

CHEAT SHEET

# Your **2026** election, on one page.

Four City Council seats are on the ballot. Here's who's running, how much they've raised, who's writing the biggest checks, and what to remember before you fill out yours.

<b>\$1.36M</b> Raised, 2024–25 cycle	<b>722</b> Disclosed contributions	<b>\$51K</b> Largest single check — Taylor Fresh Foods Inc.
---	---------------------------------------	--

Dollar figures come from 2024–2025 filings (as of May 15, 2026). The next semi-annual FPPC reports — covering January–June 2026 — are due July 31; updated numbers land here in early August.

[transparentsalinas.org/cheat-sheet](https://transparentsalinas.org/cheat-sheet) · Source: FPPC Form 460 · City of Salinas NetFile portal

## 01 Dates to remember

*Mark them now — some of these are sooner than you think.*

<b>VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE</b> <b>Mon, Oct 19</b> <i>Same-day registration available at the county clerk through Election Day.</i>	<b>MAIL BALLOTS SENT</b> <b>Mon, Oct 5</b> <i>Every active registered voter in Monterey County is mailed a ballot.</i>	<b>EARLY VOTING OPENS</b> <b>Sat, Oct 24</b> <i>Vote centers open across the county. Locations on the Monterey County Elections site.</i>
--	--	---

ELECTION DAY







## Tue, Nov 3

*Polls close at 8 p.m. Drop boxes and vote centers stay open until then.*

DATES REFLECT THE PUBLISHED 2026 CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR. CONFIRM AT [MONTEREYCOUNTYELECTIONS.US](https://www.montereycountyelections.us).

## 02 What's on your ballot

*Four Salinas City Council seats are up, plus the U.S. House seat for CA-19. Three council seats — D1, D4, D6 — are mid-term and not on the 2026 ballot.*

 D1	Jose Luis Barajas	MID-TERM · 2028
 D2	Tony Barrera	ON 2026 BALLOT
 D3	Margaret D'Arrigo	ON 2026 BALLOT
 D4	Gloria De La Rosa	MID-TERM · 2028
 D5	Andrew Sandoval	ON 2026 BALLOT
 D6	Aurelio Salazar	MID-TERM · 2028

CITYWIDE

# Mayor

*The mayor sets the council agenda and is the public face of the city.*



**Dennis Donohue**

INCUMBENT

**\$367,818**

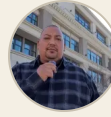
RAISED 2024-25

**204**

DONORS

TOP DONORS

1	3 N&M, Inc.	\$5,500
2	Alameda, Cathy	\$5,500
3	Antle, Brian R.	\$5,500



**Daniel Muñoz**

CHALLENGER

*No 2026 filings yet*

PER FPPC RECORDS



**Peter Szalai**

CHALLENGER

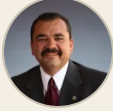
*No 2026 filings yet*

PER FPPC RECORDS

EAST SALINAS / ALISAL

## District 2

*D2 covers most of East Salinas. The incumbent has held this seat through multiple cycles.*



**Tony Barrera**

■ INCUMBENT

*No 2026 filings yet*

PER FPPC RECORDS

# District 3

*D3 stretches across central neighborhoods including parts of Old Town.*



**Margaret D'Arrigo**

INCUMBENT

**\$135,190**

RAISED 2024-25

**94**

DONORS

TOP DONORS

- 1 The Nunes Company, Inc. \$5,500
- 2 Church Brothers, LLC Re... \$5,500
- 3 D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of Cal... \$5,500



**Cary Swensen**

CHALLENGER

**\$22,740**

RAISED 2024-25

**22**

DONORS

TOP DONORS

- 1 Monterey County New P... \$5,500
- 2 Northern California Car... \$5,500
- 3 Parker, Jane \$1,500



**Brent Bagley**

CHALLENGER

*No 2026 filings yet*

PER FPPC RECORDS

SOUTH SALINAS

## District 5

*D5 includes south Salinas neighborhoods.  
One declared challenger so far.*



**Andrew Sandoval**

INCUMBENT

**\$13,550**

RAISED 2024-25

**16**

DONORS

TOP DONORS

- 1 Re-Elect Anthony Rocha ... \$4,400
- 2 Murray, Connie \$2,000
- 3 Eric Petersen 2003 Revoc... \$2,000



**Irma C Lopez**

CHALLENGER

*No 2026 filings yet*

PER FPPC RECORDS

FEDERAL · SALINAS VALLEY

## U.S. House · CA-19

*Every Salinas voter is in CA-19. The June 2  
top-two primary is over — these two  
advanced to the November ballot.*



**Jimmy Panetta**

INCUMBENT (D)

*Federal race*

FILES WITH THE FEC



**Peter Coe Verbica**

CHALLENGER (R)

*Federal race*

FILES WITH THE FEC

*Two local items are headed to the Nov 3, 2026 ballot. Final ballot language and assigned measure letters were not yet certified as of June 26 – treat names as working titles until then.*

---

## Measure G — Sales tax extension

EXTENDS AN EXISTING 1¢ TAX

A vote on whether to **extend the existing 1¢ local sales tax** that Salinas voters approved in 2014. The tax is currently set to sunset in 2029. This measure would keep it in place at the same rate — not raise it.

### A YES VOTE

Keeps the 1¢ sales tax going past its 2029 sunset — same rate, not an increase. City services keep roughly \$30 million a year.

### A NO VOTE

Lets the tax expire in 2029. The City projects a roughly \$47 million shortfall (about 21% of the budget) starting FY 2030–31, with cuts to services and staff.

### WHAT WE KNOW

- The tax brings in roughly **\$30 million a year** (\$34.5M in FY 2025–26).
- It's a **general-fund tax**: police, fire/911, homelessness response, streets and sidewalks, parks, youth and senior programs, affordable-housing support.
- Has an independent citizen oversight committee and annual audits.
- City Council voted **7–0 on March 24, 2026** to advance it to the November ballot.
- It's an *extension*, not a new tax — the rate stays the same as today.
- Local polling reported by Monterey County NOW (n=400)

### WHAT WE DON'T KNOW YET

- The final certified ballot title and 75-word summary.
- The official measure letter — “G” is the working label until the City Clerk certifies it.
- The full impartial analysis and arguments for / against from the Voter Information Pamphlet.
- Whether any organized opposition committee files an FPPC committee.

showed about 58% support; a  
general tax needs **50%+1** to pass.

---

*Read this as a starting point. The official Voter Information Pamphlet is the source of truth on what's actually on your ballot.*

SOURCES: MONTEREY COUNTY NOW · KCBX · CITY STAFF REPORTS

# Rent reform referendum

REFERENDUM ON RENT STABILIZATION REPEAL

A vote on the council's **June 2025 repeal** of Salinas's rent stabilization package. Tenant advocates gathered enough signatures to put the repeal on the ballot for voters to decide directly. **This is a referendum on the repeal, so the meaning of yes/no is the reverse of what many expect:**

## A YES VOTE

**Approves the council's repeal.** The four renter protections — the 2.75% rent cap, just-cause eviction, anti-harassment, and the rental registry — are permanently removed. (The landlord-side "Protect Salinas Residents" committee urges YES.)

## A NO VOTE

**Rejects the council's repeal.** The four renter protections stay in effect. (The tenant-side "Protect Salinas Renters" committee urges NO.)

## WHAT WE KNOW

- The original ordinance package — a **2.75% annual rent cap**, just-cause eviction, tenant anti-harassment, and a rental registry — was passed under a previous council.
- The current City Council voted **5-2 on June 3, 2025** to repeal all four ordinances.
- The group **Protect Salinas Renters** filed a referendum petition on July 3, 2025 and gathered about 10,000 signatures from ~200 volunteers.
- The Council voted **4-3 on Sept 23, 2025** to place the referendum on the Nov 3, 2026 ballot.

## WHAT WE DON'T KNOW YET

- The official measure letter and final certified ballot text.
- The City Attorney's official impartial analysis — the plain-English ballot-title wording voters will see (due by early August). The YES/NO meaning above is confirmed by the California Elections Code and by both campaigns.
- Final list of endorsing organizations, landlord groups, and council members on each side.
- Status of the Monterey County DA's reported review of some petition signatures.

- Two FPPC-registered committees are actively raising money – the money trail is already visible below.

PRO • KEEP RENT STABILIZATION

### Protect Salinas Renters 2026

**\$31,693**

RAISED

**71**

DONORS

Largest single check: **Gonzalez, Jaime** – \$5,285 (17% of this side).

ANTI • REPEAL RENT STABILIZATION

### Protect Salinas Residents 2026

**\$53,550**

RAISED

**16**

DONORS

Largest single check: **UDR, Inc.** – \$39,125 (73% of this side).

*Referendum wording can flip the meaning of “yes” and “no.” When the official ballot lands, read the language slowly – or check [protectsalinasrenters.com](http://protectsalinasrenters.com) and [protectsalinasresidents.com](http://protectsalinasresidents.com) to confirm which way each side is voting.*

## 04 How to actually vote

*Three ways to cast a ballot in Monterey County.*

METHOD 01

### Mail your ballot

Your ballot arrives by mail in early October. Fill it out, sign the back of the envelope, and return it – postage is prepaid.

POSTMARK OR DROP-BOX BY NOV 3.

METHOD 02

### Use a drop box

Drop boxes around Salinas are listed on the county elections site. No envelope handling, no postage, no line.

OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M. ON NOV 3.

METHOD 03

## Vote in person

Some vote centers open Oct 24; all are open on Election Day. Bring your mailed ballot to surrender, or register and vote on the same day.

-----  
OPEN 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON NOV 3.

TOOL

**Check your registration** →

[voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

OFFICIAL

**Monterey County Elections** →

[montereycountyelections.us](http://montereycountyelections.us)

REGISTER

**Register to vote** →

[registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)

TRACK

**Where's My Ballot?** →

[california.ballottrax.net](http://california.ballottrax.net)

---

Data source: [City of Salinas NetFile Public Portal](#). FPPC Form 460 Schedule A & E.

Not affiliated with the City of Salinas, the FPPC, or any candidate or committee.