

CA Gubernatorial Debate - 2026-04-22

	Steve Hilton (R)	SH Pts	Chad Bianco (R)	CB Pts	Tom Steyer (D)	TS Pts	Katie Porter (D)	KP Pts	Xavier Becerra (D)	XB Pts	Matt Mahan (D)	MM Pts
Eliminate Gas Tax?	Yes, cut in half. More oil drilling in CA. Can be done through Governor without Legislative approval.	-1	Yes. Fund roads and bridges by eliminating fraud and abuse.	0	No. Instead tax oil companies and return money to CA citizens.	0	Yes. Replace funds lost with general fund taxes.	0	No. Roads and highways need to be maintained.	3	Yes - suspend and reform it.	1
EV Milage Tax?	No. Cut spending and cut taxes.	0	No. Eliminate government waste.	0	Triple EV credit (isn't that Federal?). Yes to EV milage tax.	3	No because it punishes lower incomes more than higher incomes. (Supports progressive taxes.)	0	(No answer)	-1	Flat fee on all vehicles instead of Gas/EV tax.	1
Homelessness: Newsome's Grade and What Would You Do?	F. Make homelessness illegal. Drug treatment. Mental health care.	0	(F). Drugs and alcohol = homeless. Was for Prop 36 (which passed in 2000). Take money from homeless-focused non-profits and use for drug and alcohol treatment.	-1	B-. Get people off the street. Only 1 in 7 homeless are due to mental illness. Emergency interim housing.	2	B. Fund homelessness prevention. [Majority of homeless people are working people but still can't afford.]	0	A. Focus on accountability for funds given to local municipalities. Q: funds from where? A: Some money for new homes can be spent on people losing their homes and effect is much greater.	0	B. Built shelters in San Jose to reduce homelessness by 1/3rd (\$1M). [70-80% people willing to come indoors.]	2
Individual Questions	Q: Honored to receive Trump's endorsement even though 67% of Californians disapprove of Trump. Are those citizens wrong? A: We will have a constructive relationship with the Federal government (when I'm elected). (List of Trump talking points he'll support.) California will be better (in spite of public opinion.)	-1	Q: Seized 630k ballots for investigation. CA Supreme Court has paused your actions. A: This was a simple investigation.	0	Q: Only billionaire on this ballot. You've said tax me more. How much more? A: I'm fighting the billionaire companies. One person being taxed more doesn't solve problem.	0	Q: You treated a staffer badly (rudely), how have you changed? A: Apologized that day and staffer has worked for me for past four years.	2	Q: Eric Swalwell? Should you have done something? A: Rumors are not facts and the Democratic Caucus is not law enforcement.	0	Q: Lots of contributions from AI companies. How can voters trust you? A: Familiarity with tech means we know how to use it and regulate it responsibly.	2
Should CHP be testing truck drivers on their English proficiency?	Do not give out commercial drivers licenses to people who can't read English. (Did not answer question.)	2	Need context of video. (But I guess yes if warranted.)	0	Q: Should language proficiency be enforced for truck drivers? A: Racial profiling is illegal.	0	Q: Should language proficiency be enforced drivers? A: (Did not answer questions.)	0	Would push back on Trump administration. Officers cannot discriminate without cause.	0	Q: English proficiency test for truckers? A: It's DMV responsibility to not pass those drivers. (Clarification) DMV is not testing English, they test for safe drivers who know the rules.	2
Closing Statements	We need change in California. I'm not a politician.	-1	Honesty, transparency, integrity.	0	Judge me by my enemies and supporters.	0	(Attacked two other candidates) I don't take money from big corps.	0	California needs a veteran politician as governor.	3	Mayor of San Jose.	1
Median home price is \$900k. What is plan to lower cost of housing?	Eliminate impact fees. Remove environmental regulations. End union lawsuits that stop/delay building.	-1	Too many building regulations... remove them.	0	Shorten permitting and make it less expensive. Denser zoning. Drop cost per square foot. Cities/counties need more money to support new building --> more corporate taxes.	3	Build faster, which reduces end cost of home.	0	Streamline regulations and fees for home builders. Down-payment assistance programs. In first 100 days make sure the 40k shovel-ready ready to start building units actually start.	0	Approved 20k housing units that didn't get built... Sped up permitting, used tech to make it easier to apply, reduced one-time fees.	1
Individual questions	Improve California schools? Reading levels are low. For learning to read: phonics. Learn to read by end of third grade.	3	Position on automatic license plate readers, block safety systems, mass surveillance? In favor of block camera systems (that can read license plates).	0	Stance on remote work? Enabling people to avoid big commutes. Supports RW. But being in office also has benefits (human growth and mentoring).	0	Do you agree with schools that won't notify if child identifies as different gender? Not a role for schools to involve themselves in.	0	One specific cost you will lower in your first year and how will you do it? Freeze utility rates and home insurance policy premiums.	1	How would you communicate with Donald Trump if he attacks you directly or CA's policies? Fight back legally: lawsuits, fund services. We need to find common ground with administration.	0
Home insurance. Plan to attract private insurance companies back into California?	Remove people off of FAIR plan and into commercial insurance. 60 days to approve rate changes (as per Insurance Commissioner charter). Stop nuisance lawsuits.	0	Remove regulations that let fire fighters create defensible space (regulations due to environmental concerns).	1	Reduce risk of catastrophic fires: controlled burns, reducing dry timber; hardening houses, keep vegetation 5+ feet away.	3	Reduce wildfire risks.	0	(Make sure insurers pay off claims or be clearer why they're not doing so.)	-1	Reduce fire risk at edge of urban areas.	0
Social media addiction. Would you support law that bans social media usage for kids under 16 years old?	Not just social media but no smart phones until age 16.	0	No, it's up to parents.	0	Yes I would. We have expected companies to police themselves and they have failed.	0	Not at 16, maybe another (younger) age. Parents should be more responsible. Companies should be held accountable.	2	Yes.	0	Require parental consent to use social media. Ban cell phone use in schools.	2
What was the last streaming show you watched?	Reacher	0	(Don't watch tv)	0	Marshals	0	Heated Rivalry	0	(Don't watch tv)	0	The Diplomat	0
Total Points		1		0		11		4		5		12