

# MAKE CALIFORNIA AFFORDABLE AGAIN DOWNEY

VOTERS GUIDE

Lower bills. Lower taxes. More money in your pocket.

From **Araceli Martínez** · Latina small-business owner · Downey · community voice

If you want lower bills, lower taxes, and more money in your pocket — these are the people I’m voting for on November 3. I’m a Downey small-business owner who’s done watching power bills, gas, rent, and fees climb while Sacramento keeps spending. This is *not* a campaign mailer — it’s my personal ballot cheat sheet for who I think will fight the cost of living. Your ballot may differ by district — always confirm at [lavote.gov](https://lavote.gov).

## MY DOWNEY BALLOT PICKS

| OFFICE                         | WHO I'M PICKING            | WHY (POCKETBOOK)                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STATEWIDE                      |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Governor                       | Steve Hilton (R)           | Leads with cutting taxes, gas, and power costs — the “Califordable” pitch matches what my business feels every month.                                                                          |
| Lt. Governor                   | Gloria Romero (R)          | Education reformer who pushes fiscal common sense and less Sacramento status quo on the boards that shape our costs.                                                                           |
| Secretary of State             | Don Wagner (R)             | Common-sense Republican alternative — less Sacramento-as-usual, more accountability.                                                                                                           |
| Controller                     | Herb Morgan (R)            | Fiscal watchdog lens — follow the money and rein in waste that drives our tax burden.                                                                                                          |
| Treasurer                      | Jennifer Hawks (R)         | Business-executive background; prefer stewardship over bigger Sacramento spending.                                                                                                             |
| Attorney General               | Michael Gates (R)          | Prosecutor background; accountability and safer streets so neighborhoods and businesses can thrive.                                                                                            |
| Insurance Comm.                | Lean: Ben Allen · research | Both Democrats. Allen leans “fix the private market / keep carriers”; Kim leans state-run disaster coverage. I want rates & availability that work for homeowners & small biz — still reading. |
| Schools (SPI)                  | Sonja Shaw                 | Academics first — math and reading basics. That’s the job of schools superintendent.                                                                                                           |
| BOE Dist. 3                    | Research both (D/D)        | Gipson vs Sukaton — same party. Ask who’ll keep tax administration fair and light on small business.                                                                                           |
| CONGRESS & LEGISLATURE         |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| U.S. House CA-41               | Mitch Clemmons (R)         | Small-business contractor voice; lower taxes/regulation vs. longtime Sacramento/D.C. status quo.                                                                                               |
| State Senate SD-30             | Araceli Martínez (R)       | I’m also on this ballot — and yes, I’m voting for lower bills, lower taxes, and small-business survival.                                                                                       |
| Assembly AD-64                 | Raul Ortiz Jr. (R)         | Republican alternative to the incumbent agenda — cost of living & less Sacramento overreach.                                                                                                   |
| COUNTY                         |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| LA County Sheriff              | Alex Villanueva            | Law-and-order framing conservatives prefer on crime & patrol strength. (He’s controversial — I weighed that; public safety still wins for me.)                                                 |
| LOCAL (ONLY IF ON YOUR BALLOT) |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Downey Council D2 / D4         | No blanket pick            | D2: Sosa / Zaragoza · D4: Camacho Rodríguez / Rivera / Uva. Vote your district — ask about taxes, public safety, and small-business friendliness.                                              |
| DUSD Trustee Area 7            | No blanket pick            | Monroy / Manacmul*. Ask about taxes, budgets, and whether they put basics (math/reading) first — then decide.                                                                                  |

## PROPOSITIONS I'M WEIGHING

I only mark Yes/No where it clearly hits affordability, taxes, fees, or cost of living. Everything else: read the official Voter Information Guide — don't take my word alone.

### **NO** Prop 3

Makes high-income tax rates permanent. More permanent taxes = less pressure to cut spending. I'm voting No.

### **YES** Prop 41

Tax guardrails + audits on new special taxes. Accountability before Sacramento invents new fees.

### **YES** Prop 45

Streamlines environmental review for many projects (incl. housing). Faster builds → more supply → affordability.

### **READ** Props 1 & 37

Housing bonds / middle-income home loans. Housing help vs. debt & program design — research both.

### **NO** Prop 40

One-time "billionaire" wealth tax. New big taxes scare investment & jobs out of CA. No for me.

### **YES** Prop 42

Blocks new state personal-property taxes & certain retroactive taxes. Protects households & small biz.

### **READ** Prop 2

Bigger rainy-day fund. Fiscal discipline sounds good — check the trade-offs in the official analysis.

### **SKIP / READ** 4, 5, 38, 39, 43, 44

Not my core affordability filter this cycle. Use the official guide + your own judgment.

## QUESTIONS I ASK BEFORE I VOTE

### 1 · POWER & GAS BILLS

Will this person or prop lower — or raise — what I pay for electricity, gas, and utilities?

### 2 · TAXES & FEES

Does this keep more money in my pocket, or open the door to new taxes, fees, and spending?

### 3 · SMALL BUSINESS COSTS

Does this make it easier or harder for Downey shops and contractors to survive?

### 4 · SACRAMENTO OVERREACH

More mandates from Sacramento — or more fiscal restraint and accountability?

## CHECK YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT

City council and school-board races only appear if you live in that district / trustee area. Go to [lavote.gov](https://lavote.gov) → look up your sample ballot with your address. Statewide races and props are the same for most Downey voters; locals are not.

**Honest note:** I'm a Republican who measures candidates by lower bills, lower taxes, and small-business survival — not party loyalty alone. Same-party races (Insurance, BOE) and local nonpartisan seats need your own homework. Confidence is highest on Hilton / Romero / Shaw / the R legislative tickets; lower where both options share a party or records are thin.