

S.M.A.R.T Determination Process



For Los Angeles County, the primary elections held on March 3, 2020 (Super Tuesday), determined, in some offices, who would stand in the November 3, 2020 General Election. California has 53 congressional districts. State and Congressional primaries, among other races (e.g., LA District Attorney) are nonpartisan where all candidates are on the same ballot and the top two, regardless of party, run against each other in the General Election, November 3, 2020. In Los Angeles County, some offices were determined by a majority victory in the primary and will not appear on the November ballot. The results of the Primary elections can be found here.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/california-primary-election-results-2020/> Only registered Republicans can vote in the GOP Republican Presidential primary. Unaffiliated voters are allowed to participate in the Democratic Presidential Primary. There are no Statewide races for Governor or Senators this year.

We determined which candidate to endorse by reading their positions on the issues as expressed on their campaign websites, characterizing them as Conservative, Moderate or Progressive Democrats or Independents (no party preference). No liberal or moderate Republicans met the SMART criteria in Los Angeles County. The criteria consisted of whether or not they spoke to SMART's core issues, Racial Justice and Criminal Justice Reform, The Voting Rights Act, and strategies to reform policing amongst other issues. In some cases, the candidate's previous stand on issues, along with their voting records, seniority and experience, as well as independent media opinions, had a significant influence over our choice.

We discussed our findings daily, and when we decided that a race demanded more research and discussion, as in the LA County District Attorney's race, Lacey vs. Gascon, we investigated other materials and sources to establish facts and reach a quality analysis and decision. After reviewing several nonpartisan voting websites and candidate campaign websites, we selected Ballotpedia.org as the most objective, concise and comprehensive website. We have provided a link for every candidate on Ballotpedia so that you may do your own exploration and increase your understanding of our choices. We encourage you to do so!