



Get Out and Vote

IndiaCurrents

**VOTER
GUIDE**

English



Bay Area
Desis on the Ballot



INTRODUCTION

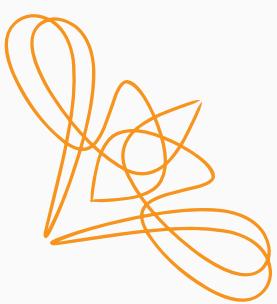
IndiaCurrents

Voter Guide: Includes concise voting information. Find out about key dates and deadlines, resources (online and in-person), how to register, and how to cast your ballot.

Desis on the Ballot: Check out *desi* contenders running for office in local Bay Area Elections.

About India Currents: We're an award-winning, nonprofit news organization producing Indian American stories that explain and explore living in the United States. Founded in 1987, we are the oldest newsroom dedicated to covering America's Indian diaspora of 5 million, the fastest-growing Asian population in the United States.

Our culturally relevant narratives keep the community informed and educated while offering an invaluable window into the history and lives of Indian immigrants. As community conveners, we play a unique role in forging connections among Indian Americans, breaking down cultural silos, and fostering civic engagement.



HOW TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA'S 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

KEY DATES

California's general elections will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024



HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

If you are registered: Visit voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to verify your information. If you're registered by Monday, October 21, you will receive your ballot in the mail.



If you are NOT registered: California offers [online voter registration](#) until October 21.

Register by mail to vote: You can get a voter registration form at the DMV, post office, library, or county elections office; It is not available online. Fill it out, and mail it to your local election office

OR

Register in person: Through November 5, you can register in person at your elections office or at your polling place.

Signed & completed forms must be returned in person or by mail. They cannot be faxed or e-mailed

KEY REGISTRATION DEADLINES

- In person during early voting: Oct 7 - Nov 4
- In-person at voting location on Election Day: Nov 5
- Online: Oct 21 by 11:59 p.m. PDT
 - If you are registering or re-registering less than 15 days before an election you will need to complete the Same-Day Voter Registration process and request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.
- By mail (postmarked by): Oct 21



WHO CAN REGISTER TO VOTE

To register in California you must:



- be a United States citizen
- be a California resident
- be at least 18 years old or older on Election Day
- not be currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony
- not be currently found to be mentally incompetent to vote by a court

YOU CAN PRE-REGISTER TO VOTE IF YOU ARE

- At least 16 years old
- A US Citizen
- A California resident
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony (more information for individuals with criminal convictions or detained in jail or prison)
- Your voter registration will become active when you turn 18

DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER

To register online you will need:



- Your California driver's license or California identification card number,
- The last four digits of your social security number
- Your date of birth.
- Your information will be provided to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to retrieve a copy of your DMV signature.

If you do not have a California driver license or California identification card, you can still use this form to apply to register to vote. However, you will need to take additional steps to complete your voter registration.

HOW TO CAST YOUR BALLOT

Voting deadlines

- California sends ballots to actively registered voters:
Oct 7 - Oct 26
- 24 Hour Official Ballot Drop Box – Oct. 7 – Nov. 4, 2024, until 8 p.m.
- Election Day - Registrar of Voters schedule to collect ballots from drop boxes:
 - October 21 – November 5, 2024: Daily
- Return ballot by mail (postmarked by): Nov 5
- Return ballot in person: Nov 5 by 8:00 p.m. PST



HOW TO VOTE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

- Address: Registrar of Voters, 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112
- Mailing Address: Registrar of Voters, P.O. Box 611300, San Jose, CA 95161-1300



Early Voting at the Registrar of Voters Office

Address: 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112

- Monday - Friday: October 7 – November 04, 2024; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: October 26-27, November 2-3, 2024; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Election Day: November 5, 2024; 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Get Ready to Vote

- Download Your County Voter Information Guide Online.
- Learn about the Candidates and Measures on your ballot.
- Read the voting instructions - how to mark and cast your ballot.
- Use the Sample Ballot pages to mark your choices, then bring it to the Vote Centers to help you mark your official ballot.
- Find your nearest Vote Center location. Vote Centers are open 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day.
- Check the mail for your Vote by Mail Ballot. Ballots are mailed to every registered voter starting 29 days before the election.
- If you didn't get your ballot or need a new one, the deadline to request a replacement ballot by mail is 7 days before the election.
- Find a Vote by Mail ballot drop-off site. Some locations are available at night and on the weekend.
- Cast your ballot at an Early Voting location.
- Use the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System (RAVBM) to download a copy of the ballot that can be printed and returned by mail.

**Accessible voting**

As a voter with a disability, you have a right to vote privately and independently, at an accessible voting location, on an accessible voting system.



Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE to report any problems voting

Ask your local election office about:

- Information in large print, audio, or Braille versions
- Curbside or drive-up voting.
- Ballot delivery to your home or a "ride to the polls" program
- How to practice using the accessible voting system
- Emergency voting options if you are hospitalized or ill
- How to get assistance voting
- Other services for voters with disabilities

If you have more questions about voting in California, visit:
<https://www.voteriders.org/states/california/>

Sources for more information:

<https://voting.democracy.works/en/register/ca.html>

<https://accessiblevoting.net/region/california>

<https://vote.santaclaracounty.gov/vote-mail/get-ready-vote>

<https://www.asianlawcaucus.org/news-resources/guides-reports/how-to-vote-in-california-november-5-election>

DESIS ON THE BALLOT



Burlingame



Nirmala Bandrapalli

Running for: Burlingame City Council, District 2

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Hadia Khoury, Rachel Ni & Desiree Thayer

“Burlingame is more than just a place on a map for me; it’s home, where I’ve flourished as an immigrant, mother, community volunteer, leader, and entrepreneur.”

- to India Currents in an email interview.

Top 3 Priorities:

- Community Engagement
- Education Advocacy
- Emergency Preparedness

Find out more: [Nirmala Bandrapalli For Burlingame City Council, District 2](#)



CA's 14th Congressional District



Vin Kruttiventi (R)

Running for: Representative California's 14th Congressional District.

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Eric Swalwell (D)

“Not your typical politician. I’m not a career bureaucrat or a special interest mouthpiece. I’m a successful businessman, a family man, and a true patriot who’s fed up with the status quo.”

- GOP.com

Top 3 Priorities:

- Uplift and empower small businesses
- Support laws that increase access to Medicare and Medicaid
- Invest in National and Border Security

Find out more: [Vin Kruttiventi, CA's 14th Congressional District](#)

California Assembly District 26



Tara Sreekrishnan

Running for: California State Assembly, District 26

Current Office: Vice President, Santa Clara County Board of Education

Contenders: Patrick Ahrens

“My focus has always been rooted in uplifting our next generation – ensuring we have strong schools and education and ensuring that we have opportunities for students to excel and thrive.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Education, Environment, and Housing
- Closing the achievement gap in Santa Clara County
- Local solutions for homelessness

Find out more: [Tara Sreekrishnan For California State Assembly, District 26](#)

Foster City



Shankar Kenkre

Running for: Foster City Council

Current Office: First run for office

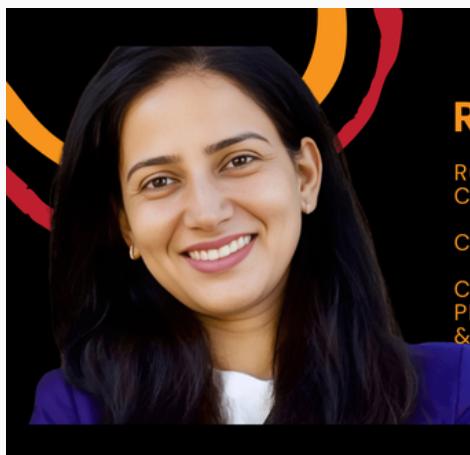
Contenders: Patrick J. Sullivan, Phoebe Venkat, Richa Awasthi, & Suzanne Neiderhofer

“I've acted as a watchdog for our city, regularly attending meetings and keeping residents updated.” - To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Hold utility companies accountable
- Risk management and strategic planning for aging infrastructure
- Improve transparency and professionalism in city government

Find out more: [Shankar Kenkre For Foster City Council](#)



Richa Awasthi

Running for: Foster City Council

Current Office: Former Mayor

Contenders: Patrick J. Sullivan, Phoebe Venkat, Richa Awasthi, & Suzanne Neiderhofer

“Breaking the stereotype, just having the right representation is extremely valuable.” - To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Investment in Infrastructure
- Public Safety

Find out more: [Richa Awasthi, Council Member, Foster City](#)

Fremont



Raj Salwan

Running for: Mayor of Fremont

Current Office: Fremont city councilmember, district 5

Contender: Vinnie Bacon, Rohan Marfatia, Hiu Ng

“I will roll up my sleeves and dedicate myself to working hard for ALL Fremont residents.”

- rajsalwan.com

Top 3 Priorities:

- Homelessness
- Public Safety
- Traffic Solutions

Find out more: [Raj Salwan for Mayor Of Fremont](#)



Pravesh Kumar

Running for: Fremont City Council, District 1

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Teresa Keng, Ranvir Sandhu

“I’m committed to making Fremont a safer, more affordable place by focusing on issues like housing for teachers and first responders, improving public safety, and ensuring access to quality education.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Transparent, responsive, and accountable city government
- Traffic congestion
- Affordable housing solutions

Find out more: [Pravesh Kumar, Fremont City Council, District 1](#)



Ganesh Balamitran

Running for: Fremont Unified School Board, Area 4
Current Office: First run for office
Contenders: Rinu Nair

“My focus will be on developing a nurturing environment where every child feels like they belong; investing in our classrooms to create the foundation for every child’s success.” - To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Nurturing environment for students
- Modern, updated facilities in FUSD
- Bring the community together

Find out more: [Ganesh Balamitran, Fremont Unified School Board \(Area 4\)](#)



Rinu Nair

Running for: Fremont Unified School Board, Area 4
Current Office: First run for office
Contender: Ganesh Balamitran

“There is representation from parents, grandparents, and professionals on the board but no student voice.” - To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Quality of education
- Improve student wellness
- Campus safety

Find out more: [Rinu Nair, Fremont Unified School Board \(Area 4\)](#)



Chandra Wagh

Running for: Fremont City Council (District 5)

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Sterling Engle, Yajing Zhang

“Using my program management expertise and passion for volunteering to serve the communities, I’m committed to addressing the issues we face in Fremont.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Public safety
- Homelessness
- Development of inclusive parks

Find out more: [Chandra Wagh, Fremont City Council, District 5](#)



Los Altos



Ibrahim Bashir

Running for: Los Altos City Council

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Sally Meadows, Jonathan D. Weinberg, Eric Steinle, Larry Lang, Thomas Chapman, Alice Mansell

“When something in your home is broken, you don’t play the blame game. You fix it.”

- bashirforlosaltos.com

Top 3 Priorities:

- Housing
- Public safety
- Solving Crime

Find out more: [Ibrahim Bashir, Los Altos City Council](#)

Pleasanton



Vivek Mohan

Running for: Pleasanton City Council, District 4

Current Office: City of Pleasanton Planning Commission

Contenders: Matt Gaidos

“I don’t think citizens should be treated like ATM machines for our city or state to withdraw money to cover their own ineptness.”

- To IC in an interview

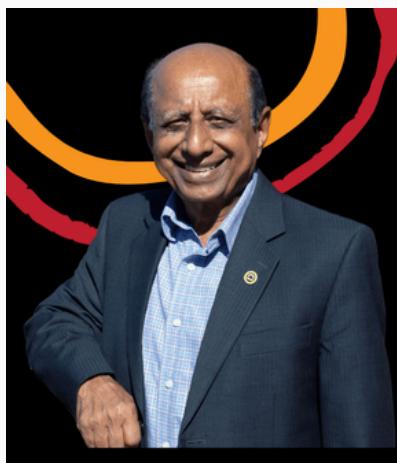
Top 3 Priorities:

- Fix budget shortfall problem
- Affordable, PFAS-free water
- Drive more business-friendly City Hall policies

Find out more: [Vivek Mohan, Pleasanton City Council, District 4](#)



San Jose



Arjun Batra

Running for: San Jose City Council, District 10

Current Office: Councilmember-City of San Jose

Contenders: George Casey, Lenka Bright

“I’m committed to continuing our work together to make our city even greener, safer and more convenient.”

- arjunbatrasj.com

Top 3 Priorities:

- Address Homelessness
- Improving Public Safety
- Enhancing Traffic Safety Around Schools

Find out more: [Arjun Batra for San Jose City Council, District 10](#)

San Mateo



Nicole Fernandez

Running for: San Mateo City Council, District 2

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Charles Hensen

“I lucked out in a really great community, but no one loves their adopted country like an immigrant.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Housing
- Youth services
- Aging issues

Find out more: [Nicole Fernandez For San Mateo City Council, District 2](#)



San Ramon



Chirag Kathrani

Running for: Mayor, City of San Ramon

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Mark H Armstrong

“When I met people door to door, I realized that community engagement was broken.”

- Campaign statement

Top 3 Priorities:

- Measure N
- Community engagement
- Youth leadership

Find out more: [Chirag Kathrani For Mayor Of San Ramon](#)



Vasanth Shetty

Running for: City of San Ramon Council, District 1

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Robert Jweinat

“I am inspired by San Ramon’s potential and motivated to ensure our city thrives as a safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible community.”

- Campaign statement

Top 3 Priorities:

- Public safety
- Affordable Housing
- Economic Development

Find out more: [Vasanth Shetty, City Of San Ramon Council, District 1](#)



Sridhar Verose

Running for: City of San Ramon Council, District 3

Current Office: Seeking re-election

Contenders: Uncontested

Top priority:

- Public safety (sridharforsanramon.com)

Find out more: [Sridhar Verose, City Of San Ramon Council, District 3](#)

Santa Clara City



Poornima Gopi

Running for: Office of Santa Clara City Clerk

Current Office: First run for office

Contenders: Bob O'Keefe, Steve Kelly, Paul Tacci

“After coming here, I felt like I could be whatever I wanted to be...I felt like this is my home.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- More public forums to create awareness and increase participation in city council meetings.
- Design programs to give young adults more ways to interact with the city and see first-hand how the local government operates.
- Incorporate more technology to improve transparency and accessibility for all.

Find out more: [Poornima Gopi For Santa Clara City Clerk](#)



Satish Chandra

Running for: Santa Clara City Council, District 1

Current Office: First run for city council

Contenders: Harbir Bhatia, Albert Gonzales

“In my culture, we have a saying: “Manava Seva ee Madhava Seva,” which means serving humankind is equivalent to serving God.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Public Safety and Community Well-Being
- Affordable Housing and Sustainable Development
- Community Engagement and Transparency

Find out more: [Satish Chandra, Santa Clara City Council, District 1](#)



Harbir Kaur Bhatia

Running for: Office of Santa Clara City Council, District 1

Current Office: Second run for City Council

Contenders: Satish Chandra, Albert Gonzales

“Without critical thinkers, economic development, and problem solvers, we will not have the resources to maintain the city.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Sustainable Planning
- Economic Development
- Community Engagement and Leadership Development

Find out more: [Harbir K. Bhatia, Santa Clara City Council, District 1](#)



Suds Jain

Running for: Santa Clara City Council, District 5

Current Office: Santa Clara City Council, District 5

Contender: David Kertes

“I have proposed many initiatives within the City of Santa Clara that I want to see through.”

- To IC in an interview

Top 3 Priorities:

- Homelessness and Affordable Housing
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change
- Fiscal Responsibility and restoring budget reserves

Find out more: [Suds Jain, Santa Clara City Council, District 5](#)

Related:

The U.S. goes to the polls in November 2024, as democracy gets to work in the national presidential race all the way through to critical local elections.

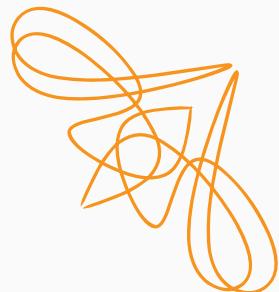
Take a look at opinions and trends, and what the community thinks as the country chooses the next set of leaders to govern them. [**Read India Currents' Election 2024 coverage here.**](#)

THANK YOU!

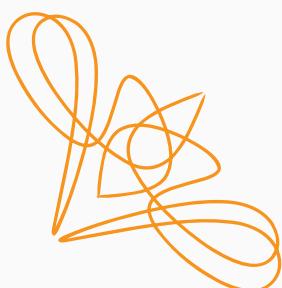
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