

cairaction.org

info@cairaction.org

@cairaction    

2024

VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION Santa Cruz 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 issues.

US CONGRESS

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Congressional District 18	Zoe Lofgren (D)	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 14	Jimmy Panetta (D)	No Endorsement	Not aligned on multiple bills relating to Gaza and foreign policy. Accepts sizeable funding from pro-Israel lobby groups.



STATE SENATE

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
State Senator, 17th District	John Laird (D)	No Endorsement	Voted for dangerous bills - SB 1277 (biased genocide teaching), SB 1287 (anti-encampment/protests), AB 2925 (biased discrimination teaching), despite significant community opposition.
State Senator, 17th District	Tony Virrueta (R)	No Endorsement	Not aligned on civil rights issues.

STATE ASSEMBLY

OFFICE	NAME	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
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
Assembly District 30	Dawn Addis (D)	No Endorsement	Voted for dangerous bills - SB 1277 (biased genocide teaching) and AB 2925 (biased discrimination teaching), and co-authored SB 1287 (anti-encampment/protests), despite significant community opposition.
Assembly District 30	Dalila Epperson (R)	No Endorsement	Not aligned on issues



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OFFICE	NAME	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
Board of Supervisors, 2nd District	Kristen Brown	Preferred	Aligned on issues.
Board of Supervisors, 5th District	Monica Martinez	Preferred	Aligned on issues.

WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE	NAME	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
District 2	Vanessa Quiroz-Carter	Endorsed	Supported ceasefire resolution, called for special meeting
District 6	Trina Coffman-Gomez	Preferred	Aligned on issues.

PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE	NAME	CAIR ACTION POSITION	REASON
District 3	Gabriel Jesse Medina	Endorsed	Supporter of Ceasefire and Palestinian rights
District 6	Jessica Carrasco	Endorsed	Supporter of Ceasefire and Palestinian rights

**Become a Member
by scanning the QR Code**





CAIR ACTION

INFO@CAIRACTION.ORG | CAIRACTION.ORG

   @CAIRACTION

Become a member
by scanning the QR Code



CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

bit.ly/cairaction-vote