial disparities should concern every voter in the IE. Paradise has described the District Attorney's race-blind charging program as a test of whether courtroom discrimination even existed, and said the District Attorney's office concluded it had found none.

"It was very fair before race-blind filing," Paradise has said, only going further to claim that the program actually led to harsher charges when prosecutors didn't know a defendant's race. A judge who dismisses discrimination in our justice system cannot be trusted to correct it.

Garcia brings nearly 20 years of legal experience in Riverside County as an immigration attorney, public defender, and law instructor. She created Riverside County's first in-house immigration unit and has litigated post-conviction relief cases in San Bernardino. That work speaks directly to the families in our region who face the double punishment of a criminal case and deportation.

IE DSA Voting Guide for Nov. 2026 General Election

During a debate, the moderator asked how Garcia would address disparities in the courtroom. She pointed to California's Racial Justice Act, which the Legislature passed in response to documented racial disparities in the justice system backed by evidence and data from the state's Judicial Council. Garcia understands that racism in our courts is real and that the law gives judges tools to confront it.

Paradise spent a quarter century on the side of the prosecution and brings a prosecutor's view of the system to the bench. Whereas Garcia has spent her career defending people that the system targets: immigrants, people accused of crimes, and people fighting to clear their records.

Our courts already hold plenty of former prosecutors. Therefore, we recommend Andrea Garcia for Judge to Office No. 10 of the Superior Court of Riverside County.

