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INLAND EMPIRE PRIMARY RACES

by Quinten Carney '26

In this *Inland Empire Outlook* Election Forecast, we analyze Inland Empire legislative races in the 2024 election cycle. Our ratings format is inspired by Nate Silver’s 538 final 2022 elections forecast. A Toss-up rating indicates that neither party is currently favored to win. A Lean rating means that one party is narrowly favored. A Likely rating suggests one party will win under a large majority of circumstances. A Safe rating denotes that one party will win

the seat regardless of the broader electoral environment. These ratings take into account demographics, incumbency, past election results/trends, and candidate fundraising. Additionally, these ratings are not a definitive prediction of final outcomes in these races, but instead are a snapshot of the current political environment on the eve of the March Primary, which in some cases will change before the November General Election.

STATE ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS			
TOSS-UP	LEAN DEM	LIKELY DEM	SAFE DEM
	Open (AD-36)	Open (AD-50)	Juan Carrillo (AD-39)
			Open (AD-41)
			James Ramos (AD-45)
			Open (AD-53)
			Open (AD-58)
			Corey Jackson (AD-60)

STATE ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS			
TOSS-UP	LEAN REP	LIKELY REP	SAFE REP
Greg Wallis (AD-47)		Phillip Chen (AD-59)	Tom Lackey (AD-34)
		Bill Essayli (AD-63)	
		Kate Sanchez (AD-71)	

The Inland Empire features competitive assembly races in Districts 36 and 47. In District 36, incumbent Eduardo Garcia (D) opted not to run, leaving this Biden +14.8 district open. This heavily-Hispanic district anchored around Coachella and the Colorado River farming communities has begun moving right in recent years, though it's not expected

to change hands in 2024. In District 47, incumbent Greg Wallis (R) faces a tough re-election bid after winning by 0.1% in 2022. This Palm Springs-based district raced leftward during the Trump presidency, and President Biden is very likely to carry this district in 2024, complicating things for Mr. Wallis.

District	Counties	Major Cities	Candidates
34	San Bernardino, Kern, Los Angeles	Lancaster, Barstow	*Tom Lackey (R) Ricardo Ortega (D)
36	San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial	Indio, Blythe, El Centro, Needles	Joey Acuña Jr. (D) Waymond Fermon (D) Jeff Gonzalez (R) Kalin Morse (R)
39	San Bernardino, Los Angeles	Lancaster, Palmdale, Victorville	*Juan Carrillo Ventura (D) Paul Andre Marsh (R)
41	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	Pasadena, Claremont, San Dimas	John Harabedian (D) Jed Leano (D) Phlunte' Riddle (D) Michelle Del Rosario Martinez (R)
45	San Bernardino	San Bernadino, Rialto	James Ramos (D)
47	San Bernardino, Riverside	Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Calimesa	Christy Holstege (D) Jamie Swain (D) *Greg Wallis (R)
50	San Bernardino	Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Fontana	Robert Garcia (D) Adam Perez (D) DeJonaé Shaw (D)
53	San Bernardino, Los Angeles	Pomona, Ontario, Upland	Javier Hernandez (D) Michelle Rodriguez (D) Robert Torres (D) Nick Wilson (R) Carlos Goytia (D)
58	San Bernardino, Riverside	Riverside, Corona	Clarissa Cervantes (D) Ronaldo Fierro (D) Leticia Castillo (R)
59	Orange, San Bernardino	Chino Hills, Yorba Linda	Dave Obrand (D) *Phillip Chen (R)
60	Riverside	Moreno Valley, San Jacinto	*Corey Jackson (D) Hector Diaz-Nava (R) Ron Edwards (R)
63	Riverside	Menifee, Lake Elsinore, Riverside	Chris Shoults (D) *Bilal Essayli (R) Orlando Munguia (NPP)
71	Orange, Riverside	Mission Viejo, Temecula, Murrieta	Gary Kephart (D) Kate Sanchez (R) Babar Khan (NPP)

* Incumbent
D Democrat
R Republican
NPP No Party Preference

Similar to the situation with assembly districts, the Inland Empire features only two competitive state senate elections this fall, Districts 19 and 21. One unique feature of these two races is that the incumbents, Monique Limón (D), the incumbent of District 19, and Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R), the incumbent of District 21, are both jumping ship to run in each other's more politically favorable district. This unusual occurrence happened due to the 2021 redistricting cycle, where both senators found themselves in districts that would have voted for the opposite party if they had existed in the 2020 elections. Starting with District 19, this Trump

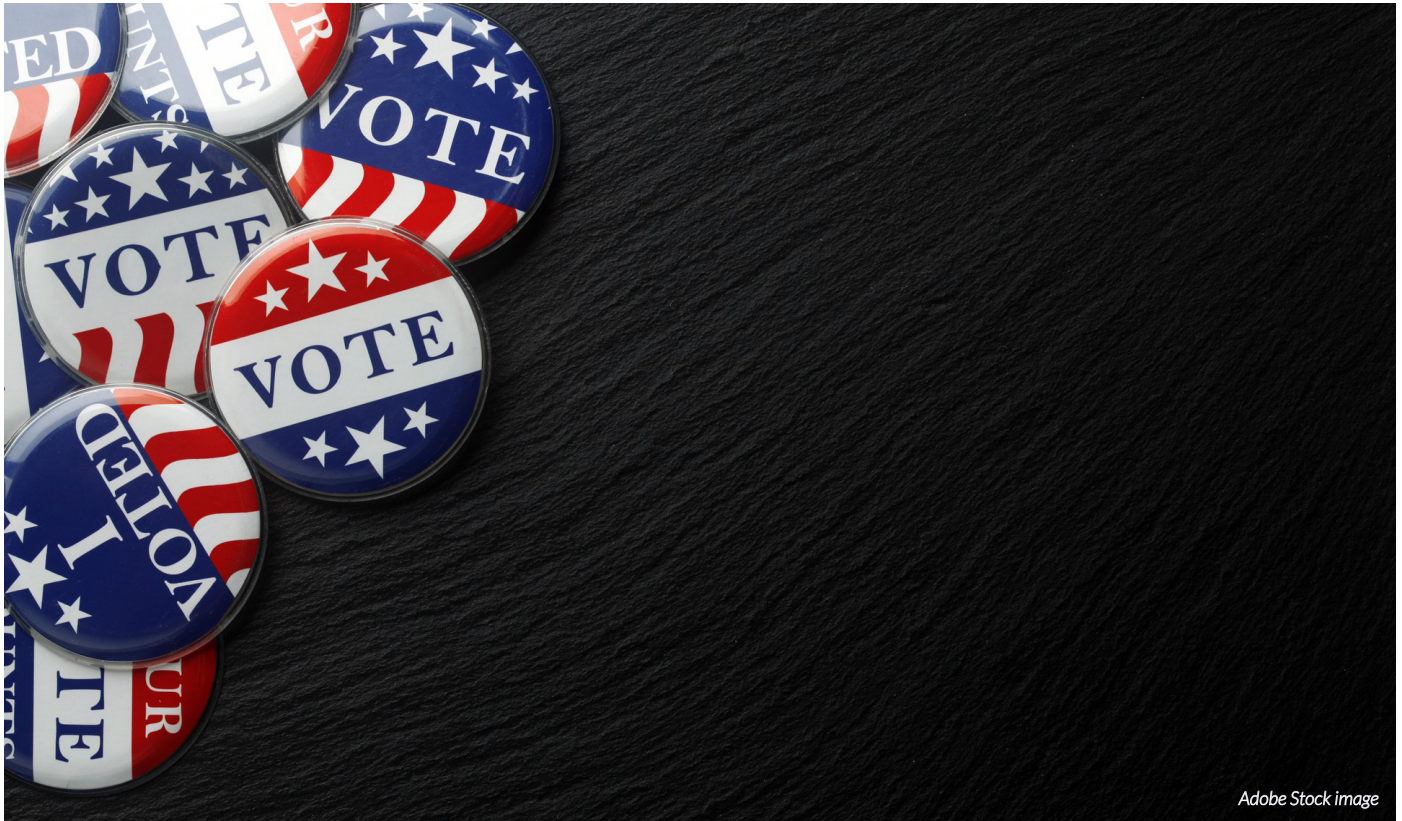
+0.3% seat, based around the outer suburbs and rural areas of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, has swung rapidly to the left in the Trump area. Ms. Bogh looks to be facing a tough re-election battle as she's facing unfortunate trends in a district likely to be decided by a few hundred or thousand votes. In District 21, Ms. Limón faces slightly more favorable odds in this suburban district anchored around the cities of Santa Clarita and Hesperia. This district has moved moderately towards the Democratic party since 2016, helping her chances, though the final margin will likely be close.

STATE SENATE DEMOCRATS			
TOSS-UP	LEAN DEM	LIKELY DEM	SAFE DEM
Open (SD-19)			Open (SD-31)

STATE SENATE REPUBLICANS			
TOSS-UP	LEAN REP	LIKELY REP	SAFE REP
Open (SD-23)			

District	Counties	Major Cities	Candidates
18	San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, San Diego	Chula Vista, El Centro, Coachella	No election
19	San Bernardino, Riverside	Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Apple Valley	Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R) Lisa Middleton (D)
22	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	Ontario, Covina, El Monte	No election
23	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	Santa Clarita, Palm Desert, Lancaster	James "DJ" Hamburger (R) Suzette Martinez Valladares (R) Ollie M. McCaulley (D) Kipp Mueller (D) Blanca Azucena Gomez (D)
25	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	Pasadena, Glendale, Arcadia, Claremont	Elizabeth Wong Ahlers (R) Sandra Armenta (D) Sasha Renée Pérez (D) Yvonne Yiu (D) Teddy Choi (D)
29	San Bernardino	Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, San Bernardino	Carlos A. Garcia (R) Eloise Gomez Reyes (D) Jason O'Brien (D) Kathleen Torres Hazelton (R)
31	San Bernardino, Riverside	Corona, Riverside, Moreno Valley	Sabrina Cervantes (D) Angelo Farooq (D) Cynthia Navarro (R)
32	Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego	Murrieta, Temecula, Riverside	No election

* Incumbent
D Democrat
R Republican



On the congressional level, in 2024 the Inland Empire will host two competitive elections for the House of Representatives in Districts 40 and 41. Both seats are currently held by Republicans. In theory, Rep. Young Kim faces an uphill battle for re-election in District 40, a mostly eastern Orange County district that narrowly extends into Chino Hills. The district swung dramatically toward Democrats in the Trump era, with Mr. Biden taking it by 1.9% in 2020. However, Rep. Kim, overperformed expectations in 2022, winning by 13.7%, making this year’s race a tossup. Similarly, Rep. Ken Calvert faces another

hotly contested election in the Riverside-based district anchored around the cities of Corona and Palm Desert. This district has become increasingly competitive as the Coachella Valley has marched leftward as it attracts wealthier residents. Mr. Calvert won the district by 4.7% in 2022 in a year that was supposed to favor Republicans, illustrating the district’s narrow Republican lean.

*All percentages and margins of victory discussed in this piece use two-party vote share. ♦

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS			
TOSS-UP	LEAN DEM	LIKELY DEM	SAFE DEM
		Raul Ruiz (CD-25)	Judy Chu (CD-28)
			Pete Aguilar (CD-33)
			Norma Torres (CD-35)
			Mark Tano (CD-39)

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS			
TOSS-UP	LEAN REP	LIKELY REP	SAFE REP
Young Kim (CD-40)		Jay Obernolte (CD-23)	Darrell Issa (CD-48)
Ken Calvert (CD-41)			

District	Counties	Major Cities	Candidates
23	San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern	Redlands, Victorville, Fort Irwin	*Jay Obernolte (R) Derek Marshall (D)
25	Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino	El Centro, Indio, Hemet, Needles	*Raul Ruiz (D) Miguel Chapa (R) Oscar Ortiz (D) Ceci Truman (R) Ian M. Weeks (R) Ryan Dean Burkett (NPP)
28	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	Pasadena, Arcadia, La Canada-Flintridge, Claremont	*Judy Chu (D) April Verlato (R) Jose Castaneda (L) William Patterson (PF)
33	San Bernardino	San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga	*Pete Aguilar (D) Tom Herman (R)
35	San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Riverside	Pomona, Ontario, Chino, Fontana	*Norma Torres (D) Mike Cargile (R) Melissa May (D) Vijal Suthar (R)
39	Riverside	Riverside, Moreno Valley	*Mark Takano (D) David Serpa (R)
40	San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange	Chino Hills, Yorba Linda, Mission Viejo, Tustin	*Young Kim (R) Allyson Damikolas (D) Joe Kerr (D)
41	Riverside	Corona, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Palm Desert	*Ken Calvert (R) Anna Nevenic (D) Will Rollins (D)
48	San Diego, Riverside	Temecula, Murrieta, Poway, Santee, Campo	*Darrell Issa (R) Stephen Houlihan (D) Matthew Rascon (D) Whitney Shanahan (D) Mike Simon (D) Lucinda KWH Jahn (NPP)

* Incumbent
D Democrat
R Republican
NPP No Party Pre
PF Peace and Fr

