

Alameda 2026 Local Voter Key

November 3, 2026

Large-Print Plain-Language Local Guide

Extracted from the October 21, 2026 Alameda County Master Key

This guide is for information only. It does not tell you how to vote. It is a smaller extract of the Alameda County master key, made for easier reading, printing, and sharing.

This key contains the regional transit measure, the measures and city or school races associated with Alameda, and notes about races that may depend on district or trustee-area boundaries.

Statewide propositions are covered in the separate California statewide voter guide.

Important special-district note: Transit, BART, water, park, sanitary, health-care, recreation, and community-college boundaries often cross city lines. Use the separate Special Districts and Community Colleges key for any such races printed on your official ballot. Your own official sample ballot is the final authority for which races apply to you.

Regional measure

Measure RTM - Regional Transit Measure

Where it applies: Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties

In plain English: A 14-year regional sales tax would raise money mainly to keep major Bay Area transit systems operating, with some money for targeted road work and accountability requirements.

What would change

- Sales tax would increase by 0.5 percentage point in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.
- Sales tax would increase by 1 percentage point in San Francisco.
- The measure names BART, AC Transit, Muni, Caltrain, VTA, SamTrans, ferries, and other transit as intended beneficiaries and also allows specified road and pothole work.
- Financial transparency, oversight, and accountability requirements would apply.

Oversight, audits, and decisions made later

Who oversees it: The measure creates an independent regional oversight committee. Each participating county Board of Supervisors appoints its county representative or representatives. Separate SB 63 accountability systems also include an independent financial-efficiency review process and

a process for counties to challenge certain funding or service-compliance decisions.

What the oversight can and cannot do: The regional committee can review whether money is distributed and spent consistently with the measure and can request records from the regional district. It does not operate BART, AC Transit, Muni, Caltrain, or the other transit agencies. Under a separate SB 63 dispute process, an ad hoc county committee can make a binding determination and, in specified circumstances, withhold up to 7 percent of an affected transit agency's measure funding. MTC also administers maintenance-of-effort rules intended to keep existing local transit support from simply being replaced by the new tax.

What is decided later, and by whom: County Boards of Supervisors make the oversight appointments after passage. Transit operators still adopt their own budgets and service plans, and annual distributions can change under the measure's formulas and actual tax collections. MTC and the regional district administer the regional requirements; the oversight committee checks compliance rather than choosing individual bus routes or train schedules.

If you vote YES: The regional tax and spending program would take effect for 14 years.

If you vote NO: The new regional sales tax would not take effect.

Money and practical effects: The ballot estimate is about \$980 million per year regionwide. The tax is collected in five counties, not just Alameda County. The official regional impartial analysis gives one Alameda County example: 64.70%

of revenue generated in Alameda County would be allocated to BART for transit operating expenses. Other Alameda County shares go to AC Transit, smaller operators, the ferry, county transportation purposes, fare and accessibility programs, mapping and wayfinding, administration, and other uses specified in the measure.

Approval threshold: A majority of the votes cast on RTM throughout the entire five-county Public Transit Revenue Measure District. This is one regionwide total, not a separate county-by-county approval test. Alameda County's summary page currently displays N/A, but the official regional impartial analysis resolves the threshold.

What is not settled or needs context: Exact annual dollar amounts can vary with actual tax collections and the measure's formulas. Revenue generated in each county is divided among specified recipients and purposes, and the mix differs by county.

Alameda measures

Measure L - City of Alameda general obligation bond - SAFER Alameda Act

Where it applies: City of Alameda

In plain English: Alameda could borrow \$300 million for resilience and public infrastructure, including emergency preparedness, sea-level rise and flooding work, streets, shoreline protection, and emergency-response facilities.

What would change

- The city identifies earthquakes, sea-level rise, flooded Tubes, potholes, street accessibility, fire/medical response, Bay pollution, and shoreline protection as eligible purposes.
- The bond requires oversight, public disclosures, and local control.

Oversight, audits, and decisions made later

Who oversees it: The Measure L ordinance requires the Alameda City Council to establish an oversight committee and appoint its members. It also requires bond proceeds to be kept in a separate account. The City Finance Director must report to the Council at least annually on money collected and spent and on the status of the improvements. City informational material also describes annual audit requirements.

What the oversight can and cannot do: The committee's stated job is to review and report on expenditures of bond proceeds. That is an accountability role, not authority to select or manage the projects. The separate account and annual financial reporting make it possible to compare spending with the purposes voters approved.

What is decided later, and by whom: The measure text leaves the committee's detailed composition, terms, and procedures for the City Council to establish later. More importantly, the Council decides project priorities. Final locations, designs, layouts, costs, timing, and which projects can actually be completed are determined later as plans are finished, bids are received, and projects move through the city's normal approval process.

If you vote YES: The city could issue up to \$300 million in bonds and levy property taxes to repay them.

If you vote NO: The bond and its related property-tax levy would not take effect.

Money and practical effects: The ballot states \$49 per \$100,000 of assessed value and about \$19 million per year while bonds are outstanding.

Approval threshold: Two-thirds.

What is not settled or needs context: The ballot describes broad eligible categories. The precise timing and project-by-project spending would be decided through later city processes.

Measure M - City of Alameda charter cleanup and modernization

Where it applies: City of Alameda

In plain English: This measure changes a group of charter provisions to match current practices and remove or update provisions the city considers outdated.

What would change

- Among the changes are longer time to fill Auditor and Treasurer vacancies, revised vacancy procedures for other charter offices, changes to Public Utilities Board qualifications, and removal or updating of old procedural rules.

If you vote YES: The listed charter amendments and repeals would take effect.

If you vote NO: The current charter language would remain.

Money and practical effects: No new tax or bond is created by the ballot measure.

Approval threshold: 50% plus one.

What is not settled or needs context: Because this is a package of many charter edits, voters who care about one specific office or provision should read the city attorney's full analysis and text.

Measure N - City of Alameda charter amendment - leases and sales of city real property

Where it applies: City of Alameda

In plain English: The measure changes how the City Council approves certain sales and leases of city-owned real property.

What would change

- Sales or leases longer than one year would be approved by resolution rather than ordinance.
- Leases of 10 years or less would need three council votes instead of four.
- Sales and leases longer than 10 years would still require the higher vote threshold.

If you vote YES: The simpler procedure and lower vote threshold for leases of 10 years or less would take effect.

If you vote NO: The existing charter approval rules would remain.

Money and practical effects: No direct tax is created. Practical fiscal effects depend on future property transactions.

Approval threshold: 50% plus one.

What is not settled or needs context: The measure changes approval procedure, not the terms of any particular future sale or lease.

Alameda races

Mayor - vote for 1

What this office controls: City mayors and councils generally set local policy, adopt budgets, approve land-use and housing rules, and oversee or set policy for city services. The exact split between mayor, council, and professional city administration differs by city.

- Tony Daysog - Councilmember/Urban Planner
- Tracy Jensen - Councilmember/Nonprofit Director
- Malia Vella - Businesswoman/Educator

Issue emphasis from an Alameda Post candidate profile/questionnaire: Daysog emphasized transportation subsidies, first-time-homebuyer relief and more housing at Alameda Point, and opposed Measure L as written; Jensen emphasized tenant protections, jobs and economic opportunity and supported Measure L while criticizing parts of the process; Vella emphasized social housing, social services, childcare affordability, streamlined development and transit, and supported Measure L. These are candidate positions, not findings by this guide.

City Council - vote for 2

What this office controls: City mayors and councils generally set local policy, adopt budgets, approve land-use and housing rules, and oversee or set policy for city services. The exact split

between mayor, council, and professional city administration differs by city.

- Thushan Amarasiriwardena - Software Product Manager
- Maria L. Bondonno - Public Service Attorney
- Marcie Johnson - Social Worker
- Tyler Savage - Technology Partner Manager
- Steve Slauson - Small Business Owner
- Amos White - Environmental Nonprofit Executive

Reliable comparative issue material was not equally available for all six candidates in the sources used for this edition, so the guide does not invent a candidate-by-candidate issue matrix.

Alameda Unified School District - full term, vote for 2

What this office controls: School boards adopt district budgets and policies, hire and evaluate the superintendent, approve curriculum and facilities decisions within state law, and oversee district operations. Trustee-area candidates represent only the listed area even though the board governs the whole district.

- Joyce Boyd - Certified Public Accountant
- Carrie Hahnel - Appointed AUSD Board Member
- Gary Lym - Alameda Unified School District Governing Board Member
- Mike McMahon - Independent Contractor
- Sarah Putnam - Parent

City measures: L, M, and N. Regional measure: RTM.

School-board ballot note: Alameda Unified also has a short-term governing-board office on the county's 2026 office

schedule, but it does not appear as a separate contest in the current official on-ballot candidate list.

Sources and checking

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters is the controlling source in this extract for the local measure list and current candidate roster. The October 21 master also cross-checks responsible cities, school districts, regional agencies, and local reporting where useful. If your official ballot differs from this extract, use your official ballot.

Alameda County election information:

<https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/election-information/elections?id=260>

Alameda County local measures:

https://www.alamedacountyca.gov/rov_app/measures/election/260

Alameda County candidate list:

https://alamedacountyca.gov/rov_app/candidatelist?electionid=260

Regional Transit Measure district materials:

<https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/authorities/public-transit-revenue-measure-district>

Additional local source: <https://alamedapost.com/>