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2024

VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION Santa Clara County



CAIR ACTION
CALIFORNIA



CAIR ACTION'S 2024 VOTER GUIDE

WHY THIS ELECTION MATTERS

The 2024 election comes at a critical time for the Muslim community and all those committed to justice, human rights, and peace. This year's elections will not only shape domestic policies but also have profound implications for international issues, particularly regarding the crisis in Palestine and surrounding countries.

In addition, rising Islamophobia continues to threaten the safety, rights, and dignity of Muslims in the U.S. and around the world. The positions that candidates take on these issues—Palestine, Islamophobia, and broader justice concerns—are at the heart of our evaluation for this voter guide.

Their stances on a ceasefire, supporting an arms embargo, fighting anti-Muslim bigotry, and other social justice issues have heavily influenced the determination of our support levels for candidates.

In a time when elections can be won by narrow margins, your vote is crucial. Through this Voter Guide, CAIR Action seeks to empower you with information about candidates and where they stand on the issues that matter most. We have carefully evaluated candidates based on their track record, policy positions, and their alignment with the principles of justice, inclusivity, and positive change.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

This election has far-reaching consequences, especially in state and local races that could be decided by just a few votes. Your vote is a powerful tool in shaping a future grounded in justice, peace, and equality for all. Use this guide to cast an informed vote that reflects your values, and stand up for a world where human rights are upheld, from Gaza to your local community.

Together, we can build a future that reflects our shared values of justice, compassion, and equality.



OUR SUPPORT LEVELS

To help you make informed choices at the ballot box, we've developed a clear framework for our levels of candidate support. Here's how we assess candidates and determine our recommendations:

ENDORSED

These candidates strongly align with our values, having demonstrated a commitment to justice and positive change. This may include support for a ceasefire in Palestine or an arms embargo to Israel. They also oppose Islamophobia and have a strong record promoting civil rights and human dignity.

PREFERRED

These candidates are generally favorable but may not fully align with our positions on critical issues, however, they represent a better alternative to candidates who actively harm these causes.

OPPOSE

These candidates have taken harmful stances, including supporting the violence in Gaza and opposing a ceasefire. They may also have a record of Islamophobic rhetoric or policies. We strongly recommend voting against these candidates.

NO ENDORSEMENT

This rating is given when there is insufficient information about a candidate's position or when their positions do not align enough to warrant our support.



PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

CAIR Action, along with the American Muslim Taskforce for the 2024 election, recommends that Muslims vote for candidates who support ceasefire, arms embargo, and other just policies, such as Dr. Jill Stein (G), Dr. Cornel West (J), or Chase Oliver (L).

US SENATE

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Adam Schiff (D)	No Endorsement	While he has cosponsored "Access to Counsel Act", "Renewing Immigration Provisions", and "Recognizing Ramadan" bills, he voted on numerous funding bills for Israel and has historically supported surveillance bills.
Steve Garvey (R)	No Endorsement	Called ceasefire protesters terrorists. Says " Hamas does not deserve a ceasefire." Not aligned on

US CONGRESS

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Congressional District 16	Sam Liccardo	Preferred	History of engaging with community. Called for a ceasefire. Willingness to hire Muslim staffers, meet regularly with the community, and to learn more.
Congressional District 17	Ro Khanna	Endorsed	Spoken on issues of importance to community, such as Gaza and an Israeli arms embargo. Co-sponsored bills relating to immigration, Ramadan, Muslim Heritage month, and combatting Islamophobia. Needs consistent supportive messaging.
Congressional District 18	Zoe Lofgren	Preferred	While she eventually called for a ceasefire, called out Netanyahu, co-sponsored bills on Afghan refugees, access to counsel, and immigration, and did not vote on a recent funding bill for Israel, she needs to abstain from more Israel funding bills and do more to help the people of Gaza to earn our endorsement, instead of just "preferred".
Congressional District 19	Jason Michael Anderson	No Endorsement	Anderson supported Israel's attacks on Gaza, Not aligned on immigration, police, and military issues. CAIR Action disagrees with a protest vote for someone who is likely worse than the incumbent. It unintentionally encourages support for damaging positions that can harm the community.
Congressional District 19	Jimmy Panetta	No Endorsement	Not aligned on multiple bills relating to Gaza and foreign policy. Accepts sizeable funding from pro-Israel lobby groups.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Board of Supervisors District 2	Betty Duong	Prefer	Betty Duong has expressed support for a ceasefire and has made a concerted effort to engage and support the community.
Board of Supervisors District 5	Sally J. Lieber	Endorsed	Sally Lieber has been an outspoken supporter of ceasefire and Palestinian rights. She has repeatedly engaged with the community. She stayed in Greece for weeks to help Syrian refugees fleeing the war and collected Arabic books and curriculum so that their education isn't halted. Aligned on civil rights issues like police accountability and workers' rights.
Judge of the Superior Court, 5	Johnene Linda Stebbins	Prefer	We believe she will be more with compassionate, empathic, and respectful in the pursuit of justice.

STATE SENATE

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
State Senate District 13	Josh Becker	No Endorsement	Co-authored dangerous bills - SB 1277 (biased genocide education), SB 1287 (anti-encampment/protests), AB 2925 (biased discrimination training), despite significant community opposition.
State Senate District 13	Alexander Glew	No Endorsement	Not aligned on multiple issues.
State Senate District 15	Dave Cortese	Preferred	While he has been outspoken on Palestinian rights, authored SB 309 (religious accommodation), and co-sponsored SB 461 (religious observance), he has been downgraded to "Prefer" because he voted in favor of three problematic bills: SB 1287, AB 2925, and SB 1277.



STATE ASSEMBLY

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Assembly District 23	Marc Berman	No Endorsement	Co-authored damaging bills: SB 1277, SB 1287, and AB 2925 (see above), despite significant community opposition. Has condemned protesters and not called for a ceasefire.
Assembly District 23	Lydia Kou	No Endorsement	Has not called for a ceasefire.
Assembly District 24	Alex Lee	Preferred	Supported Ceasefire early and Palestinian/ Muslim issues, authored AB 1503 (excused religious absences) and abstained from SB 1287 (anti-encampment/protests). His votes for SB 1277 (biased genocide teaching) and AB 2925 (biased discrimination teaching), earned him a "Prefer" rather than "Endorse".
Assembly District 25	Ash Kalra	Preferred	While he co-authored SB 309 and is aligned on multiple issues, including ceasefire, his votes for SB 1277, SB 1287, and AB 2925 (see above) downgraded him to Preferred.
Assembly District 26	Tara Sreekrishnan	Preferred	Since her abstention at the BoE, she has since called for a ceasefire and has been engaging with the community with a willingness to learn.
Assembly District 28	Liz Lawler	No Endorsement	Not aligned on issues
Assembly District 28	Gail Pellerin	No Endorsement	Voted for problematic bills such as SB 1277 and SB 1287, and co-sponsored AB 2925 (see above) and has not called for a ceasefire.
Assembly District 29	Robert Rivas	No Endorsement	While he has positively engaged with the community, he has voted for problematic bills such as SB 1277, SB 1287, and AB 2925 (see above), and has not called for a ceasefire.
Assembly District 29	J.W. Paine	No Endorsement	Not aligned on issues



CITY COUNCIL

CAMPBELL COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Juan Rodriguez	Endorsed

CUPERTINO CITY COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Rod Sinks	Endorsed

GILROY MAYOR

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Greg Bozzo	Endorsed

GILROY COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Rebeca Armendariz	Endorsed
Zach Hilton	Endorsed

LOS ALTOS COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Ibrahim Bashir	Endorsed

MILPITAS MAYOR

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Hon Lien	Preferred

MILPITAS COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Juliette Gomez	Preferred

MORGAN HILL MAYOR

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Yvonne Martinez Beltran	Endorsed

MORGAN HILL COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Miriam Vega	Preferred
Michael Orosco	Preferred

MORGAN HILL TREASURER

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Raymon Saechao	Endorsed

MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Emily Ann Ramos	Preferred
Nicholas Hargis	Preferred
IdaRose Sylvester	Endorsed

PALO ALTO COUNCIL

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Katie Causey	Preferred

SAN JOSE COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Pamela Campos	Endorsed

SAN JOSE COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Olivia Navarro	Endorsed

SAN JOSE COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Domingo Candelas	Endorsed

SAN JOSE COUNCIL DISTRICT 10

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
George Casey	Preferred



CITY COUNCIL CONT.

SANTA CLARA COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Harbir K. Bhatia	Endorsed

SANTA CLARA COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Kevin Nara Park	Endorsed

SANTA CLARA CITY CLERK

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Paul Tacci	Preferred

SUNNYVALE MAYOR

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Russel Melton	Preferred

SUNNYVALE DISTRICT 2

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Alysa Cisneros	Endorsed

SUNNYVALE DISTRICT 4

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Charlsie Chang	Endorsed

SUNNYVALE DISTRICT 6

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Eileen Le	Endorsed

SCHOOL BOARD

ALUM ROCK UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Corina Herrera-Loera	Preferred
Brenda Zendejas	Endorsed

BERRYESSA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Jamal Khan	Preferred

CUPERTINO UNION SCHOOL - VOTE FOR ONLY 2

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Sylvia Leong	Endorsed
Rimi Khan	Endorsed
Nisar Ali	Preferred

EAST SIDE UNION

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Pattie Cortese	Endorsed



SCHOOL BOARD CONT.

EVERGREEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Jeremy Barousse	Preferred

FRANKLIN-MCKINLEY SD

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Balinton Milan	Preferred

GILROY GAVILAN COLLEGE TRUSTEE 4

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Lorena Tariba	Preferred

GILROY GAVILAN COLLEGE TRUSTEE 6

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Rachel Perez	Endorsed

OAK GROVE USD

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Beija Gonzalez	Endorsed

PALO ALTO USD

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Alison Kamhi	Preferred
Chris Colohan	Preferred
Nicole Chiu-Wang	Preferred

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOE, AREA 1

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Grace H. Mah	Preferred

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOE 4

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Jorge Pacheco Jr	Endorsed

SAN JOSE USD

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Teresa Castellanos	Endorsed

SAN JOSE-EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (VOTE ONLY FOR 1)

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Mahbub R. Khan	Preferred
Tony Alexander	Endorsed

SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION
Melissa Stanis	Preferred
Yacoub Elziq	Endorsed



BALLOT MEASURES

MEASURE	TITLE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
City of Morgan Hill Measure A	City Elected Official Term Limits	Yes	Term limits are needed to promote fresh perspectives and ensure more opportunities for diverse leadership in local government.
City of Sunnyvale Measure F	Charter Amendment to Update Board Eligibility, Council	Yes	These updates will encourage broader civic participation, enhance flexibility, strengthen city governance, and reflect modern democratic values.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION	TITLE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Proposition 6	Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime	Support	Incarcerated individuals should be treated with dignity and not forced into labor. It undermines criminal justice reform, and is a remnant of slavery-era policies.
Proposition 36	Increase Drug and Theft Penalties and Reduce Homelessness Initiative (Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act)	Oppose	<p>Proposition 36 has a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disproportionate impact on communities of color - Undermines criminal justice reform - Does not focus on rehabilitation - Exacerbates mass incarceration - Causes economic and social harm

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