

**Special Edition:
November 2022
Election Breakdown**
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5-8!**

The Palmdale Journal

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Volume I, Issue IX

Published by Michael and Carol Ross

October 2022

Supporters rally behind Erika Alverdi's City Council Campaign



By Melissa Chavez

PALMDALE- On two occasions, September 30, 2022 and October 14, 2022, at the intersection of 20th Street East and Palmdale Blvd, supporters gathered to hit the pavement and canvas the surrounding areas to reach local residents. Among the canvassers were Erika Alverdi, candidate for Palmdale Council Member District 5, and candidate Paul Marsh, running for State Assembly against Councilman Juan Carrillo.

“Imagine that sight,” laughed Alverdi, “a Mexican woman and an Asian man nervously, jointly, walking up to your door. I can only imagine the Ring footage out there.” That is the beautiful American depiction - different cultures coming together to defend the nation’s democracy, talking to real-life people, and taking hope right to their doorstep.

While partaking in the conchas and cafe, canvassers shared stories of the people they encountered. They break their own embedded stereotypes, such as abuelos y abuelas (grandparents) who support the conservative movement. They expressed discontent with the democratic agenda that takes from them and seemingly punishes them for being landowners and having fiscally independent households.

In the later part of the evenings, rallies took place. Attendees and participants came from diverse cultures - Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Armenian, and Arabian - gathered back at the meeting

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Candidate Paul Marsh- ready for second win in November CA District 39 Assembly seat



By Melissa Chavez

As California continues to face high taxes, health costs, and cost of living, the upcoming November 8 elections represent dread to many. Residents have lost hope with the disparaging actions of elected officials that show little regard to represent all of their constituents.

However, others remain hopeful, waiting for the tide to change in the state.

On June 7th, 2022, the spark the 39th district of CA was waiting for became visible. An unexpected business and family man, Paul Marsh took the victory in the primary election for State Assembly, claiming victory over three democrat opponents - a miraculous feat.

Moreover, the unique opportunity has presented itself, to stop voting for the lesser of two evils, and instead, vote for the right candidate who sows sacrificially into this region. Marsh, a man of honor, respect, values, and heart, has decided to take on the political establishment to see the 39th district prosper and be heard.

In the past few months, Marsh has been traveling back and forth between Victorville and Palmdale to connect with voters and other candidates of like mind. Unbeknownst to him, *The Palmdale Journal* reporters have been taking note of his involvement in the city of Palmdale. Therefore, on the heels of the upcoming election, *The Palmdale Journal* interviewed the candidate to learn about his remarkable victory and continued efforts to take the seat in November. The interview went as follows:

TPJ: What led you to run for CA State Assembly? What experience do you have that translates into the role of CA State Assemblyman?

PM: Besides being asked by the San Bernardino County GOP, I, like many people, am tired of what's going on in California. We have to go down a different path if we want changes. Right now, we are in chaos and people are fed up. Until we change leadership, we're going to continue going down this path of uncertainty.

As far as qualifications, I’ve worked in the mortgage industry and I believe that the industry has prepared me for a variety of endeavors. I’ve worked with the city of Victorville, in the Planning Commission with the city government. Additionally, I worked with the Homeless Solutions Task Force in Victorville which involved solutions that can work in multiple cities. Other than that, it’s just the plain desire to see change. Unlike my opponents, I’m living real-life scenarios that people in the 39th district are needing relief from.

TPJ: Seeing as you were asked to run, was there a moment where it turned from “doing it out of obligation” to “doing it out of desire?”

PM: Yes. Days after I said yes to running, my wife asked me, “why did you say yes?” This wasn’t on my radar. I don’t desire to

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AV Fair Disenchants Attendees

By Mario Presents

For more than 80 years the Antelope Valley Fair & Alfalfa festival has been celebrating community and culture in a single event every summer. Special days that encourage donations of books, canned food, charity, and compassion now slip into yesteryear. Many fairgoers echoed the same sentiment, “It felt like they raised prices to make up for the years they were closed.” Families were overheard saying they could have spent the same amount of money at Disneyland for a more memorable outing.

Struggling families spending hundreds of dollars for fair admission when they can barely afford to fill the gas tank puts stress on the community. The two days where FREE admittance was available took place on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 for Seniors & Special Needs attendants (62 and older) for which doors opened at 2 p.m. and Friday, September 30, 2022 for active military, their dependents, and veterans. However, with no special days to alleviate the financial

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Businesses face new struggle to succeed

By Mario Presents

Long before Covid-19 many in the Antelope Valley can hardly forget the heartbreak upon hearing that Daisy’s Costumes on Lancaster Boulevard burned, moved locations, and ultimately closed for good.

New pressures like higher inventory prices, additional health inspection fines/fees, and recommended safety devices cutting into profits can be unexpected expenses. New legislation in California is continuously pushing the

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Out of Control Minimum Wage Increases

By Franklin Castillo

Additional financial pressures will mount for all Californians at the beginning of 2023, with plans to increase them further soon after. With inflation and skyrocketing prices on everyday household items, is a minimum wage increase going to solve the problems of low-income earners?

On January 1, 2023 the minimum wage in California is set to rise to \$15.50 per hour. Senate Bill No. 3, legislated in 2016, requires incremental increases of the state minimum wage. It started at \$10.50 in 2017, with successive increases since. Rates grew nearly 50% in 6 years. Some

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Help Wanted

The Palmdale Journal exists to be a voice that represents the community of Palmdale, California. We pride ourselves in standing up for truth, righteousness, and justice while revealing the beauty of our city to our readers.

Currently everyone on staff is a volunteer; mothers, fathers, students, activists, pastors, paralegals, and patriots all have come together to sow into the vision of the Journal. With eight issues under our belt, our readership is growing and we are in need of more volunteers as we expand.

If you are interested in joining, please reach out as we welcome professional local writers, print layout designers, website layout designers and novices alike! Not sure how you can contribute? Visit the ThePalmdaleJournal.com for a list of job descriptions.

Please note: All submissions to The Palmdale Journal are greatly appreciated and will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Submission of a piece grants the editors permission to edit and print. The articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or owners. Thank you.

ThePalmdaleJournal@protonmail.com

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A vote for Marsh is a vote for you



Antelope Valley's Republican Assembly (AVRA)'s President, Jong Lee and CA State Assembly Candidate Paul Marsh

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be a career politician. Yes, I’m running for a political position but I am not looking for a career in politics. I have a career. When I had the chance to sit down and reflect, I thought of all the problems in CA. I realized these are problems affecting me, things that I'm always complaining about and talking to people about. We’re upset with gas prices, health care, homelessness, and crime. It makes sense to run. If I can enact a change, then that is a good reason to run.

TPJ: What is the main point you try to make for citizens who don’t know who you are? What’s the impression you hope to leave them with?

PM: I’m the guy next door, really. I don't try to put myself on a pedestal, I don't come in with a chip on my shoulder. I work just like they do. I raise a family and worry about the same things they do. I don't have a great big nest egg that's going to set me apart from all the problems everybody else has. I’m just like they are.

TPJ: I’ve heard the story of the GOP asking you to run and promising support but not coming through. What does this say about politics and how do you plan on being the change?

PM: That void promise set me back. I had to realize that politics is kind of like a two-tier system. There’s us and there’s the establishment. The establishment is your career politicians that are detached from their constituents. That realization came from people I met who truly gave me help and support. This gave me a different insight and perspective. I positioned myself differently. Instead of trying to appease the establishment, which most do, I focused on the people to whom I relate. Once I came to grips with that, it wasn’t as disheartening.

Once I started going back to “Why am I doing this? Why do I want to do this? Why should I do this?” Then it became a different story because I am not doing it for the establishment. I’m doing it for the people. For people like myself. As everyday citizens run for office, it will hopefully bring politics back to where it



Pictured: Paul Marsh at the 2022 AV Fair riding the mechanical bull

should've stayed in the first place, with the people. It’s not just for certain groups of people or certain segments of the political establishment. It’s for the people. If we can bring it back to that, then everybody benefits.

There’s really been nothing to keep career politicians in check because no one was paying attention. We’re sick of the corruption so we turned a blind eye. We think that they’re going to do whatever they want and that our vote or voice doesn't matter. This has given them the green light to do whatever they want. Leaving people frustrated and confused.

TPJ: What do you think will cause you to excel past your opponents?

PM: I’m myself. What you see is what you get. I don’t proclaim to be the most knowledgeable but I am the most willing to serve. As far as my opponent– yeah, he has politics under his belt and big-money donors rallying behind him to get him into a position with more authority over this area. But my advantage is having support from grassroots people that are sick and tired of being sick and tired.

My opponent’s track record is not good, so people need to start asking, “how tired am I of this mess?” Do you think he’ll have a sudden change of behavior as an assemblyman? No. He'll be more embedded in the mess and we'll be the benefactors of the corruption.

People say that I have a disadvantage because people don’t know me but people are people wherever you go. We worry about the same things, we are concerned about the same things. Geographics are the only things that separate us.

TPJ: What steps have you taken to be confident in your future role as an assemblyman?

PM: I’ve been getting counsel from trustworthy people. I am a thinker and do research. I always ask questions, and I always want to know and think beyond what’s just in front of me. Nothing can prepare you for politics, but I have the heart for it. I have a moral foundation. I also pray and ask God for guidance for the things that I know I will encounter and for



Mayor of Palmdale, Steve Hofbauer and CA State Assembly Candidate Paul Marsh

which I am not prepared off the cuff. It’s going to be a process, but if I keep prayerful and put God first, then I think I’ll be ok.

Everything else, I’ll learn along the way. All politicians started somewhere. They weren’t born state assemblymen. Living every bit of what families endure has also prepared me for this. I served my country, I was adopted from an orphanage, I’m a naturalized citizen, and I’m a family man for 42 years. I’ve raised three children and four grandchildren. My son was born with cerebral palsy, my wife is fighting cancer, and I’ve worked every type of job you can think of. I’ve lived it. I think that’s the biggest thing. A person’s character is a lot more valuable. What I’ll learn in Sacramento– that’s academics, we can teach that. But what we can’t teach is the heart. I know just from what I’ve heard and read of my opponent is that he has a heart for self-gain. That’s what he’s going to pursue as he moves up the ladder.

TPJ: Anything else that you'd like to add?

PM: I really want to express my gratitude to everyone that’s helped. As I said, I was really disillusioned until I came to Palmdale. The Antelope Valley Republican Assembly (AVRA) reached out to me first, then the Palmdale Freedom Coalition (PFC) was second. They showed me that the lack of support I felt was not reality. They told me, “Paul you have more support than you know.” Now, I’m glad things transpired the way they did because I know where to keep my focus. My allegiance is with the people.

Although running as a Republican, Marsh has experienced the flaws in both parties at a personal and policy level, fostering his desire to change things from the inside out. If you’ve ever looked at our state government and thought to yourself, “I could do a better job than they are,” then you can find common ground with Marsh. A vote for him is one against the establishment to which he refers and one for you, your voice, and of course, for we the people.

To keep up with Marsh, visit his website at Paulmarshforassembly.com.

The Palmdale Journal

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The Palmdale Journal is a town newsletter and entertainment periodical. It is a publication that offers an additional and distinct narrative, reporting and providing information on local politics, and how national, state, and county news impacts our city. The driving force is to provide a free flow of information that may sometimes be discluded or suppressed, providing a dissenting perspective on current events, an effort to get back to our own message. We hope to influence involvement by local residents, building up and sharing a common interest, relating together socially, and promoting truth and freedom in the process.

This is a record created by the community and for the community, the people of Palmdale. We hope that you will join us in this movement to tell our story.

AV Fair becomes a corporate affair

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pressure for the general public, are fair organizers losing touch with the community?

A family of four expects to spend between \$60 to \$90 entering the fair, plus the cost of food, games, and rides. Credits exchanged at a one to one rate disappear after a handful of rides and carnival booths result in the sentiment of pay for play. Wristbands for entertainment are limited to select attractions, furthering the sentiment of disillusionment.

Local schools used to take field trips to the fair to see the animals and blue ribbon collections from their fellow community

members but those days are long gone. Concert tickets are not included in fair admission and online sales of some concerts had no grandstand available, luring shoppers between expensive floor or general admission options.

Since local charities, clubs, and associations benefit from the once a year exposure, the fair continues to be a source of community involvement. However, many are now overwhelmed by larger enterprises that seemingly only want the community’s money rather than create a wholesome atmosphere for different families to come together and enjoy wholesome fun.

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News and Info

Alverdi and supporters take to the streets to connect with community residents

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point to hear the line-ups. Speakers included of speakers such as Rich Gallego, Chair of the Political Action Committee, Palmdale Freedom Coalition; Mike Ross, founder of PFC; Rob Enos, Apostle at Greater Works Christian Church; Paul Marsh, candidate for

California State Assembly; and Erika Alverdi as the keynote.

Alverdi’s campaign manager, Linda Enos, commented that the rallies have shown success with a great turnout and looks forward to the increasing momentum in the district. Enos added that as other opponents seek to divide races, or to push the Lancaster agenda in Palmdale, Alverdi continues to show her commitment to uniting citizens in the district.

For more information and to keep up with Alverdi’s campaign for the City Council seat in the 5th District, visit [Facebook.com/wethepeopleofpalmdalematter](#).

Antelope Valley High School honors long time community voice, Larry Grooms

Larry Grooms, a volunteer contributor to editors and publishers of *The Palmdale Journal*, was inducted on September 22 into the Antelope Valley High School (AVHS) Hall of Fame in the category of Journalism. A class of 1964 graduate of AVHS, Larry was editor of the campus newspaper, leading to an eventful and award-winning career in local news organizations.



State minimum wage increase impacts California residents state wide

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local rates may be higher depending on local votes for increased wages.

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Each state decides if it wants to use the federal minimum or increase its rate based on cost of living within the state. States that make little in revenue and have inexpensive housing and goods are more likely to have a lower state minimum wage.

Thirty states have set their own minimum wage above the federal rate. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Wyoming have no state minimum wage. The federal rate still applies in these states. Thirteen other states have set their rate by law at the federal rate.

The California state minimum wage is currently \$14.00 per hour for businesses with 25 employees or less, and \$15.00 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees. Small businesses, in many cases, are struggling to pay the smaller

minimum because prospective employees are reluctant to work for \$14.00 per hour when they could get \$15.00 or more working at a larger business. The small business owner provision will go away with the 2023 increase.

President Franklin Roosevelt, as part of the New Deal, created the federal minimum wage to combat the effects of the great depression. The country was trying to find ways to allow workers to be able to afford food and housing.

Entry level jobs were never supposed to provide a way to make a living, but more recently, politicians have been pushing the minimum wage concept to that of being a “livable” wage. During the Clinton administration it was decided that states could set their own rates above federal minimum wage. The California state legislature made decisions on minimum wage increases. This ended with the signing of the FAST Act.

In September, Governor Newsom signed AB 257, the Fast Food

Accountability and Standards Recovery Act bill. The “FAST Act” creates a 10-member fast food council that allows the unelected council to make massive changes across multiple industries. This council will have the power to increase state minimum wages. Essentially, this unionized over a half a million fast food workers in the state and caused people from other industries to be affected.

The Act has the potential to raise the state minimum wage to an unprecedented \$22.00 per hour. The current MIT calculated living wage in California is \$21.82 for one person living in the state. While the intent of the Act is to help rescue the fast-food industry, the sweeping effects over many industries can have lasting negative impacts.

Union contracts often set the base pay rates of union workers based on a multiple or offset above the minimum wage. Any increase in minimum wage usually results in immediate pay

increases for these workers. This creates political pressure to continually increase the minimum wage. These increases often result in increases in the cost of goods and services rippling throughout the economy, in other words, inflation.

Some economists believe raising the minimum wage could result in the loss of another 1.4 million jobs across the country. The people most affected by these losses are people under the age of 25, people with less education, and minority groups. Large corporations will also feel the effect but have the money and resources to avoid much damage in the long term.

The impact of minimum wage increases on the quality of California life, including shrinking of small businesses and inflation, is adding more challenges for lower income and medium income earners. It is ironic that increasing minimum wages will actually harm the people that FDR intended them to help.

Businesses count on local support as they struggle past cancel culture effects

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state minimum wage beyond the national average. Business owners now face a mountain to attain success that is higher than ever before. Cancel culture, false health code violations, fictitious negative reviews online, and added financial pressure force some entrepreneurs to call it quits, while others supplant hired strangers with family members or are saved by a caring community.

Like many predecessors, the local businesses Sunshine Bakery and Flora Donna both struggle to stay afloat and share many of the same hurdles for

success. Sentiments of frustration with the state favoring pop-up shops and illegal vendors over storefront spaces echo across the valley and into Los Angeles. Over saturation of similar businesses in the same place, uninspected food vendors, and permitless sales compete for the same clientele, but only legal businesses face fines from the Los Angeles Health Department and residing cities.

Renee’s Cafe in downtown Los Angeles is a story of survival amid adversity and is a model for many businesses struggling to survive. Faced with 6 months of lockdowns in 2020 the

owner, Owen, locked his door for the final time in November until a stranger convinced him to stay open one more afternoon. Rene’s cafe is now a destination point for supporters of freedom and is delighted when out of town diners stop en masse for a meal. Even if it interrupts his assembly line of food being prepared for the local homeless community, he could not be happier. Similarly, Baracoa Cuban Restaurant and Butler’s Coffee in Palmdale found their supportive stride in 2022.

Mosman Steakhouse, forced to close permanently in Lancaster, leaves many

questions surrounding the future of other eateries in the Antelope Valley. Ben's Butcher Block closed recently, and other businesses continue to struggle against a rising tide of pressure. Restaurants like Iron Cactus face rising inventory costs, apathetic staff, and disingenuous reviews targeting social media because of personal politics.

Low work ethic, inflation, and fictitious negative reviews can irreparably damage an honest business, but insulated with loyal and caring customers, great products, and a willing workforce entrepreneurs can face any swell that comes in their direction.



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The Palmdale Journal Top Pick:

Inspirado por el paladar Cubano

BARACOA

Est. 2013 | Rev 5:5

Cuban Restaurant

In a recent visit on a Saturday night, my girlfriends and I dined at Baracoa to celebrate a graduation. Not only was the food spectacular, but the service rendered was phenomenal from the moment I made my reservation.

The night we went, Angelica was performing live music. It wasn't long before patrons of the business (my friends included) were dancing to some of the best latin hits. Thank you for a memorable night, Baracoa staff.

- Satisfied Customer

November 8 General Election Break Down

Volunteers at *The Palmdale Journal* understand that the average person is busy and keeping up on all the various campaigns in an election is time consuming. We have worked extensively to provide concise and relevant information regarding the November 8 2022 General Election so that YOU can decide. The traditional voter guides

provide vague language that sometimes may be misleading. We wanted to help define where the candidates stand on issues.

All material for each candidate, quoted or summarized, is from their social media accounts, published news stories, and campaign websites. With this voter guide, you can decide who really aligns with

your values and beliefs. Another resource to help you choose candidates is <https://craighuey.com/los-angeles-county/>. Read more about Craig Huey at the end of this voter guide.

You can check your voter status at: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>. If you vote on election day, bring your mail-in ballot with you to verify your eligibility to vote

and do not surrender your mail-in ballot. Take it back home with you and then destroy it. If you forget to register or update your voter registration, you can register to vote until 8:00 PM on election day. Go to vote.ca.gov for more info.

Coordinators: Mario Presents, Franklin Castillo

National

U.S. Senate

(Full and Short Term)

Alex Padilla - Democrat
Padilla served in the CA Senate and was appointed senator by Kamala Harris. His main issues include climate change, voting rights (he oversaw the implementation of automatic voter registration and same-day registration - fighting against election integrity), and pathways to citizenship. Past accomplishments include his introduction of Women’s Halth Protection Act which guarantees the right to access abortions services in the US. He was instrumental in phasing out single-use plastic bags.

Mark Meuser - Republican
Meuser is in favor of lowering taxes (including the gas tax), reform for schools, sustaining resources for future generations, and public safety. Meuser states he will fight for legislation that reduces the power of the unelected bureaucracy. Meuser has been involved in over 22 lawsuits brought against Newsom for unconstitutional actions. He has been critical of the "government of special interests,” and states he will limit government overreach.

Local

AV Joint Union High School District

Trustee Area No. 1
Charles Hughes - Hughes is the Area 1 candidate. According to Lancaster Parents for Education, he has vocally expressed his enthusiasm for R. Rex Parris and regionalism. Tom Lackey and Scott Wilk endorse Hughes. He and former AVHSD Board President, Bob Davis, are business associates. Davis was one of three board members facing recall in 2019. Some of the allegations against Davis included awarding contracts to family and friends for financial gain. Davis ended up resigning from his position as Board member and president in November of 2019.

Sue Strom - Strom is a retired teacher. According to the LA Times, "Strom taught special education in the school district for 22 years." In 2019, Strom assisted in the effort to recall AVHSD board members, Bob Davis, Victoria Ruffin, and Amanda Parrell who were accused of mismanaging public funds and awarding contracts to friends and family. The AV Teachers Association withdrew their endorsement of Strom due to surfacing 11 year old Facebook posts, made by Strom and her husband.

Trustee Area No. 4
Juan Blanco - Blanco is an Army veteran and the president and founder of Coffee4VETS. He was endorsed by the California Democratic Party and the Los Angeles County Democratic Party during his previously unsuccessful run for Palmdale City Council. Antelope Valley Teachers Association and California Teacher Association endorse Blanco.

Carla Corona - Corona is running with Miguel Sanchez from Area 5. She is currently an adjunct theater arts professor at Antelope Valley College. Her top priorities include academic excellence,

AV Joint Union High School District cont.

college and career readiness, supporting teachers and staff, and school safety. She is actively involved in TahDah, a non-profit holistic arts education program that serves under-resourced communities. Palmdale City Council members Juan Carrillo and Richard Loa endorse Corona.

Raquel Derfler - Derfler is endorsed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and one of the main voices behind Cancel the Contract, an organization that seeks for the removal of law enforcement support in schools and local cities.

Trustee Area No. 5
Vladimir Gomez - Gomez currently serves as a member of the Wilsona School Board. He is endorsed by AVTA (Antelope Valley Teachers Association) and the CTA (California Teacher Association). Gomez promoted COVID vaccine requirements. He organizes with progressive community activists from SALVA and CHIRLA.

Miguel Sanchez - Sanchez is a State Certified Electrician at IBEW Local 11. He is endorsed by Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, and California Peace Officers Association. He is running with Carla Corona from area 4. His primary goals for education include providing more paths to success (through skilled trades for example), updating school facilities, and working with sheriffs to promote school safety.

State Assembly, District 34
Tom Lackey - Republican
Lackey served as a missionary for two years, later returning home to attain a bachelor’s in special education and start his career as a teacher. Lackey serves those who require special care in the community as a champion for state funding to the developmentally disabled. Lackey served in the police force for 30 years, in the Palmdale Elementary School District Board of Trustees, and served three consecutive terms on the Palmdale City Council. Top issues include advocating for tax payers and working families, making sure communities are safe, and stepping up for those in need.

Thurston "Smitty" Smith - Republican
Smith is a Christian and constitutional conservative. Fed up with increasingly burdensome regulations small business, he got involved in local government and advocated for fellow small business owners. He served two terms as the Hesperia Mayor. During his tenure in the Assembly, Smith took on the special interests by fighting government waste, fraud, and abuse. He fought against the defund the police movement and advocated to increase resources available to law enforcement. He fights industrial-grade illegal cannabis grow operations, often cartel-run, to keep rural communities safe. Smith is adamantly opposed to COVID-19 mandates. He believes in protecting the rights of the unborn and defends religious liberties. He was instrumental in funding and saving the Barstow Veterans' Home. Smith opposes bans and anti-gun legislation that erodes liberties. He fully supports returning spending and curriculum decisions to local school boards.

State Assembly, District 39
Juan Carrillo - Democrat
Carrillo is endorsed by Senator Padilla, High Desert Progressive Democrats, Service Employees International Union, CHIRLA Action Fund, Dolores Huerta, labor leader and civil rights activist, Courage California Progressive Voters Guide. Carrillo stated, "2022 is our chance to give the people of CA’s newly-drawn Latino-majority 39th Assembly District a representative voice in the state assembly.” He serves on the Palmdale City Council where he led the update to its General Plan and Measure AV, the Palmdale sales tax increase of 0.75% which was passed in 2020.

Paul Marsh - Republican
Marsh is an Army Veteran and 40+ year High Desert resident. He spent his career working in the mortgage industry. He was a Victorville Planning Commissioner and a member of Victorville’s Homelessness Solutions Task Force. Marsh is running to cut taxes for Californians, reduce regulations on families building and purchasing homes, address the homelessness, support law enforcement, and stop illegal marijuana cultivation that steal water and bring crime to communities. Marsh is endorsed by the CA Republican Party, California's for Life, The American Council, Assemblyman Thurston Smith, Adelanto Mayor Gabriel Reyes, Palmdale Mayor Steve Hofbauer, and The Palmdale Freedom Coalition.

U.S. House CA District 27
Mike Garcia - Republican
A first generation American citizen, a decorated US Naval Officer, and businessman before serving in the US House of Representatives. Congressman Garcia’s main issues: Job creation, winning new businesses, advocating for and promoting minorities and women, and a high concern for the economy. He’s pushed for a Constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget, and he’s fighting to stop reckless spending, cut taxes, and put an end to Sacramento’s failed job killing laws. He fights against the socialist agenda and fights to restore freedom to the people.

Christy Smith - Democrat
Endorsed by Gavin Newsom, CHIRLA, and many democrat organizations and leaders, Smith is a defender for abortion rights and has a 100% scorecard from Planned Parenthood. She is running to fight for trans rigths and marriage equality, against 2A rights, and in favor of “expanded” voting rights.

District

AV Health Care District, Board of Directors
Vote no more than two
John Bryson - The Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club endorse Bryson, who supported the Stop the Recall campaign for Gavin Newsom. They are active with many progressive groups.

Michael P. Rives - City of Lancaster (Rex Parris) sued to remove Rives from the Hospital Board because he was on the AV’s College Board and Hospital Board at the same time. Is a strong advocate for better wages and working conditions for

AV Health Care District, Board of Directors cont.

hospital workers. He stated, “I hope that the various politicians and board members remember who the boss is: the people.” He promoted signing the recall for George Gascon. He voted ‘yes’ on the new policy that mandates testing for unvaccinated employees.

Don V. Parazo - The High Desert Medical Group contributed \$100,000 to Parazo’s campaign. Prior to his many years in the healthcare field, he served in the U.S. military. When he left the Navy, Dr. Parazo had reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Getro F. Elize - Ran as a democrat for the Assembly in the 2020 primary elections. The issues Elize campaigned for were homelessness and housing needs, infrastructure expansion, cancellation of student debt, and increasing public school pay for teachers. Supports abortion rights.

Ollie M. McCaulley - The Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club endorse McCaulley, who supported the Stop the Recall campaign for Gavin Newsom. They are active with many progressive groups.

Steve Fox - A career politician and former member of the California State Assembly, Fox represented the 36th district as a democrat, which encompassed the AV and Santa Clarita Valley. Prior to being elected to the state Assembly, he worked as a public school teacher, an attorney, and trustee of Antelope Valley College.

Gordon V. Jefferson - No information found for Jefferson.

Doddanna Krishna - A board member since 2013, Dr. Krishna has practiced medicine in the AV since 1989. He is board certified in internal and pulmonary medicine, specializing in diseases of the lungs, critical care and sleep disorders. He is an advocate for quality patient care Dr. Krishna. “It is an honor to serve the Antelope Valley in a way that improves and protects the health of our communities through research, education and innovation.”

Unexpired Term ending 12/5/2024 -
Vote for one
Jawad Bermani - Dr. Jawad Bermani is a general surgeon and is affiliated with Antelope Valley Hospital and Palmdale Regional Medical Center. He received his medical degree from University of Baghdad College of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Mateo Olivarez - The Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club endorse Olivarez, who supported the Stop the Recall campaign for Gavin Newsom. They are active with many progressive groups.

Steven D. Hofbauer - Hofbauer has served on the Palmdale City Council since 2003 and was elected Mayor in 2018 and 2020. He is an active volunteer in the community. He voted in favor of Ordinance 1577 to protect medical freedom.

AV - East Kern Water Agency Director, Division 3
Frank S. Donato
Donato was appointed by Supervisor Mike Antonovich to the Antelope Valley

November 8 General Election Break Down

AV East Kern Water Board cont.

Planning Council in 1980; Frank was elected as Director of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency in November 1986. His family owns Donato Family Vineyard in Lancaster, CA. His top 3 priorities include: Ensure safe water supplies for Antelope Valley, expand the water supply for the economic future, and keep local water rates and taxes low. He is endorsed by Richard Loa, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Palmdale, Jimmy Mora, VP NAHREP AV, and Dan Jacobs, Manager of AV Fair.

Mike Lang

No information was found on Mike Lang except that he is a retired executive.

County

Sheriff

Alex Villanueva

He is the 33rd Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the first Spanish speaking sheriff in the county, and the first to unseat an incumbent for sheriff in 100 years. He was also the first democratic Sheriff in LA County in almost 140 years. Due to rising crime rates, he has allowed for more CCW permits, attempted to maintain medical freedom for the sheriff’s in his county by standing up to LA County Board of Supervisor mandates. He believes, “We need a more diverse and accountable board that will do the right thing and not just appeal to the handful of woke noise makers.” He is in favor of an independently run sheriff’s office, elected or removed by voters (not the LA County Board of Supervisors).

Robert Luna

“I have led the Department towards community-centered police policies and practices modeled by the Task Force on 21st Century Policing established by President Obama.” He is endorsed by many Democratic clubs and the LA County Board of Supervisors. He is in favor of a LA County Board of Supervisors ability to override the elected sheriff’s office, functioning dependently on them, and removing a sheriff at their will rather than votes by their constituents. In a town hall, Luna admitted to working well with unpopular District Attorney George Gascon.

*Locate the LA County Judges of the Superior Court offices under **Judicial Elections.***

County Measure A

Removal of Sheriff for Cause Amendment

A ‘YES’ vote on this measure gives the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors power, by a four-fifths vote, to remove the sheriff from office for “just” cause. Just cause is defined to include: violation of laws related to the sheriff’s duties; neglect of the sheriff’s duties; etc. Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Hilda Solis argue voters should not have to wait for the next election or a recall campaign to remove a sheriff, nor should they have to wait for a sheriff to be indicted. Others say this will disrupt a balance of power. LA County BOS sought to remove Villanueva early in 2022 because he did not follow their orders to pursue punitive measures for unvaccinated workers. Villanueva expressed an unwillingness to enforce mandates because of an already depleting workforce, on top of hiring freezes implemented by the BOS, and crime rates related to soft criminal penalties. A ‘NO’ vote blocks this measure. Measure A requires a simple majority to pass.

County Measure C

Marijuana Tax for Unincorporated Areas

A 'YES' vote enacts taxes on marijuana businesses in the unincorporated areas of LA County, on top of the 15% tax the State of California applies to all cannabis retail. The additional tax includes \$10 per square foot for growing; a 6% tax on total retail sales; a 2% tax on testing facilities' total transactions; a 3% tax on total distribution (warehouse to retail) sales; and a 4% tax on the total sales of manufacturing and other marijuana business facilities. If approved, the LA County Board of Supervisors will be able to increase the tax rates to the maximum rate after July 1, 2026. Voting 'NO' will not enact additional taxes on marijuana businesses in the unincorporated areas of LA County.

State

Lieutenant Governor of CA

Eleni Kounalakis, Democrat

In 1992, Eleni started her career as a staff member of the California Democratic Party in Sacramento and worked in the historic election, which elected two women to the U.S. Senate and turned California blue. During her 18 years in the housing industry... Kounalakis continued to work as a democratic activist, working on the campaigns of countless progressive candidates and initiatives.” In addition to her duties as Lt. Governor, Kounalakis is California’s Representative for International Affairs and Trade, appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom by executive order.

Angela Underwood Jacobs, Republican

“As Lieutenant Governor, I will advocate for reduced taxes on California’s working families and small businesses. A strong middle class makes a strong state.” On public safety, “I will always put public safety first. This means being tough on criminals who break the law, supporting the men and women of law enforcement, and investing in wildfire defense. My first priority in office will be making California a safe place again.” On reducing homelessness, “We must pass reforms to truly solve homelessness. Providing help to those in need is necessary; however, if individuals are unwilling to take the help offered, we cannot let them ruin parks, sensitive ecological areas, and public areas like streets.” She believes in putting kids and parents first: “Every child deserves a quality education. We must support parents, teachers, and the children of the Golden State.”

Secretary of State

Shirley Weber - Democrat

“I’ve spent my career fighting for social and racial justice and expanding access to the ballot to every eligible Californian... In 2021, I oversaw a safe, secure, and seamless statewide election with record participation. I also worked to make universal voting-by-mail permanent.” She is committed to, “Revamping our voter education outreach programs for the formerly incarcerated, especially in light of the passage of Proposition 17, which ensured Californians on parole have the right to vote, so we can ensure all Californians have a voice in upcoming elections.”

Robert Bernosky - Republican

As candidate for Secretary of State, Robert Bernosky is committed to: Fair and transparent elections, restoring confidence in our election, ultimately increasing voter turnout, cleaning

Secretary of State cont.

California’s voter rolls and modernizing voting technology that is safe and secure to protect every ballot cast. He also intends to inspire civic engagement, find new and innovative ways to register Californians, oppose efforts for taxpayer-funded campaigns and create an environment of opportunity and learning.

Controller

Lanhee Chen - Republican

Chenhas main concerns are tackling some of California and America’s biggest fiscal policy challenges, which has been his focal point in his career. He served in senior roles in both Republican and Democratic presidential administrations. House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy stated, “Californians deserve to know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent, but right now... we need a strong, independent watchdog in Sacramento, like Lanhee Chen, protecting taxpayers from massive waste, fraud, and abuse caused by years of Democrat incompetence.”

Malia Cohen - Democrat

Cohen has a plan to uplift California’s women and working families. Malia has a long track record of standing up for the LGBTQ+ community. She’s seen that far too often it is low-income communities of color that face the immediate consequences of pollution in the form of health problems and job loss. Malia led the effort to pass tougher regulations on lethal ammunition and high capacity firearm magazines. She is supported by the California Democratic Party, 17 labor unions, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and California Teachers Association.

Treasurer

Jack Guerrero - Republican

According to Guerrero’s campaign, “Jack is the son of hard-working Mexican immigrant parents -- farmworkers and later, factory workers who settled in Los Angeles... is a proud American patriot, forever grateful to this country for the educational opportunities conferred on him.” Furthermore, he "is unafraid to challenge the status quo... Jack worked with the California State Controller to expose millions of dollars in wasteful and unlawful spending. As a former pension auditor and one-time university lecturer in statistics, Jack understands the severity of the state’s unfunded pension liability which at nearly \$500 billion, threatens the long-term financial stability of the state! ... Jack will safeguard state assets and advocate for policies that place citizens FIRST, including lower taxes, smaller government, and a prosperous California economy.”

Fiona Ma - Democrat

Endorsed by various democrat groups and labor leaders, Senators Richard Pan and Scott Weiner, and even various newspaper organizations. In her current position, Ma has “refinanced billions of dollars of bonds... that were reinvested back into critical public services. We created new jobs by funding innovative

projects from green energy to transportation, built a record number of affordable housing units, invested hundreds of millions of dollars to combat our homelessness crisis, and helped tens of thousands of Californians save for

Treasurer cont.

college, retirement and a better quality of life.”

Attorney General

Rob Bonta - Democrat

Bonta’s top issues include gun control, protecting reproductive freedom, tackling the underground economy, and fairness in our justice system. Bonta also wants to ensure California remains a global leader in the fight against climate change. Activists praise him as a champion for immigrant rights because he authored legislation such as AB 32 that made California the first state in the nation to end the use of for-profit prisons in both the criminal and immigration context, though it was struck down by the Supreme Court recently. He is endorsed by Governor Gavin Newsom, Senators Richard Pan and Scott Weiner, and *The Los Angeles Times*.

Nathan Hochman - Republican

Hochman prides himself on being a lifelong Californian - born here, went to school here, met his wife and raised his kids here. As Attorney General, Nathan’s main goals are to work to get fentanyl off the streets and hold those accountable who have spread the drug throughout the communities. As Attorney General, Hochman states he will be a leader in keeping families, businesses, and communities safe from criminals. His priorities also include working to end homelessness and he has a detailed plan to end human trafficking.

Insurance Commissioner

Ricardo Lara - Democrat

Endorsed by Gavin Newsom, Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, Senators Richard Pan and Scott Weiner, California Democratic Party, and other democratic clubs. His top issues are responding to COVID-19, climate risk, wildfires, health care, and equity. He served on the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the committees on Banking and Finance. He also chaired the Select Committee on Financial Empowerment, which examines traditional strategies for wealth-building and promoting long-term financial stability and asset building. Lara serves on the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Board. Lara has been marked by controversy; for example, he accepted tens of thousands of dollars in campaign donations from insurance industry executives after pledging not to do so.

Robert Howell - Republican

According to Howell’s campaign website: “Voting for Robert Howell means better and more affordable insurance rates for Californians... [He] will take the politics out of paying your insurance bills resulting in fair and equitable treatment for all Californians. He pledged to not take insurance company political donations: As your next California Insurance Commissioner, Robert Howell will serve as your personal watchdog guarding against waste, fraud, and abusively inflated premiums. Robert Howell says he stands with “You... The



November 8 General Election Break Down

Insurance Commissioner cont.

People.” He describes himself as a “Reagan Republican.” Howell says that he’s committed to helping wildfire victims, and says he will fight waste, fraud, and “abusively inflated” insurance premiums.

State Board of Equalization, District 3

Tony Vazquez - Democrat
Endorsed by US Senator Alex Padilla, CA Controllor Betty Yee, CA Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond. “I seek reelection to continue the hard work needed to bring fair representation to all taxpayers in California.” Vazquez is an “advocate for smart growth and affordable housing in one of the most dynamic cities in California... He has devoted his life to education, economic prosperity and improving the quality of life issues for all Californians.”

Y. Marie Manvel - Independent
Top priorities include: Reduce unfair excessive taxes, especially property taxes for seniors on fixed incomes and repealing gasoline taxes. She is endorsed by Freedom Revival 2022, Craig Huey, and Patriots for Freedom. She is fiscally conservative and socially moderate, and wants to assist those who are unable to help themselves.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tony Thurmond
Thurmond is committed to address implicit bias in schools, train teachers and administrators on how to support LGBTQ students, develop an inclusive ethinc studies curriculum, and close the achievement gap. More currently, he faced criticism for the decision to delay releasing last year’s English, math, and science state assessments. The postponement alarmed youth advocates and education officials who said it could impede immediate action to “meet the needs of our most vulnerable, at-risk student populations.” Thurmond is endorsed by Nancy Pelosi, the LA County Board of Supervisors, and Governor Newsom.

Lance Christensen
One of Christensen's priorities include re-opening the public review and comment period for educational curriculum frameworks, advocating for a broader cross-section of parents to offer feedback. He was a primary author of the recent school choice initiative that would allow parents to create education savings accounts for state funds to follow the student. He proposes that programs should function under local control and

Superintendent of Public Instruction cont.

accountability, “with as little bureaucratic bloat as possible.” He wants to work with every school board trustee and district superintendent in the state within his first month of administration to discuss respective constitutional authorities and responsibilities. Endorsed by the CA GOP.

State Propositions

Proposition 1 Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment

A ‘YES’ vote will change the CA Constitution, to add the line, “The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual’s reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion...” Since California law already guarantees a woman’s right to get an abortion, many interpret this amendment to guarantee that the state will not intervene for late-term abortions, even up to the moment of birth, even if the baby is healthy and the mother’s health is not threatened. A ‘NO’ vote will leave the CA Constitution and CA law as is, with abortion still readily available.

Proposition 26 Legalize Sports Betting on American Indian Lands Initiative

Voting ‘YES’ vote on this proposition changes the CA Constitution and would mean four specific California racetracks could offer in-person sports betting. It would require tribes to reimburse the state for the cost of regulatory sports betting, who in the past have been protected from taxing. Racetracks would pay the state a share of sports bets made. Tribal casinos could offer in person sports betting, roulette, and games played with dice (such as craps) if permitted by individual tribal gambling agreements with the state. The Coalition for Safe, Responsible Gaming supports this proposition. Voting ‘NO’ on this measure means sports betting would continue to be illegal in California and no changes would be made to the way state gambling laws are enforced. Tribal casinos would continue to be unable to offer roulette and games played with dice. The Taxpayers Against Special Interest Monopolies oppose this proposition.

Proposition 27 Legalize Sports Betting and Revenue for Homelessness Prevention Fund Initiative

While Prop 26 focuses more on in person betting, Prop 27 legalizes online sports betting for tribes and opens up sports

Proposition 27 cont.

betting to affiliated businesses as well. Like most ballot propositions, a ‘YES’ vote changes the CA Constitution. Prop 27 proponents claim a ‘YES’ vote will generate revenue to address homelessness. Opponents say that most of the money will go to regulating the costs of sports betting because it requires regular audits and oversight by the Attorney General. A ‘NO’ vote leaves the CA Constitution the way it is; no changes would be made to the way state gambling laws are enforced. There are about 100 tribes in CA and over half of them oppose Prop 27.

Proposition 28 Art and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative

Most budget decisions are made at the local level which leaves some schools without extensive art programs, and generally impacts schools that serve lower income populations. A ‘YES’ vote on Prop 28 guarantees that money will be set aside to ensure art programs are provided, even in economic downturns, when arts programs are the first to get cut. Some argue that the money would come at the expense of other state-funded programs since there is no new revenue source. A ‘YES’ vote would allow the state to direct the way local educational agencies budget and make arts programs more stable. A ‘NO’ vote means funding for arts education in public schools would continue to depend on state and local budget decisions.

Proposition 29

Dialysis Clinic Requirements Initiative
A ‘YES’ vote would require a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on site during dialysis treatment. It also requires clinics to: disclose physicians’ ownership interests; accept all forms of medical insurance; report infection data. Though the potential impact seems to add a layer of accountability and care to dialysis patients, it is anticipated that the cost of personnel to cover the obligations may cause dialysis businesses to close, reducing services, making care for patients more difficult to obtain. This is a reason why major dialysis providers are against the proposition. A ‘NO’ vote will maintain the status quo, where many patients do receive frequent checks with physicians and specialists at dialysis clinics.

Proposition 30 Tax on Income Above \$2 Million for Zero-Emissions Vehicles

A ‘YES’ vote on Proposition 30 favors an increase in the income tax by an

Proposition 30 cont.

additional 1.75% on income above \$2 million for individuals. Most of the money, about 80 percent, would go towards rebates for people buying zero-emission cars and to build more charging stations. It is still controversial if zero-emissions vehicles are truly greener due to the production of, and end life, of batteries. Some opponents include the CA Teachers Association, Gavin Newsom, the California Republican Party. Prop 30’s biggest funder is the ride-sharing company Lyft. Other supporters include the CA Democratic Party and the CA State Association of Electrical Workers. A ‘NO’ blocks the additional tax and protects money allocated for public education.

Proposition 31 Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum

A ‘YES’ vote is to uphold the contested legislation, Senate Bill 793 (SB 793), which would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products. Supporters state that it will protect kids from nicotine addiction. Gavin Newsom, health organizations like Kaiser and the American Lung Association, and the Parent Teacher Association support this referendum. A ‘NO’ vote is to repeal the contested legislation, Senate Bill 793 (SB 793), thus keeping the sale of flavored tobacco legal. Opponents include small business owners of convenience stores, where local owners state they do not sell to minors, proven by passing decoy tests. Opposing points include banning products creates an illicit black market, exposing children to an unregulated product, potentially more dangerous, and also the loss of tax revenue generated.

Palmdale City Council

Palmdale District 3

Laura Bettencourt
Incumbent, Laura Bettencourt was elected to her first term in 2009 and she was named Mayor Pro Tem on December 22, 2020. Bettencourt has been an Antelope Valley resident since 1985, and seeks to ensure a high quality of life for all residents in Palmdale. Bettencourt works as a crime and intelligence analyst for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and has done so for 22 years. Her voting record has proven to be impartial. Many members of the community, from diverse political backgrounds, left and right leaning, appreciate her diligence and attention to Palmdale, including foster youth, drug addiction, and homelessness concerns in the community.

Marcos Alvarez
Alvarez is a Palmdale community activist who attends Palmdale City Council meetings, and stands with organizations like SALVA, a local immigrant rights organization. He stands with Governor Newsom and supports Councilman Juan Carrillo. He believes that people of color, specifically Latinos and African Americans, need to unite to fight racial injustice.

David T. Gomez
Gomez represents the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11 and the National Electrical Contractors Association of LA County. He also supports Councilman Juan Carrillo. His priorities include more jobs and to fix the 14 Freeway.



Our Mission: Out of the Ashes. Beauty Arises
Women around the world struggle daily to find their beauty and self-worth. Beauty for Ashes. International emerged out of a pursuit to empower women so that their confidence is not washed away when the day is over; rather, their self-worth be their permanent state of being. Established in 2017, our mission is to empower women’s self worth from the inside out through our community-based programs, organic beauty products, and health and wellness activism. We strive to bring God’s light into the dark beauty industry to help women exchange their ashes for beauty. Want to hear more or partner with us? We are located inside Butler’s Coffee and would love to chat with you.

November 8 General Election Break Down

Palmdale District 4

V. Jesse Smith
Smith’s top priorities include a clean neighborhood, and investing in the grass, lighting, and safety of the community, stopping illegal graffiti defacing our community, and ending illegal drag racing in our community and prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law. He has run for local multiple offices.

Eric Ohlsen
Self employed, Ohlsen is campaigning alongside Juan Carrillo. He has been supported by progressive democrat groups in past campaigns. Ohlsen’s priorities include: create mortgage paying jobs, fix the 14 Freeway, and care for the environment. He is an outspoken critic of Mayor Hofbauer and Councilmember Laura Bettencourt.

Getro F. Elize
Elize ran as a democrat for the Assembly against in the 2020 primary elections.The issues Elize campaigned for were homelessness and housing needs, infrastructure expansion, cancellation of student debt, and increasing public school pay for teachers. Supports abortion rights.

Palmdale District 5

Erika Alverdi
Born in Mexico City, Alverdi migrated with her family to CA in 1982 and became a U.S. citizen at the age of 18. She is running to empower the voice of the people and build up the economy and quality of life in Palmdale. She is a published author and founded The Vine Refuge, a non-profit organization serving the aged out foster youth in the AV. As a community leader, Alverdi has enjoyed working with city leaders, law enforcement, and business owners. As a businesswoman Alverdi’s uses her certificate in Interior Design in her event and planning company. A primary concern for her is public safety, “If the public feels safe, the economy goes up.” She stated that the neighborhood watch and business watch programs are key to increasing public safety. Alverdi is endorsed by Darlene Trevino of Trevino Law Firm, Palmdale Freedom Coalition, Cheryl Speakman founder of Shoebox For Kids AV, Attorney Kevin Von Tunglen, Pastor Lovell Fleming of New Image Church and Program Director of AV YouthBuild, and Pastor Adriana Salcedo founder and CEO of Beauty For Ashes International.

Mario Melara
Dental executive since 2009 and Palmdale resident since 2003. Fighting for District 5’s fair share

Andrea Alarcon
Alarcon is a civil rights attorney working for Kevin Shenkmen from Malibu. She served on the L.A. City’s Transportation Commission and Board of Taxicab Commissioners. She is endorsed by civil rights leaders & organizations, community activists, and labor organizations. According to public record, Alarcon has been arrested for a DUI, child abandonment and child endangerment. She also has two public reprovals on her record as an attorney. Both of her parents were found guilty of voter fraud. The majority of her campaign donors are from outside of Palmdale.

Judicial Elections

Although judicial offices are non-partisan, some judges are politically motivated. There are two types of judges: judicial activists and strict constructionists.

A judicial activist makes rulings based

Judicial Elections cont.

on their own values. Judicial activists overturn voter-passed initiatives and laws passed by the state legislature because they personally have a different belief system, to reshape society and promote social engineering.
Strict constructionism impartially arrives at a judgment based on what is written in the text of the law, interpreting based on original intent. It requires research into primary sources, leaving out culturally biased opinions.

In the CA State and LA County 2022 judicial elections this year, judicial activists are overwhelmingly supported by left leaning organizations and politicians; the few strict constructionists in these elections have associations with politicians and organizations of both major political parties.

For the purposes of this voter guide, 5 asterisks (*) indicate strict constructionism and less asterisks indicate judicial activism, based on Craig Huey's system.

County - Office 60

Abby Baron*
A child molestation prosecutor, Baron is a Council Member for Crime Survivors. According to Patricia Wenskunas, Chair for Crime Survivors PAC, Ms. Baron commits herself to fighting for those who have been wronged, no matter who they are or where they came from.
Anna Slotky Reitano*
Reitano is endorsed by several activist groups like La Defensa, who support anti-racist, feminist, and anti-capitalist movements and the organization Ground Game LA, who canvas for local progressive candidates, are allies with BLM, and advocate for homeless rights.

County - Office 67

Fernanda Maria Barreto**
Fernanda has 16 years of experience handling felony cases including murder, rape, and domestic violence. She is the only Latina running to be a judge in LA County, and stated “there are far too few on the bench who know what it's like to face racism, sexism, and xenophobia...”
Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes*
Endorsed by over 20 Democrat groups and clubs, her key issues are “shifting gears to treatment, prevention, and long-term public safety solutions as appropriate,” and restorative justice. She knows “that all people in the legal system deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and be treated equally under the law.”

County - Office 70

Renee Yolande Chang*****
Her parents immigrated to this country over 60 years ago. As a Deputy District Attorney for over 27 years she has developed an expertise in prosecuting crimes targeting some of the most vulnerable victims in our community, children. She would apply the law equally and fairly to all, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation/identity, or socioeconomic status. Renee is endorsed by 8 different news organizations and 7 different police groups.
Holly Hancock*
A graduate of Southwestern Law School, Hancock has 15 years of legal criminal law experience. Holly Hancock is the Deputy-In-Charge of the Criminal Record Clearing Unit of the Office of the Public Defender. Hancock will treat all parties involved in a case. She is endorsed by the LA County Democratic Party.

County - Office 90

Leslie Gutierrez***
Gutierrez is running for judge because she wants to make a difference in the community. For the last decade, she has served the community as a deputy district attorney. She stands for the fair treatment of victims and defendants. To her, integrity matters, “doing the right thing no matter the cost.” She states will not insert her personal beliefs into her decisions and will abide by the rule of law. She was endorsed by the LA County Police Chiefs’ Association which represents 45 cities.

Melissa Lyons*
Lyons chose to attend law school because of her desire to be a voice for others and to speak out where injustice and inequality exist, as she stated she has experienced racism herself. For the last five years, Lyons was assigned to the District Attorney’s Sex Crimes Division. She is endorsed by several democratic groups and *The Los Angeles Times*.

County - Office 118

Melissa Hammond**
Hammond is a Deputy District Attorney for LA, former Deputy Public Defender and Civil Litigator. In why she decided to run for the office, “I admired the judges who were positively contributing to people’s lives, helping those accused of crime while also looking out for victims and public safety.” Melissa is endorsed by law enforcement, by many superior court judges and bench officers, as well as democrat officials, clubs, and parties.
Carolyn Park*
Park’s top priorities as a judge are fairness, diversity, and common sense. Park’s experience is in civil rights law and she is part of the “Defenders of Justice,” a group of four judges who seek reform in the court systems. She is endorsed by several activist organizations that focus on ending mass incarceration like La Defensa, who support anti-racist, feminist, and anti-capitalist movements and the organization Ground Game LA, who canvas for local progressive candidates, are allies with BLM, and advocate for more homeless rights. She is endorsed by democrat officials and clubs.

County - Office 151

Karen A. Brako*****
Brako is committed to equitable justice and fairness to all. She has tried more than 100 felony cases, including over 30 homicide trials. The vast majority of the cases Brako handles involve severely traumatized victims and families of murder victims. She is dedicated to treating those impacted by crime with respect, compassion and professionalism. She is endorsed by the Long Beach Police Officers Association and The National Women’s Political Caucus.
Patrick Hare*
Hare stands for Social justice, criminal justice reform, and bail reform. He has also worked extensively in the collaborative courts providing treatment and alternatives to incarceration. He is endorsed by East Area Progressive Democrats and Democrats for Neighborhood Action.

For the district and CA Supreme Court offices, voters decide on the replacement of the judge or not. Appointments for the offices are made by the governor. CA is divided into six districts. Palmdale voters are part of the second district along with the LA, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo.

CA Supreme Court

Justice Patricia Guerrero*
Justice Goodwin Lui**
Justice Martin J. Jenkins**
Justice Joshua P. Groban*

CA Second District Court of Appeal


Division 1 Frances Rothschild**
Division 5 Laurence D. Rubin*
Division 8 Maria E. Stratton**
Division 2 Judith M. Ashmann***
Division 3 Luis A. Lavin*
Division 4 Audrey B. Collins*
Division 4 Brian S. Currey*
Division 5 Lamar W. Baker*
Division 6 Hernaldo J. Baltodano*
Division 7 John L. Segal*
Division 8 John Shepard Wiley**
Division 8 Elizabeth Annette Grimes****

Highly Recommended Voter Resource

By Scot Sutherland
Frustrated by lack of voting information for judges, Craig Huey drew on his market research background to develop a judge ranking system from 1-10 based on two metrics.
His thoroughly researched book, *The Deep State: 15 Dangers You Should Know*, provides political analysis and commentary.
Huey's system, The Judicial Index, ranks judges for strict constitutionality based upon legal positions, contributions, rulings and statements. The Qualifications metric ranks each judge on experience, reputation, integrity and American Bar Association ratings.
The Judges Voter Guide became so popular Huey began ranking election candidates using questionnaires and voting records to evaluate candidates. The analysis of each candidate yields a 5 star ranking similar to judges, with 5 stars indicating a qualified constitutional conservative, and 1 star indicating an unqualified activist liberal. For more information on the election, see:

- <https://www.CraigHuey.com/>
- [JudgesVoterGuide.com](#)
- [ElectionForum.org](#)

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Youth and Education

Quartz Hill Girls Volleyball Dynasty

By David Nurse

The last time the Quartz Hill High School Volleyball team, the Royals, lost the Golden League Championship was in the 2012-2013 season when Lancaster High School took the title. In a triumphant comeback, however, the Royals continuously won the Golden League Championships from 2013 – 2021. As they continue in this hot streak, many ask, “What makes the Royals so dominant?”

Most of their success is due to Coach David Gutierrez and his learning attitude. Coach Gutierrez says he wants his team to outwork every other team and that they do; from summer workouts until the regular volleyball season, the Royals are working on their skills. Some players play travel ball in other AV

teams, while others go down the hill to Santa Clarita. Coach Gutierrez states, “Santa Clarita has become a hotbed for volleyball.”

Boasting on the team’s commitment, Coach Gutierrez states that 95% of Quartz Hill’s players began playing volleyball in middle school and usually opt out of other high school sports.

Coupled with the team’s drive, Coach Gutierrez instills a strong work ethic in his team and aids them in developing good sportsmanship and skills. Instead of diverting his focus on sweating small problems, he finds it more important for his team to develop good skills and habits on the court. It’s far more valuable for the players to respect themselves and their teammates.

Coach Gutierrez views himself as a learner. If another team beats his team, he studies that team, attends their practices and figures out how they were able to beat them. Coach Gutierrez states that he finds those who know more than he does and picks their brain, thus making himself a better coach. Falling in line with this practice, the Royals of Quartz Hill traveled to San Diego for the Field Level Tournament to further see where they can improve their game.

In 2018, Quartz Hill won its first California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) title. They are aiming for 2022 to be their next CIF win.

The Highland High School Bulldogs are the biggest challenge to the Quartz Hill Royals as they were the last school



Erika Alverdi
Founder

erika@thevinerefuge.org (661)341-5734

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to beat the Royals for the Golden League Championship.

Currently, the Bulldogs are sitting in second place in the Golden League. The Lancaster High School Eagles are sitting in third place. The top three schools will obtain bids for the CIF playoffs.



The Royals in action



Coach David Gutierrez

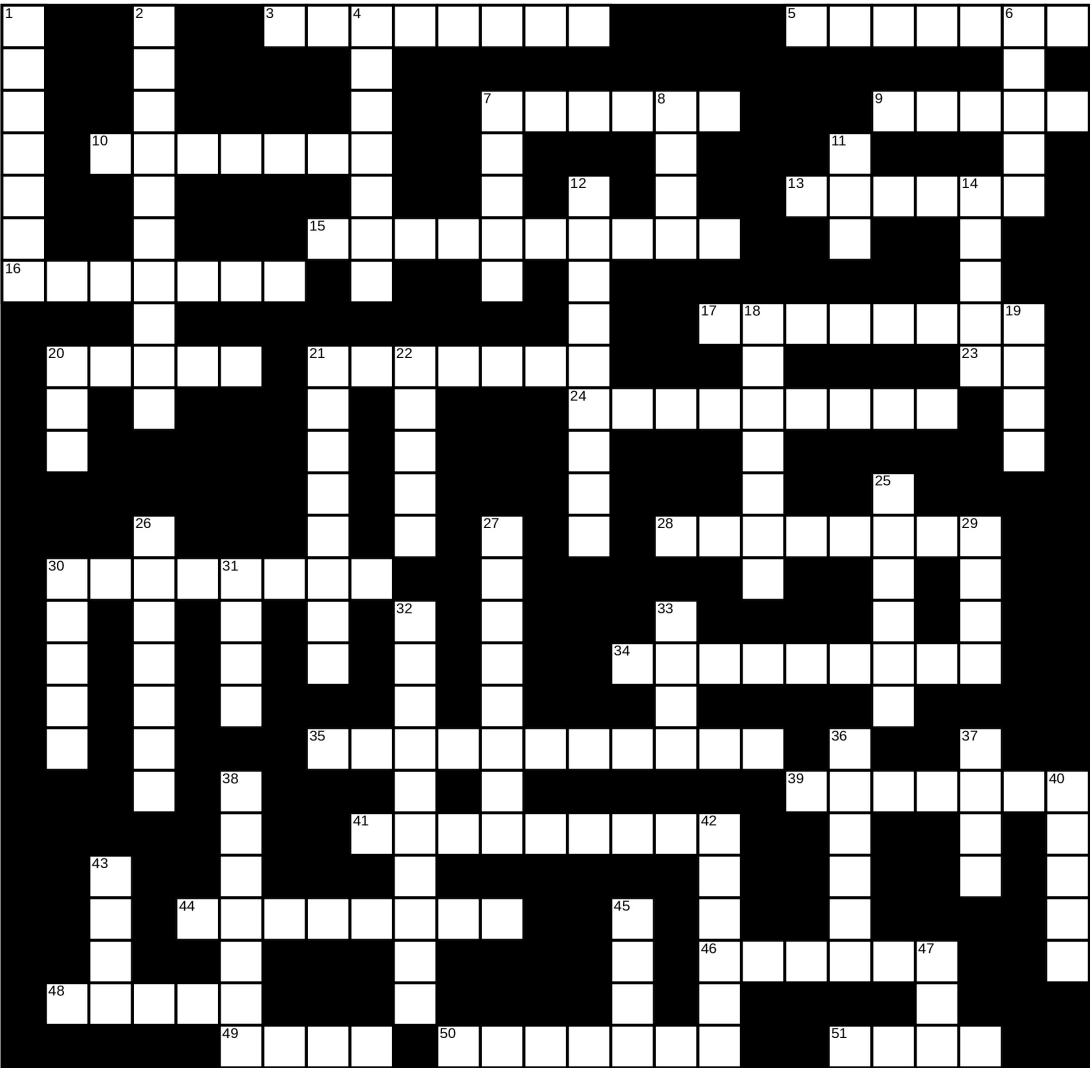


The Royals in action



Coach David Gutierrez

October Crossword



Across

- 3 60-ft-tall memorial sculpture of 4 U.S. Presidents, completed Oct. 1941

5 Popeye was strong to the finish because he ate this.

7 Building used for public worship

9 Vocal or instrumental sounds

10 An after-dinner treat

13 Indian political and spiritual leader born Oct. 1869

15 34th POTUS, aka "Ike"

16 Borrow books from here

17 Next month

20 Large instrument with keys

21 Large round Fall fruit with edible flesh and seeds

23 Do re mi fa ____
- 24 Number of days in Oct., 2 words

28 An Oct. birth flower of the daisy family, yellow/orange petals

30 Collection of recipes

34 Orange, yellow and white chewy Oct. treat

35 Large beer festival in Germany

39 Opposite of what you really mean to say; mockery

41 26th POTUS who said "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Born Oct. 1858

44 The World Series of this sport starts in Oct.

46 LACMA, The Getty

48 2nd POTUS, born Oct. 1735

49 A colorful Oct. birthstone

50 Mom and Dad

51 Reflects light from the sun at night

Find the answers
for previous crosswords
online at
ThePalmdaleJournal.com

Down

- 1 Bread shaped like a loose knot

2 Eats mostly everything, except meat

4 First Russian satellite, launched Oct. 1957

6 Spicy dish made with beef, peppers and sometimes beans

7 Republic founded Oct. 1949; Mao Zedong

8 Birthday dessert, just add candles

11 Angry

12 To work for free

14 19th POTUS who said, "He serves his party best who serves his country best." Born Oct. 1822
- 18 October in Spanish

19 "Shake, rattle and ____."

20 "As American as apple ____."

21 Woody fruit that drops from trees in Fall

22 Million Man ___, led by Farrakhan in Oct. 1995

25 A daisy-like October birth flower, various colors

26 A savory movie snack

27 He landed in the New World in Oct. 1492

29 Opposite of up

30 Gummies, licorice, lollipops
- 31 Open one of these and read it

32 Merriam-Webster

33 Tool used to gather leaves

36 Outdoors, creation, scenery

37 Newborn, infant, child

38 Spanish artist who painted "Guernica," born Oct. 1881

40 Coins, banknotes

42 Second African American SCOTUS Justice, confirmed Oct. 1991

43 Nutritious substance that maintains life and growth
- 45 Bandmate to Paul, Ringo and George; born Oct. 1940

47 What the cow says

Features

The Human Connection: Skin Saver

By Sabeth Perry

The words “white” and “black” seem to be the most used in society when it comes to describing someone’s skin tone. But really, people aren’t “white,” “black,” “red,” or “yellow.” The eye can’t deny, humans are all brown. Some are very light brown or very dark brown, and others are in between. Now, there are other factors that can give differentiation in skin tone, such as blood vessels, fat in the skin, etc., but that doesn’t negate the fact that we are all the same basic color.

Our skin is made up of many pigments, the main one is called melanin and this gives each person their individual skin shade. The amount of melanin in each individual is determined by their inherited genetic makeup. The less melanin one has, the lighter the skin shade; the more melanin, the darker the shade. Though some in society’s “identity politics” will try to separate us based on this one difference, we, the human race, biologically speaking, are made up of the same stuff.

Politics aside, our skin is a very important part of our identity and health as individuals, and it’s important that we take good care of it. According to a 2009 article published by the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care, our skin covers approximately 20 square feet, making it the largest organ of the body. Our skin plays a crucial role, as it helps to regulate body temperature, protects us from the elements by keeping harmful microbes out, holds fluids (preventing dehydration), and permits the sensations of touch, cold and heat. This amazing organ also helps with immune defense, vitamin production, and wound healing. The skin’s main layers, which include the epidermis, dermis and hypodermis, are also prone to many problems, such as skin cancer, acne, wrinkles and rashes, just to name a few of the over 3,000 possible skin disorders. A 2022 report from the American Cancer Society stated that more people are diagnosed with skin cancer each year in the U.S. than all other cancers combined, and yet many of these challenges can be combated with intentional care.

Keeping skin healthy is of the utmost importance, as this is the main part of the body that is in constant contact with the outside world. Where one lives will also determine the best routines for keeping skin at peak performance.

Here are a some helpful tips for maintaining healthy skin:

Get plenty of sleep each night.

Keep skin clean with routine bathing and washing. Although a hot shower sounds soothing on a cold day, it’s best to bathe in warm water, using mild cleansers. Avoid intense sun exposure by using sunscreen and wearing protective clothing. When outside, find shady places to stay under as much as possible, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

As much as one likes a good tan, try to avoid using tanning beds or sunlamps, as they emit harmful UV radiation.

To help with dry skin problems drink plenty of water, stay hydrated and use gentle lotions or moisturizers. Believe it or not, stress can also be a factor in irritating skin issues. Try to keep calm and find ways to reduce and manage stress.

Do not smoke. Not only does smoking make skin look older, but it depletes the skin of oxygen and nutrients.

Eat a healthy diet, getting plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins, and avoid unhealthy fats and processed foods. People are constantly surprised when they find that a simple change in their eating was the key to curing their skin issues.

Do regular checks on your body and let your doctor know if there are any unusual changes in skin discoloration or irritations.

Do research. Know what ingredients are going into the products that you are putting on your body. Try to find products with the most beneficial and organic ingredients and stay away from anything with harmful chemicals. This not only includes what goes onto the skin (i.e., lotion, makeup, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, etc), but also what is being used around the house (dish washing soap, air fresheners, floor and furniture cleaners, laundry detergent, etc.). If you’re adventurous, there are many resources online to make your own cleaners that use sustainable, healthy ingredients.

It’s not only important to know what goes into your body, but also what goes onto your body in order to stay healthy and live to your full potential.

Not a Victim: A Healthy, Happy You

By Adriana Salcedo

Today’s fast paced world is a world where performance is everything. A world where results define your worth. It’s all about image or what social media status we have. A world that chases happiness from the outside-in. However, true happiness comes from the inside-out . We can lose focus on how to obtain a true state of happiness versus the appearance of happiness. We must chase after a state of happiness. Isolation is the killer of happiness. We are not meant to be lonely. We are designed for connection. Connection with others brings a deep sense of happiness; material things do not. Research suggests that isolation affects our state of happiness. According to cognitive neurologist, Dr. Caroline Leaf, in the article 3 Mental Self-Care Habits of the Happiest People, “When we are isolated, our cortisol levels rise, which can cause low grade inflammation across the brain and body, making us feel ill, reducing blood flow to the brain and upsetting our mental clarity and our mood - isolation literally makes us lose our perspective!” According to research from Tulane University in the article Understanding the Effects of Social Isolation on Mental Health, mental and physical health are interconnected. Social isolation’s many adverse health consequences include sleeplessness and reduced immune function. Loneliness is associated with higher anxiety, depression, and suicide rates. Isolation and loneliness are also linked to poor cardiovascular health and cognitive function:

- A study led by an epidemiologist at Newcastle University concluded that deficiencies in social relationships are associated with a higher risk for coronary heart disease and stroke.
- A 2018 study published in The Journals of Gerontology concluded that loneliness was associated with a 40 percent increase in the risk of dementia.

With that said, go out into the community. Get involved. Volunteer at a local non-profit, such as Butler’s Coffee. You can even get involved in a local church. A great one is Greater Works Christian Church. Have coffee with friends or schedule a weekly dinner with family. Get connected. Your community is waiting.

Sincerely,
Adriana Salcedo
Beauty for Ashes, International.

A World of Expectations

A Parenting Column by Denize Verduzco

Children come out of the womb and into this world with clear expectations; expectations that quickly become a reality for the parent or caregiver to meet. A baby that needs to be fed, cleaned, and/or nurtured will cry to communicate that these needs must be met. As children grow up learning that their expectations are met, it becomes second nature for them to continue to expect. While certain expectations are healthy, as children transition into teenagers and adults, they quickly come to realize that not all expectations are realistic or as healthy as once presumed.

Breaking off expectations or mindsets that were taught in infancy can be convoluted and difficult because it requires retraining. A child goes from continually having their needs met, to learning to be patient, having to wait for the right time, or simply not acquiring what they want. A child’s behavior must go from selfish to unselfish in order to adapt to this new transition. Teaching children about realistic and unrealistic expectations is necessary for the suitable development of their character.

Expectations placed on children should always be age-appropriate and realistic. When specific expectations are placed on children by parents or professionals, they work as indicators for the child’s developmental growth. For instance, to expect a child to walk at the age of 1 month is not realistic. However, as a child grows older, and time passes, walking becomes an expectation, as it indicates proper growth development. The same could be said about a child’s speech. A child is expected to go from babbling one word, two words, short phrases, and eventually to speaking in full sentences. A lack or delay in speech can indicate that an area of development needs attention.

As a child grows older, expectations may go from basic to increasingly complex. In some homes, chores are expectations and not merely suggestions. For some parents, expecting a child to brush their teeth, clean up after themselves, do their homework, take out the trash or make their bed, goes far beyond the task at hand. Implementing these expectations are a foundational way to teach children to be accountable and responsible adults. Expecting a child to be respectful and honor the rules of the home also aid in teaching them to respect and honor the rules outside of the home.

Children can recognize unhealthy expectations the world places on them when they have prime examples of healthy ones at home. Today’s world is forcing children to make adult decisions without the means to fully assess or to discuss the risk of harm with a parent. Teenagers are being inundated on social media with unrealistic body images and lifestyles from social media models and influencers who don’t fully depict truth. These false expectations in turn cause teenagers to fall into issues of poor self-image, low self-esteem, and to chase a lifestyle that can be toxic. Lastly, it is important to teach children that disappointment will follow when putting expectations on other people. Adults have already figured out by now that expecting something from others doesn’t always go as planned. If an expectation isn’t voiced there is no means of someone fulfilling it. However, even after an expectation has been placed, people have the tendency to let other people down; it’s human nature. For this reason, it becomes crucial to instill within children an understanding: someone’s failure to meet a child’s expectations is by no means an indicator of a child’s self-worth. While the world is full of expectations, remember that a healthy balance will require wisdom, dialogue, and agreement within the home. Till next time...

Your Mommy-Friend,
Denize Verduzco

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