

CA Gubernatorial Debate - 2026-04-22

	Tom Steyer (D)	TS Pts	Steve Hilton (R)	SH Pts	Katie Porter (D)	KP Pts	Chad Bianco (R)	CB Pts	Tony Thurmond (D)	TT Pts	Antonio Villaraigosa (D)	AV Pts	Xavier Becerra (D)	XB Pts	Matt Mahan (D)	MM Pts
First thing you would do to increase affordability and restore California dream?			CA budget with three things. \$3 gas, cut electric bills in half, first \$100k income tax free.	0			How will you get anything done when legislature is controlled by Democrats? (I don't have to respond to them they have to respond to me.)	-1					You are not in favor of cutting gas tax? Gas tax for better roads and bridges and quality infrastructure. For affordability: Reduce prescription drug prices, 40K homes ready to be built.	1	Reform gas tax.	2
Home prices. Newsome wanted 3M homes but only 500K built. What would you do differently to meet that goal?	Shorten and reduce cost of permitting, redo zoning, drop cost of construction by using industrial construction offsite, bring money to cities and counties so they can afford to do housing.	2			Reform permitting, innovate in housing. Faster building means lower home prices.	1			Down payment assistance grants. 2.3M units by 2030 using surplus school district property.	0	In favor of removing hurdles? Yes. First time buyer assistance (\$25B initiative), fast-track housing building.	0				
Highest prices in USA. Gas tax \$.61 per gallon. Are you in favor of suspending gas tax? Yes or No.	No	1	Yes	0	No	1	Yes	0	Yes	0	No	1	No	1	Yes	0
Federal subsidies ending means Covered CA almost twice as expensive. How to protect against future cuts and how to fund it?	Single payer healthcare system (i.e. payer is the government not individuals). Will take 3 years. Close corporate tax loopholes to get money.	1	(Blames current CA government for problems.)	-1	Single payer most healthcare at lowest cost.	0	(Blames current CA government for problems.)	-1	Tax billionaires. Single payer health care.	1	Too much waste and fraud in hour system which we have to eliminate.	0	Fight Donald Trump. (Attack on Steve Hilton)	0	Incentivize being healthy. (Personally don't think that works.)	0
Students graduate with tremendous debt while jobs are decreasing in state.									Wants college to be free in California.	1	\$85k per year at (private universities).	0				
CA doesn't have enough refineries so currently outsources 20% to China (shipping oil there and back).	Will outsourcing all our refining hurt us in terms of pollution (CA refineries are very clean) and cost of gas? I said I wanted capability of outsourcing all refining.	0	We cannot drill enough to replace the 60% of oil we import and we don't have the refineries in any case. How will you support transition to hybrid electric future? (gas and oil first before other power generation)	0	Will outsourcing all our refining hurt us in terms of pollution (CA refineries are very clean) and cost of gas? (yes)	1							Need to build out electricity grid to support 3M EV charging stations.	1		

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Insurance companies are leaving because CA Insurance Commissioner doesn't let them raise rates to cover current costs.	1. Remove dry timber, controlled burns, harden houses vs fire. 2. Make sure insurance companies take those changes into account and reduce rates.	1	Prop 103 says rate change proposals must be reviewed within 60 days (currently takes a year). (Fixing that would help keep insurance companies in state.)	1	CA can help with reinsurance to help insurance companies keep prices lower.	1	(Maintaining defensible space around cities would prevent catastrophes which would then keep insurance rates manageable.)	1	How can governor affect insurance rates when it's Insurance Commissioner's job? Governor can talk to Insurance Commissioner. Can withhold tax credits and benefits to insurers that don't help their customers.	0			How can governor freeze insurance rates when its the Insurance Commissioner that does this? Declare State of Emergency. (But isn't that illegal? Will still do it and fight CA Supreme Court.)	0	Let insurance companies take climate change and wildfire risks into account. Government has to maintain wild lands and reducing wildfire risks.	1
Schools are State's single largest budget item. Student scores are still lower than pre-pandemic. Who has a plan to raise academic scores in the middle of a financial crisis?	Recruit great teachers by taxing corporations to pay for this.	1							Declining enrollment - schools get funds based on attendance.	0					Cut administrative overhead. Reward teachers whose students are doing better. Teach phonics. (What overhead can we cut?) Too many district superintendents and staff.	1
Rebuilding CA. What is your vision for that?					Need more people in CA. For that we need more housing. Free child care and first two 2 years of college free, as an incentive for people to come to CA.	1										
Force homeless people who refuse housing into a mental treatment facility?	Yes. Rent assistance. Only 1/7 people that lose homes are from mental issues.	1	Yes. What is your approach to solve this issue? Enforce law: illegal to live in the streets. Get people into drug and alcohol treatment. Increase mental health provisions (facilities).	1	(Yes). How to help those with mental health/drug addiction who repeatedly refuse help? Dedicated mental health responders.	1	(Yes). You say all homeless have mental illness or drug addiction. How to help people fleeing domestic abuse, or lost their job, or unexpected illness/injury? There are existing services for those people. We need more facilities for mental and drug issues.	1	Yes. Subsidized housing and support. \$10B bond to build more housing.	1	Yes. Drug/mental treatment, housing. Rent is too high.	1	Yes. Build up treatment facilities. But also prevent people from losing their homes.	1	Yes. You've provided some housing for homeless but not enough for others you've forced to move elsewhere? We closed the Jungle. 50 days outreach. Offered everyone interim housing and 50% accepted. For those who refuse due to mental issues we should force them into a safe space.	1
First three things you'd do if a natural disaster occurs?							It's too late by then.	0	??? inadvertently used his turn to attack Bianco.	0	Expand Cal Fire. Controlled burns. Fix insurance crisis.	0	1. Deploy personnel and resources. 2. Make sure that insurance companies pay out.	0	Declare disaster. Setup emergency operations center. Let first responders lead but you provide communications infrastructure.	1

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	Insurance and Climate Recover Act failed to advanced in committee. What would you do to get that passed? Polluter pays, environmental justice, deploy clean energy.	0	What would you do to reverse trend of increasing wildfires? Chad made good points on prevention. 2019 wildfires created more carbon emissions than previous 20 years climate policy saved. Modern forest management: reduce carbon emissions, protect against wildfires, revive timber industry (jobs + material for housing)	2	Did things within system to combat corps -- permit costs and land use costs (?)	0										
As governor would you support district attorneys bringing assault charges against federal agents?	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
People looking for hope. Why should they trust you will bring hope?	We need to take on corporate interests.	0	We have to be a state where we build things. I have experience in business and politics.	1	Only candidate that refuses corporate donations. Not for sale. Single mom with three teens.	0	Everything in CA is broken. I spent 33 years serving the public. Everyone else is a liar.	-1	(Cites experience and goals.) I fight for working people.	0	Dream with me. (Cites three improvements when he was mayor.)	2	Grew up in a home with working parents. We need to fight for next generation. Governor's office needs an experienced hand.	0	I know what it looks like to achieve your goals. Mayor of 3rd biggest city in CA.	0
Total Points		7		4		6		-1		3		4		4		6