CRUZ STRATEGIES

2026 California General Election

November 3, 2026

As of November 13, 2026

CRUZ STRATEGIES

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Key Insights

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Historic Democratic Majorities

- 32 Democratic Senate seats (ties modern record)
- 68 Democratic Assembly seats (modern record)
- Largest governing majority in decades
- Key debates shift from partisan to intraparty

New Leadership

- Governor Becerra and administration
- New budget and policy priorities

★ Governor-Elect Xavier Becerra ★



Xavier Becerra
DEM



Steve Hilton
REP

Xavier Becerra defeated Steve Hilton in gubernatorial race 65.7% to 34.3%.
Xavier Becerra is the first elected Latino Governor in California.

Key Insights

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Major SCAG Delegation Changes

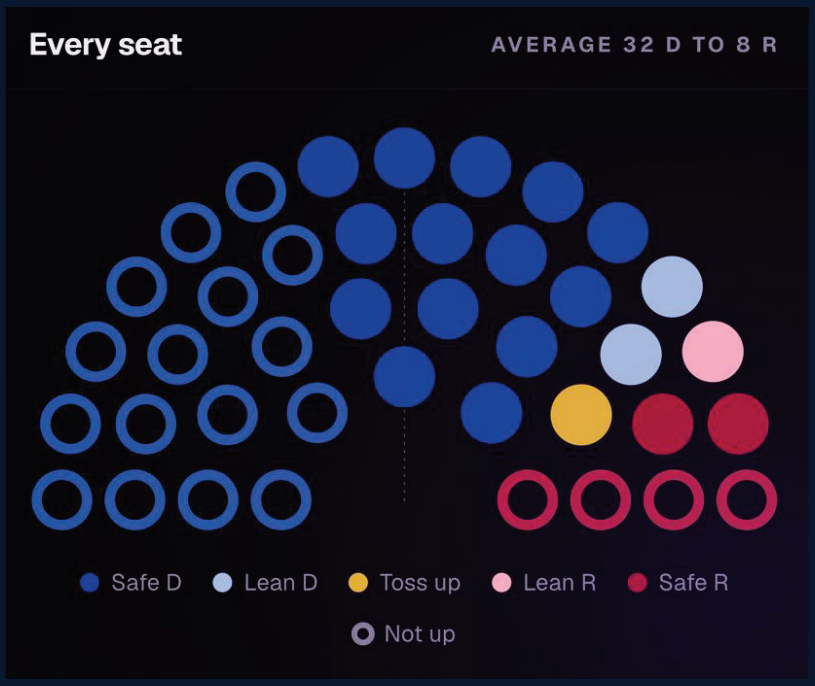
- 27 new legislators statewide
- 19 new members in the SCAG delegation
- New relationships and influence centers emerging

Regional Implications

- SCAG Education and Advocacy for New Members
- Greater focus on housing, transportation, and infrastructure
- Opportunity to shape the 2027-28 policy agenda

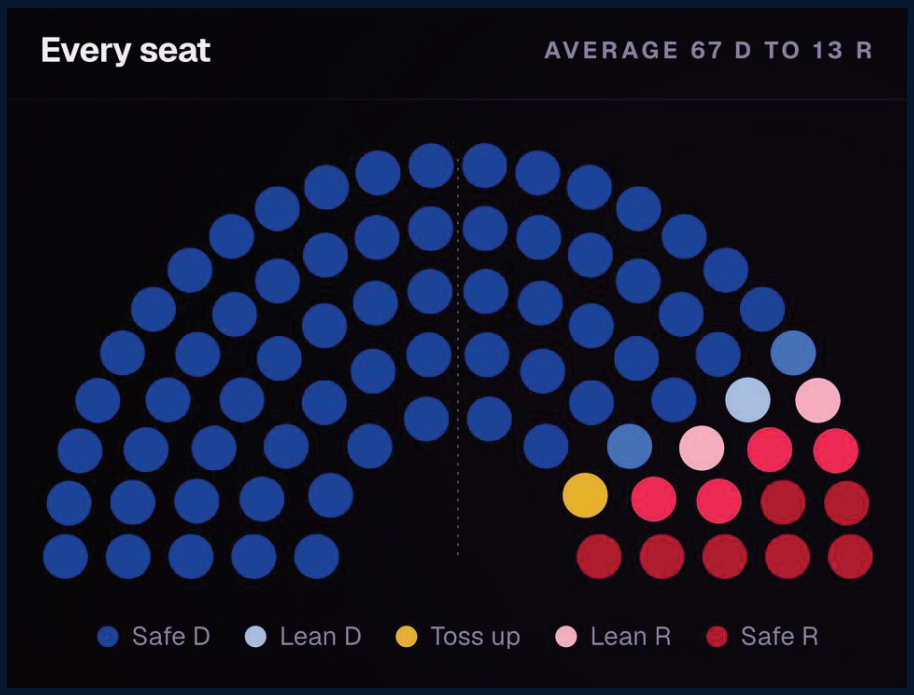
California Senate Unofficial Returns

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California Assembly Unofficial Returns

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Legislative Seats that have Flipped

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California State Senate - 2 Seats Flipped

- **SD-36:** Republican (Strickland) → Democrat - **Chris Duncan (D)**
- **SD-40:** Republican (Jones) → Democrat - **Mara Elliott (D)**

California State Assembly - 7 Seats Flipped

- **AD-7:** Republican (Hoover) → Democrat - **Amy Slavensky (D)**
- **AD-33:** Republican (Macedo)→ Democrat - **Hipolito Angel Cerros (D)**
- **AD-36:** Republican (Gonzalez) → Democrat - **Ida S. Obeso-Martinez (D)**
- **AD-47:** Republican (Wallis) → Democrat - **Leila Namvar (D)**
- **AD-58:** Republican (Castillo) → Democrat - **Clarissa Cervantes (D)**
- **AD-70:** Republican (Ta) → Democrat - **Paula Swift (D)**
- **AD-74:** Republican (Davies) → Democrat - **Sergio Farias (D)**

Constitutional Officers

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Lieutenant Governer

★ Fiona Ma (DEM)

Secretary of State

★ Shirley N. Weber (DEM)

Controller

★ Malia M. Cohen (DEM)

Treasurer

★ Eleni Kounalakis (DEM)

Attorney General

★ Rob Bonta (DEM)

Insurance Commissioner

★ Jane Kim (DEM)

Superintendant of Public Instruction

★ Richard Barrera

Board of Equalization Members

CRUZ STRATEGIES

District 1

★ Nelson Esparza (DEM)

District 2

★ Sally J. Lieber (DEM)

District 3

★ Mike Gipson (DEM)

District 4

★ Tom Umberg (DEM)

Newly Elected LA Legislators

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Senate District 24

★ Brian Goldsmith (DEM)

State Senate District 26

★ Sarah Hernandez (DEM)

State Assembly District 34

★ Charles Hughes (REP)

State Assembly District 42

★ Deborah K. Lopez (DEM)

State Assembly District 65

★ Ayanna Davis (DEM)

State Assembly District 66

★ Paul Seo (DEM)



Newly Elected OC Legislators

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Senate District 34

★ Avelino Valencia (DEM)

State Senate District 36

★ Chris Duncan (DEM)

State Assembly District 67

★ Mark Pulido (DEM)

State Assembly District 68

★ Jessie Lopez (DEM)

State Assembly District 70

★ Paula Swift (DEM)



Newly Elected Imperial County and Riverside County Legislators

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Assembly District 36
★ Ida Obeso-Martinez (DEM)

State Assembly District 47
★ Leila Namvar (DEM)

State Assembly District 58
★ Clarissa Cervantes (DEM)



State Senators

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Senate District 2
★ Damon Connolly (DEM)

State Senate District 4
★ Alexandra Duarte (REP)

State Senate District 6
★ Sean Frame (DEM) 49.5%
★ Roger Niello (REP) 50.5%

State Senate District 8
★ Angelique Ashby (DEM)

State Senate District 10
★ Scott Sakakihara (DEM)

State Senate District 12
★ Nathan Magsig (REP)

State Senate District 14
★ Esmeralda Soria (DEM)

State Senate District 16
★ Melissa Hurtado (DEM)

State Senate District 18
★ Steve Padilla (DEM)

State Senate District 20
★ Caroline Menjivar (DEM)

State Senators

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Senate District 22
★ Susan Rubio (DEM)

State Senate District 24
★ Brian Goldsmith (DEM)

State Senate District 26
★ Sara Hernandez (DEM)

State Senate District 28
★ Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (DEM)

State Senate District 30
★ Bob J. Archuleta (DEM)

State Senate District 32
★ Tiffanie Tate (DEM) 47.9%
★ Kelly Seyarto (REP) 52.1%

State Senate District 34
★ Avelino Valencia (DEM)

State Senate District 36
★ Chris Duncan (DEM)

State Senate District 38
★ Catherine S. Blakespear (DEM)

State Senate District 40
★ Mara Elliot (DEM)

State Assemblymembers

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Assembly District 1
★ Heather Hadwick (REP)

State Assembly District 2
★ Chris Rogers (DEM)

State Assembly District 3
★ Dom Belza (REP)

State Assembly District 4
★ Cecilia M. Aguilar- Curry (DEM)

State Assembly District 5
★ Joe Patterson (REP)

State Assembly District 6
★ Maggy Krell (DEM)

State Assembly District 7
★ Amy L. Slavensky (DEM) 53.2%
★ Josh Hoover (REP) 46.8%

State Assembly District 8
★ David Jariustokaeutulelei Tangipa (REP)

State Assembly District 9
★ Heath Flora (REP)

State Assembly District 10
★ Stephanie Nguyen (DEM)

State Assembly District 11
★ Lori D Wilson (DEM)

State Assembly District 12
★ Jackie Elward (DEM)

State Assembly District 13
★ Rhodesia Ransom (DEM)

State Assembly District 14
★ Buffy Wicks (DEM)

State Assembly District 15
★ Anamarie Avila Farias (DEM)

State Assemblymembers

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Assembly District 16 ★ Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (DEM)	**State Assembly District 17** ★ Matt Haney (DEM)	**State Assembly District 18** ★ Mia Bonta (DEM)
State Assembly District 19 ★ Catherine Stefani (DEM)	**State Assembly District 20** ★ Liz Ortega (DEM)	**State Assembly District 21** ★ Diane Papan (DEM)
State Assembly District 22 ★ Juan Alanis (REP)	**State Assembly District 23** ★ Marc Berman (DEM)	**State Assembly District 24** ★ Alex Lee (DEM)
State Assembly District 25 ★ Ash Kalra (DEM)	**State Assembly District 26** ★ Patrick Ahrens (DEM)	**State Assembly District 27** ★ Brian Pacheco (DEM)
State Assembly District 28 ★ Gail Pellerin (DEM)	**State Assembly District 29** ★ Robert Rivas (DEM)	**State Assembly District 30** ★ Dawn Addis (DEM)

State Assemblymembers

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Assembly District 31 ★ Annalisa Perea (DEM)	**State Assembly District 32** ★ David Couch (REP)	**State Assembly District 33** ★ Hipolito Angel Cerros (DEM) 50.7% ★ Alexandra Macedo (REP) 49.3%
State Assembly District 34 ★ Charles Hughes (REP)	**State Assembly District 35** ★ Andrae Gonzalez (DEM)	**State Assembly District 36** ★ Ida S. Obeso-Martinez (DEM)
State Assembly District 37 ★ Gregg Hart (DEM)	**State Assembly District 38** ★ Steve Bennett (DEM)	**State Assembly District 39** ★ Juan Carrillo (DEM)
State Assembly District 40 ★ Pilar Schiavo (DEM)	**State Assembly District 41** ★ John Harabedian (DEM)	**State Assembly District 42** ★ Deborah Klein Lopez (DEM)
State Assembly District 43 ★ Celeste Rodriguez (DEM)	**State Assembly District 44** ★ Nicholas Schultz (DEM)	**State Assembly District 45** ★ James C. Ramos (DEM)

State Assemblymembers

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State Assembly District 46 ★ Jesse Gabriel (DEM)	**State Assembly District 47** ★ Leila Namvar (DEM)	**State Assembly District 48** ★ Blanca Rubio (DEM)
State Assembly District 49 ★ Mike Fong (DEM)	**State Assembly District 50** ★ Robert Garcia (DEM)	**State Assembly District 51** ★ Rick Chavez Zbur (DEM)
State Assembly District 52 ★ Jessica Caloza (DEM)	**State Assembly District 53** ★ Michelle Rodriguez (DEM)	**State Assembly District 54** ★ Mark Gonzalez (DEM)
State Assembly District 55 ★ Isaac G. Bryan (DEM)	**State Assembly District 56** ★ Lisa Calderon (DEM)	**State Assembly District 57** ★ Sade Elhawary (DEM)
State Assembly District 58 ★ Clarissa Cervantes (DEM)	**State Assembly District 59** ★ Phillip Chen (REP)	**State Assembly District 60** ★ Corey A Jackson (DEM)

State Assemblymembers

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Assembly District 61 ★ Tina Simone McKinnor (DEM)	**State Assembly District 62** ★ José Luis Solache (DEM)	**State Assembly District 63** ★ Natasha Johnson (REP)
State Assembly District 64 ★ Blanca Pacheco (DEM)	**State Assembly District 65** ★ Ayanna Davis (DEM)	**State Assembly District 66** ★ Paul Seo (DEM)
State Assembly District 67 ★ Mark Pulido (DEM)	**State Assembly District 68** ★ Jessie Lopez (DEM)	**State Assembly District 69** ★ Josh Lowenthal (DEM)
State Assembly District 70 ★ Paula Swift (DEM)	**State Assembly District 71** ★ Kate Sanchez (REP)	**State Assembly District 72** ★ Chris Kluwe (DEM) 50.2% ★ Gracey Van Der Mark (REP) 49.8%
State Assembly District 73 ★ Cottie Petrie-Norris (DEM)	**State Assembly District 74** ★ Sergio Farias (DEM)	**State Assembly District 75** ★ Carl DeMaio (REP)

State Assemblymembers

CRUZ STRATEGIES

State Assembly District 76

★ Darshana Patel (DEM)

State Assembly District 77

★ Tasha Boerner (DEM)

State Assembly District 78

★ Chris Ward (DEM)

State Assembly District 79

★ LaShae Sharp-Collins (DEM)

State Assembly District 80

★ David A. Alvarez (DEM)

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 1 — Taxes & Revenue

$11.25B Affordable Housing Bond (Proposition 1)

SB 417 (Limon) The Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 (Ch.16,2026) Authorizes the state to borrow a record $11.25 billion for affordable housing, with $10 billion to buy, build, rehabilitate, and preserve affordable homes and $1.25 billion to help veterans buy homes.

Support: Gov. Newsom, Democratic state lawmakers, California Apartment Association, AFL-CIO California

Opposed: Republican state lawmakers

PASSED

Proposition 2 — Rainy Day Fund

Rainy Day Fund Expansion (Proposition 2)

ACA 20 (Gabriel) Save for California's Future Act (Res. Ch. 130, 2026) Constitutional amendment allowing the state to deposit up to 20% of general fund tax revenue into the rainy day fund each year, up from the current 10%. Also authorizes tax revenue to pay down the state's $20 billion federal unemployment insurance debt.

Support: Gov. Newsom, legislative Democrats

Opposed: Legislative Republicans

PASSED

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 3

Taxes & Revenue

Extend High Earner Tax Permanently (Proposition 3)

Makes the 2012 voter-approved high-income tax rates permanent, set to expire in 2031, affecting incomes over $360,000 for singles, $721,000 for couples, and $490,000 for heads of household (2024 levels, adjusted for inflation). 89% of revenue goes to K-12 schools, 11% to community colleges. Local school boards decide spending; administrative costs are barred. Increases General Fund revenue for education, healthcare, and other programs. Estimated to maintain $5 billion to $15 billion in annual state income taxes (today's dollars), making high-income earners' tax permanent instead of expiring. (250016)

Support: California Teachers Association, California Federation of Teachers, California School Employees Association

Opposed: California Taxpayers Association

PASSED

Proposition 4

Elections & Governance

Public Campaign Financing (Proposition 4)

SB 42 (Umberg) Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing; California Fair Elections Act of 2026. (Ch. 245, 2025) Grants state and local governments in California the authority to establish public financing systems for political candidates. Public campaign financing has been banned in the state since 1988. Placed on the ballot by the Legislature.

Support: California Common Cause, California Clean Money Campaign, League of Women Voters, ACLU California Action

Opposed: California Taxpayers Association

Too close to call

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 5

Elections & Governance

Recall Reform (Proposition 5)

SCA 1 (Newman) Elections: recall of state officers. (Res. Ch. 204, 2024) Constitutional amendment eliminating the immediate replacement election following a successful recall (as occurred when Arnold Schwarzenegger replaced Gray Davis), instead leaving the office vacant until filled in a separate election. Also allows a recalled official to run again for the same office.

Support: League of Women Voters, California Common Cause, Secretary of State Shirley Weber

Opposed: Election Integrity Project California

PASSED

Proposition 37

Housing & Home Ownerhsip

$25B Homebuyer Loan Program (Proposition 37)

Creates a $25 billion state-backed mortgage loan program for buyers earning less than 200% of the area median income. Offers fixed-rate loans of up to 17% of the purchase price for homes priced under $1.5 million; buyers must contribute at least 3% down. Requires that bonds be repaid through homeowners' mortgage payments, not by the State. Summary of the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance's estimate of the fiscal impact on state and local governments. (25-0013A1)

Support: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg, Building a Better California, California Association of Realtors, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Western States Regional Council of Carpenters

Opposed: N/A

PASSED

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 38

Healthcare

PASSED

$8.4B Immunology / Immunotherapy Bond (Proposition 38)

Authorizes the state to borrow $8.4 billion to fund research into immune-system-based technologies for treating cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and other conditions. Funds are split between a UC-affiliated nonprofit institute and grants to public or nonprofit institutions. Resulting drugs and technology must be sold at 20% below the national average. Appropriates money from the General Fund to repay the bonds. Summary of the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance's estimate of the fiscal impact on state and local governments: Increased state costs of about $500 million annually for 25 years to repay the bonds. The state could recoup part or all of this cost in subsequent decades if the funded research leads to discoveries that generate revenue, though this is uncertain. (25-0026A1)

Support: Gary Michelson, Meyer Luskin, The ALS Association, The Alzheimer's Association, Blood Cancer United

Opposed: Robert Kaplan, former associate director of the National Institutes of Health

Proposition 39

Elections & Governance

Voter ID Requirement (Proposition 39)

Constitutional amendment requiring voters to present government-issued ID when voting in person, or the last four digits of an ID number when voting by mail.

Support: Reform California, Californians for Voter ID, Rep. Ken Calvert

Opposed: League of Women Voters of California, ACLU California Action, California Donor Table

FAILED

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 40

Taxes & Revenue

FAILED

Billionaire Wealth Tax (Proposition 40)

Applies a one-time 5% wealth tax on the assets of roughly 200 California billionaires, paid over five years. 90% of revenue funds healthcare for low-income Californians, and 10% funds education and food assistance. A temporary increase in state revenues from a new tax on the wealth of billionaires. These wealth tax revenues would likely total tens of billions of dollars over several years. A likely ongoing decrease in state income tax revenues of hundreds of millions of dollars or more per year. (25-0024A1)

Support: SEIU United Healthcare Workers West, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Teamsters California, AFSCME California

Opposed: Gov. Gavin Newsom, Sergey Brin, Chris Larsen, California Teachers Association, California Primary Care Association, California Medical Association

Proposition 41

Taxes & Revenue

FAILED

Audit New Tax Spending (Proposition 41)

Response to the billionaire tax proposal. Requires state audits of programs funded by new taxes and applies revenue from those taxes to the state spending cap, effectively off setting the wealth tax. If this and Prop 40 pass, the measure with more votes prevails. Fiscal effects are unknown; any net costs or savings would depend on (1) how many special tax initiatives qualify for a one-time audit but are not approved by voters, (2) the number of pages added to the Voter Information Guide each election cycle, and (3) the level of savings identified and implemented as a result of the audits. (25-0040A1)

Support: Building a Better California (funded by Brin, John Doerr, Michael Moritz), Reform California, California Chamber of Commerce

Opposed: Proponents of the billionaire tax initiative (Prop 40)

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 42

Taxes & Revenue

Ban New Personal Property / Retroactive Taxes (Countermeasure) (Proposition 42)

Aimed at undercutting the wealth tax proposal. Prevents new taxes on personal property that would o set the wealth tax. If both this and Prop 40 pass, the one with more votes prevails. There is a possibility that tax revenues will be lower in the future. (25-0041A1)

Support: Building a Better California, Reform California, State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, California Chamber of Commerce

Opposed: Proponents of the billionaire tax initiative (Prop 40)

Too close to call

Proposition 43

Taxes & Revenue

Raise Local Special Tax Threshold to 2/3 (Citizen Initiatives) (Proposition 43)

ACA 22 (Wicks) Local taxes: limited. (Res. Ch. 132, 2026) Raises the threshold for citizen-driven special tax ballot initiatives from a simple majority to two-thirds, making it harder to impose or increase local taxes. Placed on the ballot by state lawmakers as part of a deal with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, replacing a withdrawn HJTA initiative.

Support: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Opposed: None on record (expect opposition from Democrat lawmakers)

FAILED

BALLOT MEASURES

CRUZ STRATEGIES

Proposition 44

Healthcare

FAILED

Clinic Spending Rules (Proposition 44)

Requires Federally Qualified Health Centers (community clinics that provide primary care to medically underserved areas and populations) to spend 90% of revenue on direct patient care and services supporting care for low-income and underserved patients. Noncompliant clinics face fines, with proceeds directed to a state-operated account for worker training and staffing. The state's cost to enforce the new requirement that nonprofit safety net health clinics spend at least 90 percent of annual revenue on certain types of expenses is up to the low tens of millions of dollars annually, much of which would be covered by fees and penalties charged to the affected entities. (25-0008A1)

Support: SEIU United Healthcare Workers West pg. 4

Opposed: California Primary Care Association, California Medical Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, California Teachers Association Science & Research

Proposition 45

Environment & Infrastructure

FAILED

Expedited CEQA Review (Proposition 45)

Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to set deadlines for environmental review of most housing, transportation, water, health and clean energy projects, speeding up permitting and limiting courts' ability to stop or delay development. State and local government implementation costs are in the tens of millions of dollars annually for the first several years. Over the long term, the annual net fiscal effects are uncertain, but state and local governments would likely experience net savings from reduced administrative and legal workloads. (25-003A1)

Support: California Chamber of Commerce, Building a Better California, California Building Industry Association, PG&E, Edison

Opposed: Clean and Healthy California (coalition of environmental advocates), California State Building and Construction Trades Council


CRUZ STRATEGIES
THANK YOU