

CLEAR ADVOCACY

CLEAR COMMENTARY
October 29, 2020



What We See

Our single prediction: President Trump will lose California – big time.

With no statewide seats on the ballot, all attention is on ballot measures and legislative seats.

Next week, Election Day will finally be upon here — wrapping up one of the most expensive campaign cycles in California history.

Beyond the \$740 million spent on campaigns for and against the 12 statewide propositions — a state record — special interest groups have shoveled more than \$31 million into key state Assembly and Senate races.

For those interested in following state elections, below is a link to the California Secretary of State, where state results will be posted starting at 8:00 pm Tuesday

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-november-3-2020>

Ballot Measures

While 12 ballot measures are on the ballot, here are the ones we are paying particular attention:

Proposition 15: Split Roll Tax: Education Unions are in a pitched battle with business interests over how commercial properties will be assessed for property tax purposes. The measure could add \$11 billion in new tax revenues. Both sides have spent about \$60 million each.

Proposition 22: Independent v. employee: This is an AB 5 fight for life for ride share companies who treat drivers as independent contractors. Ride share companies have said they may exit California should they lose. Over \$200 million – a record sum – has been spent on this measure alone.

Prop. 23: A do-over: This is basically a redo from 2018 between organized labor proposing stricter clinic regulations and private dialysis clinics. Not in terms of content, but in terms of persistence as organized labor again attempt to use the ballot box to squeeze the largest dialysis providers to agree to organize. Dialysis clinics have spent over \$100 million so far, while unions supporting the measure have raised \$7 million.

Congress

In 2018, California democrats flipped seven House seats to take a 46-7 (not a typo) majority of the state delegation. Democrats hope the anti-Trump wave helps in holding these newly gained seats. There are 8 key races, five of which democrats carried in 2018. These are the ones we are watching closely:

- CD 48 Incumbent **Rouda** (D) v **Steel** (R)
- CD 25 Incumbent **Garcia** (R) v **Smith** (D)
- CD 21 Incumbent **Cox** (D) v **Valadao** (R)
- CD 39 Incumbent **Cisneros** (D) v **Kim** (R)

State Senate

The CA State Senate has an overwhelming Democrat majority with 29 of 40 seats. The Democrats are going after three incumbent Republican senators and it appears at least two are threatened.

- SD 29 Incumbent **Chang** (R) v **Newman** (D)
- SD 37 Incumbent **Moorlach** (R) v **Min** (D)
- SD 21 Incumbent **Wilk** (R) v **Mueller** (D)
- Also, SD 15 is a hotly contested Dem-on-Dem fight for termed-out Jerry Hill's open seat; moderate **Ravel** v. progressive **Cortese**
- And lastly, San Francisco SD 11 is an unexpected fight for re-election by incumbent **Scott Wiener** (D), who is being challenged from the left (hard to believe) by the well-funded and popular **Jackie Fielder** (D). Many have compared Fielder to AOC.

State Assembly

As with the state senate, the democrats also enjoy a bullet proof two-thirds majority. With all 80 seats up for election there are too many to highlight, but we will especially be watching these:

- AD 76 Incumbent **Boerner Horvath** (D) v **Burkholder** (R)
- AD 55 Incumbent **Chen** (R) v **Rodriguez** (D)
- AD 68 Incumbent **Choi** (R) v **Fox** (D)
- AD 35 Incumbent **Cunningham** (R) v **Addis** (D)
- AD 13 Open seat--**Miller** (D) v **Villapudua** (D)
- AD 72 Open seat--**Nguyen** (R) v **Nguyen** (D)
- AD 59 Incumbent **Jones-Sawyer** (D) v **Martinez** (D)
- AD 74 Incumbent **Petrie-Norris** (D) v **Dixon** (R)

Not on the Ballot, but Game has Already Commenced

The high-stakes-below-the-radar campaign is already at warp speed for a possible US Senate seat appointment should Joe Biden defeat Donald Trump and Kamala Harris ascends to the Vice Presidency.

Political eyes are already narrowed with focus at Governor Newsom, who would appoint her successor until the next election.

Might he appoint himself? Almost assuredly not. But the bench is deep with qualified candidates for this most coveted seat to the US Senate. The pressure will be immense on

the Governor who will need to calibrate and balance his choice based on gender, race, electability, fundraising ability, etc. And depending on whom he selects, it may open additional appointments and opportunities for the political food chain.



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