

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 2026-09-19. Monetary contributions as each candidate’s committee reported them. Coverage differs by committee, and every other measure is reported separately.											
MAYOR			DISTRICT 2			DISTRICT 3			DISTRICT 5		
Dennis Donohue			\$75,448			Tony Barrera			Unavailable		
Daniel Munoz			\$10,444			Jose Guerra			Unavailable		
Peter Szalai			\$5,546			Margaret D'Arrigo			\$67,699		
Hezekiah Gonzalez			Unavailable			Cary Swensen			\$8,300		
						Brenton Bagley			Unavailable		
						Irma C Lopez			\$80,047		
						Andrew Sandoval			\$16,538		

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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The 2026 figures come from campaign statements committees filed with the City (data as of 2026-09-19). Figures labeled 2024-25 come from earlier filings and are a separate dataset. [2026 Money —](#)

transparents Salinas.org/cheat-sheet · Source: FPPC Form 460 · City of Salinas NetFile portal · Independent; not affiliated with the City, FPPC, candidates, or committees

01 Dates to remember

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

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE Mon, Oct 19 <i>Same-day registration available at the county clerk through Election Day.</i>	MAIL BALLOTS SENT Mon, Oct 5 <i>Every active registered voter in Monterey County is mailed a ballot.</i>	EARLY VOTING OPENS Sat, Oct 24 <i>Vote centers open across the county. Locations on the Monterey County Elections site.</i>
ELECTION DAY Tue, Nov 3 <i>Polls close at 8 p.m. Drop boxes and vote centers stay open until then.</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 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

Mayor

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



Dennis Donohue

INCUMBENT

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

\$75,448

2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19

\$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

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

\$10,444

2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19



Peter Szalai

CHALLENGER

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

\$5,546

2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19



Hezekiah Gonzalez

CHALLENGER

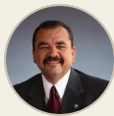
2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Unavailable

No committee in the 2026 filings was matched to this candidate, so the 2026 figures are unavailable, not zero.

District 2

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



Tony Barrera
| INCUMBENT

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS
Unavailable
No committee in the 2026 filings was matched to this candidate, so the 2026 figures are unavailable, not zero.



Jose Guerra
| CHALLENGER

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS
Unavailable
No committee in the 2026 filings was matched to this candidate, so the 2026 figures are unavailable, not zero.

District 3

D3 stretches across central neighborhoods including parts of Old Town.



Margaret D'Arrigo
| INCUMBENT

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS
\$67,699
2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19

\$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

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS
\$8,300
2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19

\$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

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS
Unavailable
No committee in the 2026 filings was matched to this candidate, so the 2026 figures are unavailable, not zero.

District 5

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



Andrew
Sandoval
| INCUMBENT

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

\$16,538

2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19

\$13,550

RAISED

2024-25

16

FILING

NAMES

TOP FILING-NAME TOTALS,
2024-25

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



Irma C
Lopez
| CHALLENGER

2026 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

\$80,047

2026-01-01 to 2026-09-19

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

03

Local ballot measures

Two local items are expected on the Nov 3, 2026 ballot. Transparent Salinas did not find final ballot language or assigned measure letters on the official Salinas City Clerk or Monterey County Elections pages when checked on July 12, 2026; treat the names below as working titles and verify them against the official voter guide when published.

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

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.

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

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.
- 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.
- Two committees have contribution records in the City's NetFile portal; the project labels their positions for comparison and does not endorse either one.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW YET

- The official measure letter and final certified ballot text, which this project had not verified as of July 12, 2026. One committee's 2026 filings use the name "Protect Salinas Residents 2026- Yes on Measure H." Check the official sample ballot for the measure letter.
- 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 final public positions of organizations and officeholders; committee labels on this page should not be read as a complete endorsement list.

PROJECT LABEL • KEEP FOUR ORDINANCES

Protect Salinas Renters 2026

\$31,693

RAISED (2024-2025

HISTORY)

71

FILING NAMES

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

PROJECT LABEL • ADOPT REPEAL ORDINANCE

Protect Salinas Residents 2026

\$53,550

RAISED (2024-2025

HISTORY)

16

FILING NAMES

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.

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

OFFICIAL

**Monterey County
Elections →**

montereycountyelections.us

REGISTER

Register to vote →

registertovote.ca.gov

TRACK

Where's My Ballot? →

california.ballottrax.net