

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

The following pages contain Candidate Statements. Candidates have the option to prepare and pay for a statement to be printed in this guide. A complete list of candidates can be found on the Practice Ballot.

We print all materials exactly as submitted, including errors.

SUPERVISOR, 4TH DISTRICT - ALEX GARCIA

Age: 34 Occupation: Realtor

I am a proud son of Kern County. I was taught hard work and homespun rural values. I went to Fresno State where I earned a Bachelor's Degree, but returned to my roots in Kern County to make our community a better place. In 2016, I was elected to the Wasco City Council, where I have been a strong champion for local infrastructure and public safety. I also have served on the board of the Kern Health Systems and the currently serve as a director to the Kern Economic Development Corporation, in addition to running my own real estate business.

I like many, feel our county government has ignored us for too long. Many of our problems, from crime to homelessness, to water supply, the resources to solve these problems reside at the county level, and they have failed in addressing our concerns. Many have never even seen their County Supervisor. It is with this mission to engage our community that I hope that we can create a better tomorrow.

My mission is to serve you and you can always call me on my cell phone (661) 910-2407. I will always return phone calls. You can also check out my website at AlexForSupervisor.com, I hope to earn your vote.

US HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 20 – DAVID A. GIGLIO

Age: Occupation: Small Business Owner

My name is David Giglio, and I am the only American First candidate running for Congress to replace Kevin McCarthy in House District 20. I am endorsed by America First patriots, early supporters and trusted allies of President Donald J. Trump, Roger Stone and Lt. General Michael Flynn. These men support me because I am the only candidate prepared to shatter the status quo and return the power stolen from you by permanent Washington. My candidacy is not motivated by political aspirations. After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Scranton with a Bachelor's in History and earning my masters at Sacred Heart, I became a school teacher. I'm now the proud owner of CaliCards & More in Clovis. But our nation is in crisis. Our people have lost faith in government because elected leaders from both parties have sold us out to special interests, domestic and foreign oligarchs. The time is now to elect new leaders who believe the primary focus of our government should be to put the needs of the American people first. We must end the endless wars, secure our border, cut waste and reckless spending, and instead invest in infrastructure, election integrity and our veterans. I truly believe the best is yet to come for

America! But it isn't promised. We must ensure it by dismantling the uniparty and deep state actors who are putting our future at risk. I will fight each and every day alongside President Trump to Make America Great Again!

SUPERVISOR, 5TH DISTRICT - DAVID ABBASI

Age: Occupation:

I'm a native of Bakersfield and I love my hometown. After I saw local jobs being lost and rampant public corruption, I felt obligated to run for Supervisor. We need ethics in local government and genuine representation that will not take bribes or extort their constituents.

I attended Pierce College in Los Angeles and am educated in law and politics. As a successful business owner, I gained insight into navigating extraordinary challenges with creative solutions. I qualified ballot measures for both Bakersfield and Kern County. My efforts spurred action on issues like County employee raises and the homeless situation. My experience managing large groups and unwavering support for the people will be an asset as Supervisor.

For the last decade, violent crime and homelessness have become worse. There are less job opportunities and ridiculous government waste while County employees are going without cost-of-living increases. I will make actual improvements to our community, increase access to healthcare, reduce crime, and create good paying jobs. We need to stop the corruption and focus on generating new sources of revenue without raising taxes before the County goes bankrupt. Kern County deserves better.

-David Abbasi

Businessman/Entrepreneur/Coordinator

DavidForKernSupervisor.com

SUPERVISOR, 4TH DISTRICT - DAVID COUCH

Age: Occupation: County Supervisor

As your Kern County Supervisor, I've made government work for you, not against you.

I've successfully helped thousands of constituents with diverse concerns, from fixing roads to fighting slumlords. I've passed budgets that are balanced and fiscally responsible. I bring that experience in government and over 30-years of private-sector experience to the Board of Supervisors.

I'm endorsed by every Mayor in the 4th District and an overwhelming majority of City Councilmembers, along with hundreds of small business owners and working families.

As your Supervisor, I'll continue to:

- Promote job growth and retention
- Make it easier to do business in Kern County
- Support and listen to rural communities
- Keep public safety a top priority and properly funded
- Protect Taxpayers and ensure funds are used effectively
- Work towards no-kill animal shelters
- Improve our parks and recreation
- Promote homeless solutions

These are serious issues, and they require serious people to solve them. Experience matters.

4th District residents need and deserve a Supervisor with extensive private and public sector experience. I'll continue to be that Supervisor.

Let's continue to move past partisanship and identity politics. I'll continue working hard for all people in our District. I'd be honored by your vote.

www.votecouch.com

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 22TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - DAVID VALADAO

Age: Occupation:

As your Congressman, my number one priority is Valley families. I've heard from people in Hanford down to Bakersfield about the crushing toll of inflation, and especially the price of gas. I was born and raised in the Valley as the son of immigrant parents, and I understand that without the security of food on the table and money to pay the bills, nothing else matters. The only way to lower costs for every day Californians is by rejecting extremes and meeting in the middle with common sense solutions.

A lifelong farmer, each day I see the critical need for clean and reliable water. I have reached across the aisle - and always will - to find solutions to increase the Valley's water supply, make energy more affordable, ensure our law enforcement are well-funded to keep communities safe, and create good-paying jobs.

The Central Valley is my home. I understand our community's values and needs, and face many of the same concerns as my neighbors and friends. I have always fought to do what's right for us, and we deserve a leader who will put our needs ahead of their own. Valley residents simply want an opportunity to build a better life for their families, and I am ready to bring strong, bipartisan, practical leadership back to Congress.

If you honor me with your vote, my promise to you is simple: I will work tirelessly on your behalf to improve your quality of life and always put your needs first.

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OFFICE #36 - DON GRIFFITH

Age: Occupation: Kern County Superior Court Commissioner

As your Kern County Court Commissioner selected by Superior Court judges here at home, I am now a candidate on your ballot for the position of Superior Court Judge

I am honored that State legislators Shannon Grove and Vince Fong have given me their endorsements.

I'm proud of Judge Stephen Schuett's endorsement, among other judges. We have worked together in Kern's family law court which is the court I will serve if elected.

My experience includes 25 years as a family law attorney and certified family law specialist. Prior to law school, I value my years teaching mathematics to middle school students where I gained a deeper understanding of children.

Most people have not experienced family court; it can be daunting for families, due to divorce, child custody & visitation, domestic abuse etc. My decisions affect children under 18, often living in troubled homes.

With no jury in family court, my priority as the decisionmaker is fairness and justice in setting custody and visitation, my focus is the best interest of the child.

My wife Donna and I are proud parents of our son serving his country as a US Marine Corps Officer.

I would appreciate your vote.

MEMBER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY 35TH DISTRICT - DR. JASMEET BAINS

Age: Occupation: Family Doctor/Assemblymember

As a family doctor, I always put my patients first. As your Assemblymember, I always put you first - the people of the Valley who elected me to serve. While I am new to politics, I am proud of what I accomplished during my first term - winning \$21 million to improve public safety in Kern County, including funding for a new police station in Wasco and new funding for McFarland's police station. I secured \$11 million to fight the fentanyl crisis and passed a new law establishing the Fentanyl Addiction and Overdoses Prevention Task Force to reduce fentanyl abuse and combat drug trafficking in our communities. As someone who has worked to prevent child abuse and human trafficking, I was gratified to co-author a new law increasing penalties for the sex trafficking of children. Being a family doctor means finding ways for children and families to be healthy. That's why I fought for and won \$2.8 million for Kern County

communities to picnics. I worked with the Kern County Community College District to bring home \$1 million for an Economic Mobility Lab to prepare students for professions in business services, advanced manufacturing, and cyber security. It has been my privilege to serve you in the Assembly. I hope you will join the California Professional Firefighters, California Association of Highway Patrolmen and California Teachers Association in supporting me for re-election.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 23RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - JAY OBERNOLTE

Age: 53 Occupation: Congressman/Business Owner

Americans are finding it more and more difficult to get by due to rampant inflation and brazen crime. Do we continue down a path of economic malaise and lawlessness, or do we work to restore order prosperity to our country? I believe our values are worth fighting for.

America's best days can still be ahead of us. In Congress, I am fighting to reduce nonsensical regulations and create energy independence and greater economic prosperity for all Americans.

As a husband and father, I know how government-caused inflation is squeezing family budgets, which is why I fought for and helped pass the largest cut in wasteful spending ever. By cutting spending and producing more American-made energy, we can get control of inflation.

The crisis at our southern border has led to an increase in fentanyl overdoses and crime in our community. That's why I voted for the strongest border protection package ever and I am fighting to secure the border to keep our country safe.

I'm also fighting to ensure we keep our promise to our veterans. I am leading investigations into our local VA and I've authored legislation to hold abusive employees accountable. Veterans deserve our very best and I am fighting for just that.

I hope you will join our local law enforcement officers, the High Desert Taxpayers Association, veterans, and small business owners in supporting Jay Obernolte for Congress. I would be honored to earn your vote.

Learn more about me and my values at ElectJay.com

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD MAYOR - KAREN GOH

Age: Occupation: Mayor

It's an honor to serve as Mayor of Bakersfield for you - hard working, productive people, strong in faith and family, living where we produce much of our nation's food and energy.

My focus is building an even better Bakersfield by increasing opportunities for new and expanded businesses that result in more jobs for all ages and skills, and help meet the needs of our growing population.

My #1 goal is that our streets and neighborhoods are clean and safe.

Many people with severe mental health and substance abuse disorders roam our streets victimizing businesses and residents. I know this must change and I will keep pushing for appropriate confinement facilities and treatment.

I employ my experience in business, government, and community service to build upon our strengths. My background: BHS, USC; Bakersfield teacher; vice president of publishing at McGraw-Hill in New York. Came home to work with at-risk families at Garden Pathways. Served as Kern County Supervisor and now Bakersfield Mayor.

I find no limit to Bakersfield enthusiasm. We're in this together - and together we'll solve problems as we get more creative and dig in harder.

May I have your support and your vote?

SUPERVISOR, 5TH DISTRICT - KIMBERLY R. SALAS

Age: Occupation:

I have resided in the 5th District for 43 years, where my husband and I have raised our four children and three grandchildren.

I serve as District Director for Assembly District 35. I have served the residents of District 5 in a variety of roles as a community/constituent advocate. My advocacy helped bring improvement funds of \$7.4M to the 5th District for a curb, gutter, and sidewalk project around schools. With your vote, I will continue to roll up my sleeves to pick up trash and paint over graffiti.

I am seeking your vote for Kern County 5th District Supervisor to fight for public safety, restore infrastructure and ensure a healthy community. The 5th District needs properly lighted streets, road repair, trash cleanup, and graffiti abatement. I want to bring more jobs into the District while ensuring job training is readily available to those who want to pursue vocational/trade careers. This work will take a representative who sees the needs of the residents.

I would be honored to have your vote on March 5, 2024 and the opportunity to serve as your representative on the Board of Supervisors. Together we will make a difference through: Action, Accountability and Answers.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - KYLE KIRKLAND

Age: 61 Occupation: Business Owner

As a long-time business owner and non-profit leader, I have the experience needed in Washington. I believe the high cost of living, high taxes and suffocating regulatory burdens can be resolved with common sense leadership. I am not a career politician and will be a conservative voice of reason for Central Valley families.

I graduated from Harvard with a degree in Economics and received an MBA from Stanford. I started my own firm with a close friend in 1994, and in 1995, we acquired Steinway & Sons which grew to become the largest domestic producer of musical instruments in the United States.

As the owner of Club One Casino, the largest cardroom in the Central Valley, we provide stable, well-paying jobs for over 200 local families and valuable tax revenue for the City of Fresno. I am also the President of the California Gaming Association, Chair of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation, and President of Kirkland Foundation, one of the leading animal rescues in the Valley.

I believe my business and non-profit experience make me the right person to represent you in Washington. I would be honored to have your vote and support.

SUPERVISOR, 1ST DISTRICT - MARY LITTLE

Age: Occupation: Legal Videographer

It is time for decisive action and effective leadership. With tenacity, moral courage, and compassion for others, I have the proven leadership qualities to be an effective County Supervisor. I will gladly serve my constituents by standing up to the establishment and vote with integrity. I listen! I was employed by the county for 20 years; I have been a trusted trustee with KCSO for 29 years. I have implemented positive changes. The issues of our county are known to me. I have addressed the KCBOS several times. Public services need to be provided effectively and efficiently while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I can and will serve making strategic decisions. Our BOS needs to have a strong and new direction in governance. I can achieve this so the people of Kern County will be served better by their tax dollars. My effective leadership is a belief of full disclosure and complete transparency in which I will support the people of Kern County with the authority and limits prescribed by law. I will make changes.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - MIKE BOUDREAUX

Age: 44 Occupation: Sheriff, County of Tulare

As the Sheriff of Tulare County for past 10 years, I wake up each morning prepared to uphold my oath, protect the families of my community, and fight for justice for victims.

I'm running for Congress to deliver a safer and stronger America and Central Valley: one that respects the rule of law, protects our most precious resources, and delivers a more vibrant Valley.

In my time as Sheriff, I've been an ardent advocate of the Second Amendment, issuing more than 10,000 concealed-carry weapons permits to responsible, law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families.

I've also witnessed firsthand the impacts of President Biden's Open Door Policy at our southern border, both there and here in the Valley. Today, we face no greater threat to safety than the deadly fentanyl crisis and soaring gang violence.

In Congress, I will fight to strengthen our border and restore fairness to America's immigration system.

As a longtime resident, I know that the Valley not only feeds America, but the world.

However, we face constant attack by radical environmentalists hoping to strip our farms of water. I will fight for our fair share of water and give much-needed help to Valley farmers.

I will be your voice in Congress, fighting to improve our Valley and keep our community safe.

It would be my honor to have your vote on March 5.

BoudreauxForCongress.com

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OFFICE #36 - NICK LACKIE

Age: 42 Occupation: Prosecutor

My name is Nick Lackie, I'm a husband, father, and a Kern County resident and prosecutor for the past 17 years. Now, I'm running to be your next Superior Court Judge.

I've dedicated my entire career to protecting families and neighborhoods right here in Kern County. I've prosecuted the most dangerous criminals in our community: murderers, child sexual abusers, and other serious offenders. I've never hesitated to fight for justice for victims of crime.

I became a prosecutor because I believe in law and order and putting dangerous criminals where they belong: behind bars. I've worked tirelessly to make our county safer and to protect victims and their families. I'll continue to do that as a judge.

Kern County's law enforcement community knows that my priority will always be our safety. That's why I am proudly endorsed by the Kern County Prosecutors Association, the Bakersfield Police Officers Association, Bakersfield Professional Firefighters, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, the Kern County Probation Officers Association, and many other law enforcement organizations, as well as numerous current Superior Court Judges, elected officials, and community leaders.

If elected, I will uphold the law and always put the safety of Kern County residents first.

SUPERVISOR, 1ST DISTRICT - PHILLIP PETERS

Age: 35 Occupation: Incumbent

I have always believed in action over talk. That is why I have dedicated myself to my family and my community.

As a small businessman, I learned the hard way about the cost of doing business and what it means to sign both sides of a paycheck. I am motivated to keep my doors open and make sure that Kern County is investing in smart growth of future generations.

In my roles on the Workforce Investment Board, the Association of Builders and Contractors Government Affairs Board, the Kern High School District Board, and multiple other volunteer roles I have seen tangible change and made an actual difference in the lives of Kern County residents.

On the High School District Board, I prioritized improving access to career technical education, providing more choices in children's education, empowering local educators, and ensuring accountability and transparency at all levels of education. These pathways provide real opportunities for students.

In my role as a representative for Supervisor Mick Gleason, I've been fortunate to know every part of our district. There are differences, but at the end of the day, we all can come together to celebrate our similarities.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT- RUDY SALAS

Age: Occupation:

I was born and raised here. Growing up, I worked with my dad in the fields and in construction. I know what hard work is and I respect it.

After working my way through college, I came home to fight for the Central Valley's working families. In the state legislature, I won overtime pay for farmworkers and a higher minimum wage.

I saved Kern Medical Center's trauma care, won funds to create the first Valley Fever institute in California, and expanded health coverage for every child. I also passed a law to lower the cost of lifesaving prescription medications, including insulin for people with diabetes. I sponsored Proposition 1 because I believe that a woman who is the victim of rape should have access to abortion healthcare. We should punish the criminals, not their victims.

I increased funding for law enforcement and introduced bipartisan legislation to reverse the increase in smash and grab crimes. California's Police Chiefs named me Legislator of the Year.

I've delivered on providing safe drinking water and water for our farmers. I've doubled the funding for each Valley school child, stopped college tuition increases, and made community college free for hardworking students.

I'm running for Congress to keep more money in your pocket and fight for the working families that Washington politicians ignore.

I'd appreciate your vote.

SUPERVISOR, 4TH DISTRICT - SALVADOR SOLORIO-RUIZ

Age: Occupation: Councilmember of Delano

As the son of Mexican immigrant farmworkers, Salvador Solorio-Ruiz understands the values of hard work, community, and the American Dream. Solorio-Ruiz believes that we need leaders who reflect these values to improve the quality of life of Kern County families. He believes that in a district with hard-working families, he can be a champion for you. He understands that together, we can build a better future for Kern County families for the next generations. As a Councilmember for the City of Delano, Solorio-Ruiz is proud of the work he has put into Delano which has led to improvements in economic development, youth investment, public safety, and the growth in housing developments. Solorio-Ruiz hopes Delano can be a road map to other communities in District 4 who feel they have been left behind.

Salvador Solorio-Ruiz was born and raised in Delano, CA. He holds a Bachelor's of Arts from Fresno State University. His professional background is in local government as a Councilmember of Delano and a Community Engagement Coordinator in tobacco prevention for youth.

SUPERVISOR, 4TH DISTRICT - VERONICA CRUZ VASQUEZ

Age: Occupation: Social Worker

Veronica Vasquez is a lifelong resident of Delano, California with deep roots within the Farm Workers' Movement. Five generations of her family have served the community as farmworkers and labor rights activists. She aspires to continue this legacy by advocating for the people of Kern County. Veronica will need your vote for 4th District Supervisor to further this legacy.

Veronica began serving Kern County as a Social Worker in 2007, this experience provides an understanding of the lives, struggles and aspirations of our community. Veronica plans to use her knowledge to bring solutions to each communities' unique issues: access to public safety, affordable housing, living wages jobs, clean water, healthcare, Veteran services, humane animal control and resolutions to homelessness.

Veronica Vasquez, as a Delano City Council member, uses her insights to help people by advocating for access to clean water, youth programming, and providing needed resources for the community. Currently, she is serving on the Kern Council of Government and Crime Prevention Ad Hoc Committee. The 4th District needs representative who will fight for every resident. Your vote counts and Veronica would appreciate your vote on March 5, 2024 for 4th District Supervisor.

Visit vote4vasquez.org. Si Se Puede!

MEMBER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY 32ND DISTRICT - VINCE FONG

Age: 43 Occupation: Assemblymember

I was born and raised in the Central Valley and am proud to call our community home. As your Assemblyman, it is my honor to represent you and fight for our way of life.

For too long, California has been headed in the wrong direction due to policies coming out of Sacramento. Californians are rightfully frustrated about sky-high taxes, rising costs of living, and out-of-control crime. Sacramento can no longer ignore these pressing concerns, and I will continue fighting every day for common-sense solutions that help Central Valley families.

My record reflects my commitment to the Central Valley. I have defended our community against those who tried to shut down our oil and gas industry. I opposed increases of the state gas tax and have advocated for common sense energy policies here in California to lower prices at the pump. I continue to advocate for needed water storage infrastructure for our homes, farms and businesses. In the face of rising crime around the state, I have stood with law enforcement as we work to keep our neighborhoods safe. We should not tolerate the smash and grab retail theft and rise in crime we are seeing daily and I will continue to fight for more consequences to hold criminals accountable.

We must continue to push for more common sense in Sacramento and fight for the Central Valley. I hope you will join me in making our communities better places to live and work.

To learn more or reach out, please visit www.vincefong.com.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - VINCE FONG

Age: 44 Occupation: Central Valley Assemblymember

I was born and raised in the Central Valley and am proud to call our community home. For the post seven years, I have had the honor of representing the Central Valley in the State Assembly. I have defended our farmers and energy producers and fought against tax increases. I have stood with law enforcement to address rising crime and worked for more water storage and conveyance projects. My conservative record has earned me an "A" rating from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Now, I am running for Congress to provide the residents of the Central Valley with a strong voice in Washington that is willing to fight for our region and our way of life. As your Congressman, I will oppose new taxes and the reckless spending that has fueled inflation and caused our cost of living to soar. With intensifying national security concerns, we must work together to stop the chaos on the southern border. And we will continue to fight for more water storage and affordable energy.

I love our country and I love our community. With hard work and committed faith, I know we can make the Central Valley stronger and more prosperous.

I hope you will join me in making our communities better places to live and work.

To learn more or reach out, please visit www.vincefong.com

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OFFICE #34 - WILLIAM SCHLAERTH

Age: Occupation: Supervising Deputy District Attorney

My name is William Schlaerth, and I am proud to be running for Kern County Superior Court Judge. I am a longtime Kern County resident, where I have worked as a Deputy District Attorney and Prosecutor for over 15 years.

I have prosecuted thousands of cases on behalf of crime victims and the people of Kern County. I have been steadfast in my commitment to keeping our local community safe and upholding the rule of law.

These values have guided my career as a prosecutor and now have led me to answer the call of public service to run for Superior Court Judge.

As your judge, I will champion a fair and impartial judiciary, ensuring that every individual is treated equitably and with the utmost respect. I am committed to protecting victims, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable, and upholding Constitutional principles.

It is with great humility that I am seeking your vote in 2024. If you have any questions, I encourage you to visit my website at www.WilliamSchlaerth.com or by calling (661)491-0921

I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as your next Superior Court Judge.

Thank You,

William Schlaerth