

# 2026 Voter Guide

Primary election June 2, 2026

# Choose

# your



# next

# governor

A zine by **CAL**  **MATTERS**

Nonpartisan and Nonprofit News!



# The Leading Candidates



**XAVIER BECERRA**

Former U.S.  
Health Secretary



**CHAD BIANCO**

Riverside County Sheriff



**STEVE HILTON**

Former Fox News Host



**MATT MAHAN**

Mayor of San Jose



**KATIE PORTER**

Former U.S. Representative  
from Orange County



**TOM STEYER**

Environmental Advocate  
and Investor



**TONY THURMOND**

Superintendent of  
Public Instruction



**ANTONIO  
VILLARAIGOSA**

Former Mayor of  
Los Angeles

# Who should be California's next Governor?

With six Democrats and two Republicans leading the primary race, it's a packed field. Take our quiz to see which candidates match your views, so you can decide who should make it to the general election in November.

Heads up: Campaigns move fast. Some candidates may have already dropped out by the time you take this quiz. For the most up-to-date candidate quiz, visit [calmatters.org/governor-quiz](https://calmatters.org/governor-quiz)



# Start Here

Check the box for the response to each question that best aligns with your views.

● ●	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
● ●	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
● ●	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
● ●	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

## 1. How should California handle taxes?

C G	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tax breaks for lower-income people; higher taxes on wealthy people and large corporations.
F H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Higher taxes on wealthy people or large corporations.
B E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Income tax breaks for all.
A D	<input type="checkbox"/>	No new taxes.

## 2. Is it important that the governor has experience in state government?

A G H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes.
B C D	<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but other political experience would be nice.
E F	<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I want an outsider.



Photo by Bet\_Noire

**3. What is the single biggest thing the next governor could pursue to make California more affordable?**

C D F G H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Build a bunch of new housing as soon as possible.
A E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower the price of gas by getting rid of many environmental regulations.
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cut regulations on businesses across the board.





Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

#### 4. How should California approach homeless encampment enforcement, especially when people turn down offers of shelter?

<p>D E</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Subject unhoused people who refuse multiple offers of dignified shelter to criminal penalties or threaten arrest to provide needed assistance.</p>
<p>A</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Authorities should intervene when encampments threaten nearby quality of life.</p>
<p>F H</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If an unhoused person refuses dignified shelter, they may require mental health intervention but not criminal penalties.</p>
<p>B</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Drug addiction and encampments are connected, and police should be involved to take unhoused residents to drug treatment.</p>
<p>C G</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>An unhoused person should be offered dignified shelter or treatment, and they shouldn't be threatened with arrest for not accepting.</p>

## 5. What's the biggest thing the governor should do to create more housing?

A C D F H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speed up building by approving permits faster and targeting construction-related regulations and fees.
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eliminate the California Environmental Quality Act.
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bring back local redevelopment taxpayer funds to build or rehabilitate affordable housing.
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop demanding more housing in expensive urban areas and allow more suburban single-family homes on undeveloped land.

## 6. How should the governor address health care costs?

C F G H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopt single-payer health care, a state-run universal system that replaces private insurance.
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a public option, a state-run plan that competes with private insurance plans.
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health care, while in need of improvement, is not the highest priority and California can't do it alone.
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Target waste and regulations on hospitals that contribute to high costs.
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the current system more efficient through technology and reducing administrative spending.



**7. How should the governor balance state climate mandates with rising energy costs?**

F	<input type="checkbox"/>	We should keep those goals and do more work to make it happen smoothly and affordably.
C D G H	<input type="checkbox"/>	We should stay committed to the goals but remain flexible on the pace or the details of the mandates to keep energy or transportation more affordable.
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	We should stabilize the oil and gas industry so we can continue to rely on it in the next few decades as we transition to renewable energy.
B E	<input type="checkbox"/>	We should eliminate the state's climate goals and boost oil and gas production.

**8. Should the next governor continue "resisting" the Trump administration as Gov. Gavin Newsom does?**

A C F G H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, be as combative or more.
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, when needed, but I want the next governor to tone it down.
B E	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.

## 9. How should the governor handle artificial intelligence?

D E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure students are prepared for whatever the future holds.
C G H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure AI technology is helpful to workers and doesn't mass-replace human workers.
F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collect a fee from AI usage to pay for services, such as financial support for displaced workers.
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Be prepared to retrain many displaced workers.
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	AI has benefits and drawbacks. Be wary of how it can be used negatively.

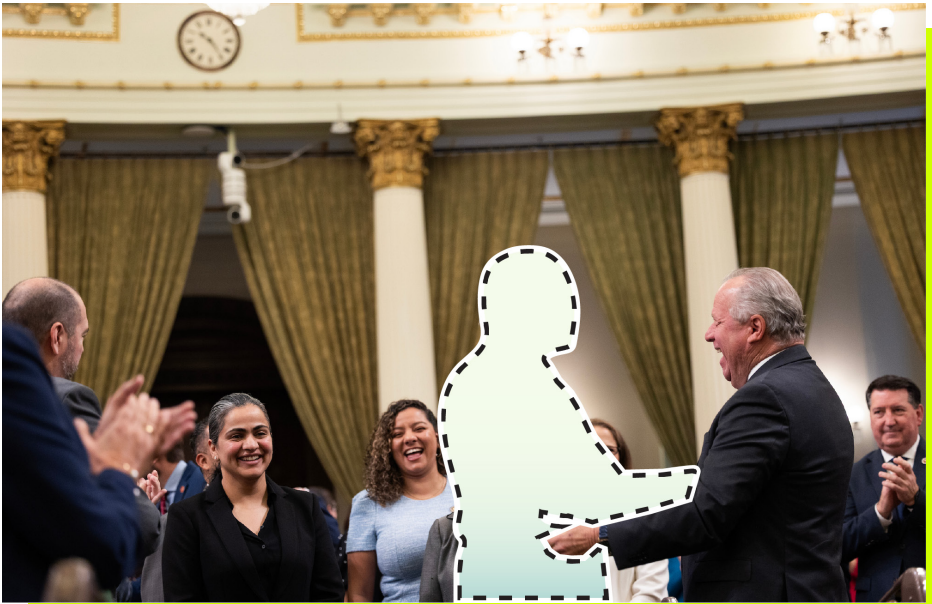


Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters



**10. How should the governor approach recent voter-approved increased penalties for drug and theft offenses?**

C G	<input type="checkbox"/>	Focus on social programs that help prevent crime.
F H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration should be made more widely available.
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	This was the right move and we're on the right track now.
D E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boost treatment programs, but repeat offenders should face incarceration.
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase criminal sentences, especially on repeat offenders.

**11. How should the governor balance the state's water needs?**

B E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Build more dams and canals to divert more water from rivers to agricultural fields and cities.
D F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve and upgrade our current system of canals and reservoirs so water is stored and delivered more efficiently.
A C G	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address system improvements while having cities also conserve and recycle more water.
H	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address system improvements while being mindful of environmental impacts.

# Tally Your Score

Look back at your answers to each question.  
Note the letters next to each answer.

## 1. How should California handle taxes?

<b>C</b> <b>G</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>F</b> <b>H</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>B</b> <b>E</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>A</b> <b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

On the next page, take those letters and put a ✓ in the grid for every time they appear.

Question	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1. Taxes			✓				✓	

Once you've marked all the answers, add up how many ✓s each candidate has. Candidates with the most ✓s are the best match for your views!



<b>Question</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
1. Taxes			
2. Experience			
3. Affordability			
4. Homelessness			
5. Housing			
6. Health Care Costs			
7. Energy			
8. Trump			
9. Artificial Intelligence			
10. Penalties			
11. Water			
<b>TOTAL CHECKMARKS</b>			
<b>Candidates</b>	 Antonio Villaraigosa	 Chad Bianco	 Katie Porter



# Credits

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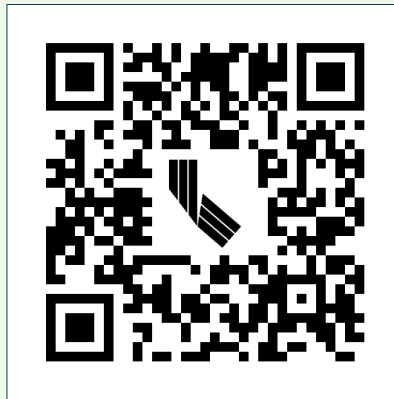
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