

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.

2026 campaign statements

Data as of 2026-10-17

Monetary contributions as each candidate’s committee reported them. Coverage differs by committee, and every other measure is reported separately.

Mayor

Monetary contributions

Bar lengths use one scale for this list.

Dennis Donohue

\$141,197

Daniel Munoz

\$22,719

Peter Szalai

\$5,646

Hezekiah Gonzalez

Unavailable not zero

No matched committee

District 2

Monetary contributions

Tony Barrera

Paper-filed \$8,488

Read from the committee's paper-filed Form 460 statements (filing 217038488, received 2026-07-08; filing 217534118, received 2026-09-28), not from the City's e-filed data.

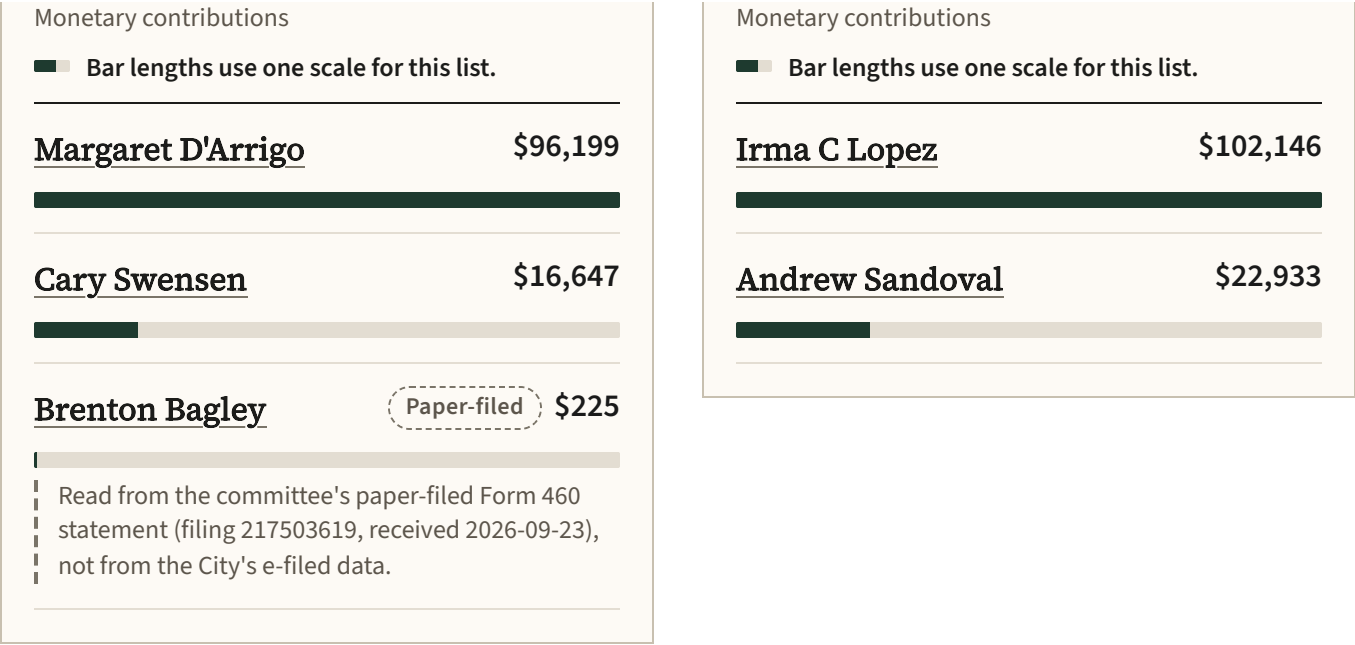
Jose Guerra

Unavailable not zero

No matched committee

District 3

District 5



MAIL BALLOTS SENT Mon, Oct 5 <i>Every active registered voter in Monterey County is mailed a ballot.</i>	EARLY VOTING OPENS Mon, Oct 5 <i>In-person voting starts at the Monterey County Elections Office in Salinas; more early-voting sites open later in October. Locations on the Monterey County Elections site.</i>	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE Mon, Oct 19 <i>Missed it? From Oct 20 through Election Day you can register and vote the same day (conditional voter registration) at the county elections office, an early-voting site, or your polling place.</i>
ELECTION DAY Tue, Nov 3 <i>Polling places are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drop boxes close at 8 p.m.</i>		

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

02 **What’s on your ballot**

Four Salinas City Council seats are up, plus a U.S. House seat: Salinas is in CA-18 (Zoe Lofgren, D, vs. Shane Lewis, R). Check your sample ballot for your district. 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



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

FILING NAMES

TOP FILING-NAME TOTALS, 2024-25

1	3 N&M, Inc.	\$5,500
2	Alameda, Cathy	\$5,500
3	Alameda, Daniel	\$5,500



Daniel Muñoz

CHALLENGER



Peter Szalai

CHALLENGER

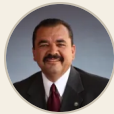


Hezekiah Gonzalez

CHALLENGER

District 2

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



Tony Barrera
| INCUMBENT



Jose Guerra
| CHALLENGER

District 3

D3 stretches across central neighborhoods including parts of Old Town.



Margaret D'Arrigo
| INCUMBENT

\$135,190 94
RAISED FILING
2024-25 NAMES

TOP FILING-NAME TOTALS,
2024-25

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---------|
| 1 | Antle, Brian | \$5,500 |
| 2 | Braga Fres... | \$5,500 |
| 3 | California ... | \$5,500 |



Cary Swensen
| CHALLENGER

\$22,740 22
RAISED FILING
2024-25 NAMES

TOP FILING-NAME TOTALS,
2024-25

- | | | |
|---|--------------|---------|
| 1 | Monterey ... | \$5,500 |
| 2 | Northern ... | \$5,500 |
| 3 | Parker, Jane | \$3,000 |



Brent Bagley
| CHALLENGER

District 5

D5 includes south Salinas neighborhoods.
One challenger is running.



**Irma C
Lopez**
| CHALLENGER



**Andrew
Sandoval**
| INCUMBENT

\$13,550	16
RAISED	FILING
2024-25	NAMES

TOP FILING-NAME TOTALS,
2024-25

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---------|
| 1 | Re-Elect A... | \$4,400 |
| 2 | Eric Peter... | \$3,000 |
| 3 | Murray, C... | \$2,000 |

FEDERAL • MONTEREY PENINSULA & COAST

U.S. House • CA-19

Salinas is in CA-18 (Zoe Lofgren, D, vs. Shane Lewis, R), not CA-19. CA-19 covers the Monterey Peninsula and coastal Monterey County; these two advanced there from the June 2 top-two primary. Check your sample ballot for your district.



Jimmy Panetta
INCUMBENT
(D)

Federal race
FILES WITH THE FEC



Peter Coe Verbica
CHALLENGER
(R)

Federal race
FILES WITH THE FEC

03

Local ballot measures

This guide covers two City of Salinas measures on the Nov 3, 2026 ballot. Monterey County Elections' list of local measures, checked September 30, 2026, lists the sales-tax extension as Measure G and the rent referendum as Measure H. This guide has not verified the final ballot wording; confirm the letters and the wording on your official sample ballot, in the county voter information guide, or on the [Salinas City Clerk](#) election page.

LOCAL • CITY OF SALINAS • SALES TAX

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 expire on April 1, 2030. 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 April 1, 2030 sunset — same rate, not an increase. The ballot question describes the tax as raising about \$30 million a year.

A NO VOTE

Lets the tax expire on April 1, 2030. 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 ballot question describes the tax as raising about **\$30 million a year** (the City budgeted \$34.5M for FY 2025–26); see the audited yearly totals on the [Measure G page](#).
- 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) showed about 58% support; a general tax needs **50%+1** to pass.
- Monterey County Elections' list of local measures, checked September 30, 2026, lists this item as Measure G; confirm the letter on your official sample ballot.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW YET

- The final certified ballot title and 75-word summary.
- The full impartial analysis and arguments for / against from the Voter Information Pamphlet.
- Whether any organized opposition committee files an FPPC committee.

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

LOCAL • CITY OF SALINAS • REFERENDUM

Measure H — Rent reform referendum

REFERENDUM ON RENT STABILIZATION REPEAL

The City describes this as a vote on **Ordinance No. 2687**, the council’s June 2025 ordinance repealing four rent-related ordinances. The petition qualified and the council placed the repeal ordinance on the November 2026 ballot. **The guide below is provisional until Transparent Salinas verifies the final certified ballot title and official voter materials.**

EXPECTED YES EFFECT

Adopt Ordinance No. 2687, the repeal ordinance. On the current official record, that would repeal the four rent-related ordinances. Verify the certified ballot language before voting.

EXPECTED NO EFFECT

Vote against Ordinance No. 2687. On the current official record, the four rent-related ordinances would remain in effect, subject to later lawful changes. Verify the certified ballot language before voting.

WHAT WE KNOW

- The four ordinances cover rental registration, rent stabilization, just-cause eviction and tenant protection, and tenant anti-harassment. The City says they remain in effect while voters decide on the repeal.
- The City Council adopted repeal Ordinance No. 2687 on June 3, 2025.

WHAT WE DON’T KNOW YET

- The final certified ballot text, which this project has not verified.
- The final official impartial analysis and arguments that will appear in voter materials.
- Any implementation timing or later legal changes beyond the expected effect described above.

- The City says a referendum petition was submitted July 3, 2025 and the County certified sufficient signatures on August 15, 2025.
- The City says the repeal ordinance is scheduled for the Nov. 3, 2026 general-election ballot.
- Committees tied to this measure have contribution records in the City's NetFile portal. For the two in the 2024-2025 history below, the project labels positions for comparison and does not endorse any committee.
- Monterey County Elections' list of local measures, checked September 30, 2026, lists this referendum as Measure H; confirm the letter on your official sample ballot. The filings of committees tied to this measure use names including "Protect Salinas Renters 2026 to Support Referendum of an Ordinance Repealing Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protections," "Protect Salinas Residents 2026- Yes on Measure H" and "Vote to Protect Salinas Renters 2026."
- The final public positions of organizations and officeholders; committee labels on this page should not be read as a complete endorsement list.

Data as of 2026-10-17

2026 filings

Rent referendum committees

Committees in the City's filing data that are tied to the rent referendum (Measure H).

Each is shown with the same measures, in committee ID order.

Measure H committees, side by side

Data as of 2026-10-17, in committee ID order. Each figure stands alone and is never added to another.

Committee and stated position

Monetary contributions

Payments

Protect Salinas Renters 2026 to Support Referendum of an Ordinance Repealing Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protections*Unavailable (not zero)**Unavailable (not zero)*

ID 1481533

Filed name refers to supporting a

- o referendum petition; the filings reviewed state no position on the Measure H vote

Protect Salinas Residents 2026- Yes on Measure H

\$602,178

\$519,606

ID 1484184

- Position as filed: support of Measure H

Vote to Protect Salinas Renters 2026

\$51,965

\$40,259

ID 1485691

- o Position as listed by the City's filing portal: oppose Measure H

POSTTV No on H

- o Listed by the City's filing portal

A committee named "POSTTV No on H" is also registered on the City's filing portal and listed there as opposing Measure H; as of 2026-09-30 it had filed only a statement of organization (Form 410), so no figures are shown.

Each committee in detail

Every 2026 measure, with a link to each committee's page

Filed name refers to supporting a

- o referendum petition; the filings reviewed state no position on the Measure H vote

Protect Salinas Renters 2026 to Support Referendum of an Ordinance Repealing Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protections

Committee ID 1481533 · No 2026 full statement

- Position as filed: support of Measure H

Protect Salinas Residents 2026- Yes on Measure H

Committee ID 1484184 · Statement coverage: 2026-01-01 to 2026-10-17

Basis: the committee's filed name and the support code on its 2026 spending reports.

Monetary
contributions

Later reported
receipts

Basis: its filed name, which refers to supporting a referendum of the repeal ordinance. The filings reviewed name no ballot measure letter.

Monetary contributions	Later reported receipts
 Unavailable (not zero)	 Unavailable (not zero)

Payments
 Unavailable (not zero)

No 2026 full statement for this committee appears in the City's filing data used here, so its 2026 figures are unavailable, not zero.

[Full committee page →](#)

\$602,178	\$0
Payments	Ending cash
\$519,606	\$121,659

New loans received (gross)	In-kind
\$0	\$52,450

Itemized unpaid bills Outstanding debt
\$0 \$0
The National Apartment Association's late contribution is counted once, in the in-kind figure: this committee reported it as an in-kind contribution (Schedule C), and the sending committee on a late-contribution report (Form 497).

[Full committee page →](#)

○ Position as listed by the City's filing portal: oppose Measure H

Vote to Protect Salinas Renters 2026

Committee ID 1485691 · Statement coverage: 2026-01-01 to 2026-10-17

Basis: the City's filing portal lists this committee among those opposing Measure H. Its filed name does not state a position. The committee's own 2026 spending reports in the City's export name no measure.

Monetary contributions	Later reported receipts
\$51,965	\$2,000
Payments	Ending cash
\$40,259	\$16,160

In-kind

New loans received (gross)	\$100
\$4,000	
Itemized unpaid bills	Outstanding debt
\$0	\$4,000
Full committee page →	

Each measure is reported separately and never added to another. Ending cash, unpaid bills and outstanding debt are balances at the end of the coverage period; later receipts were reported after the committee’s latest full statement.

One late contribution to committee 1484184 was reported by the sending committee on a late-contribution report (Form 497) and by committee 1484184 as an in-kind contribution (Schedule C); it is counted once, in that committee’s in-kind figure.

Positions are stated only as each committee’s filings, or the City’s filing portal, state them; they are not endorsements by Transparent Salinas.

[Compare them side by side, with contributor and payee tables →](#)

2024–2025 history

Committee records from this site’s earlier snapshot, through May 17, 2026. A separate dataset from the 2026 filings above. The labels on these two cards are this project’s editorial grouping for 2024–2025, not positions stated in the committees’ filings.

PROJECT LABEL • KEEP FOUR ORDINANCES

Protect Salinas Renters 2026

Committee ID 1481533. Not the same committee as "Vote to Protect Salinas Renters 2026" (1485691).

\$31,693

RAISED (2024-2025

71

FILING NAMES

HISTORY)

Largest single contribution: **Gonzalez, Jaime** — \$5,285 (17% of this committee’s shown total).

PROJECT LABEL • ADOPT REPEAL ORDINANCE

Protect Salinas Residents 2026

Committee ID 1484184.

\$53,550

RAISED (2024-2025

16

FILING NAMES

HISTORY)

Largest single contribution: **UDR, Inc.** — \$39,125 (73% of this committee’s shown total).

These committee figures come from the 2024–2025 history dataset (data through May 17, 2026). 2026 filings for these committees: [2026 Money committees →](#)

Referendum wording can be counterintuitive. Use the certified ballot title, impartial analysis, and official voter guide as the voting source. Background: [City Attorney referendum record](#), [City program status](#), and [California Elections Code §13120](#).

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.

POSTMARKED BY NOV 3 AND RECEIVED BY NOV 10 (MAIL BY OCT 27 TO BE SAFE), OR IN A DROP BOX BY 8 P.M. NOV 3.

METHOD 02

Use a drop box

Drop boxes around Salinas are listed on the county elections site. Seal and sign your return envelope first — no postage, no line.

OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M. ON NOV 3.

METHOD 03

Vote in person

Vote early at the Monterey County Elections Office in Salinas (weekdays from Oct 5, plus Oct 24, Oct 31 and Nov 1) or at other early-voting sites the county lists. On Election Day, vote at your assigned polling place (shown on your sample ballot) or the Elections Office. Bring your mailed ballot to surrender, or register and vote the same day.

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

TOOL

Check your registration →

voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

OFFICIAL

Monterey County Elections →

montereycountyelections.us

REGISTER

Register to vote →

registertovote.ca.gov

TRACK

Where's My Ballot? →

california.ballottrax.net

2024-2025 HISTORY Earlier filings; data through May 17, 2026.

\$1.36M Raised, 2024-25 cycle	722 Disclosed contributions	\$51K Largest single check — Taylor Fresh Foods Inc.
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Transparent Salinas

Public campaign finance data for Salinas City Council, made visual and searchable.

2024-2025 data through: May 17, 2026

2026 filings: data as of 2026-10-17

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.

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