

California (CA-48) 2026

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

**JIM
DESMOND**
REPUBLICAN



**MARNI
VON WILPERT**
DEMOCRAT



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Unclear. Opposed a resolution to name San Diego “a champion of reproductive freedom,” calling it “politically divisive.” Opposed a proposal to explore lawsuits against crisis pregnancy centers, which oppose abortion. Voted to protect the privacy of reproductive health data.	Legal. Supports putting Roe v. Wade into federal law. Introduced a resolution declaring San Diego a “safe city for reproductive freedom and access to abortion.” “ Medical decisions must be between women and their doctors, not judges and politicians.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Mostly no. Opposed San Diego County’s Climate Action Plan , saying it would stifle homebuilding. Opposes “climate policies” that “punish families, seniors, and small businesses.” Wants to “leverage fossil fuels responsibly,” “invest in clean energy,” and “expand nuclear power.”	Yes. “ Climate change is an urgent threat.” Voted for San Diego’s zero-emissions Climate Action Plan . Supported a program to install electric vehicle charging stations. “We need to take care of our planet for the next generation.”
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Sought state funds to address jail inmates with behavioral health issues: “For many , the answer is treatment.” Initiated a 2022 effort to address sheriff department staffing shortages. Opposes “soft-on-crime policies being pushed by a radical liberal agenda.” “I will never vote to defund the police.”	“ Transparency in our police department is critical to build trust.” Supported automated license plate readers and smart streetlights with cameras in San Diego. Sought reforms to the Commission on Police Practices, calling its “long-term success...a cornerstone of police oversight and accountability.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mixed. Would “cut federal regulations driving up construction costs.” “There’s just way too much government regulation.” Wants a caregiver tax credit and utility-rate protections for seniors on fixed incomes. Would “invest in agricultural innovation.” Supports “incentives for electric vehicles...not mandates.”	Likely increase. Supports federal laws to regulate and promote “the safe development of emerging technologies.” Wants the federal government to fund FEMA “because natural disasters are going to continue to happen.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Mostly tighten. Supports “common-sense environmental standards, but not...punishing mandates.” Calls for “reducing industrial pollution and cleaning up toxic waste sites.” “The Tijuana sewage crisis is one of the biggest environmental disasters.” Opposes oil drilling off the California coast.	Tighten. Would “enforce the Clean Air and Water acts...and hold polluters accountable.” “I am wholeheartedly against raiding our public lands for logging, for drilling.” Opposes oil drilling off the California coast. “I am an environmentalist.”
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Mixed. Voted to spend \$250,000 annually for a gun violence prevention program in Spring Valley. Voted to oppose a gun control amendment to the U.S. Constitution. “ Guns are not violence — people are.” Opposed a bill banning “ ghost guns ,” with safe firearm storage guidelines.	Tighten. Introduced a ban on untraceable “ ghost guns .” Introduced a bill requiring gun vendors to implement security measures to prevent gun theft or loss. Supports universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, and stronger red flag laws.

ISSUES	DESMOND (R)	VON WILPERT (D)
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Unclear. Says the growth in “health care and social services” is harming the economy: “It’s taxpayers paying themselves while the productive economy stalls.” Calls for getting rid of fraud and waste in Medicaid and MediCal. “I will fight to protect Social Security and Medicare as the earned benefits they are.”	Increase. Would “fight to protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, restore ACA tax credits, and include a public option that gives families more affordable choices.” Supports expanding “Medicare’s power to negotiate prescription drug prices.” “We need health care that makes people healthier and not poorer.”
HOUSING How to address housing costs?	Says regulations and environmental lawsuits are “the two biggest reasons housing is so expensive.” Would “eliminate capital gains tax for seniors selling their home—incentivize them to...free up family housing.” Says a state transportation policy to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled “has become a weapon against housing.”	Initiated a program to provide San Diego teachers \$40,000 toward a down payment on their first home. Would “cut red tape and make it easier to build more affordable housing” and ensure “people can live closer to where they work.” Supported turning a vacant transit parking lot into low-income housing.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	“It’s time to fix our broken immigration system by securing our border...and ensuring that no one skips the line.” Would “welcome those who follow the rules.” Proposed repealing a policy that limits local assistance to federal immigration enforcement. “This reckless policy endangers the safety of San Diego families.”	Supports “reform that keeps our borders secure and provides legal pathways to citizenship for hardworking long-term residents and Dreamers who have grown up here as Americans.” Opposed deploying ICE officers to San Diego’s airport. Sponsored a resolution opposing ICE’s “unnecessarily aggressive and excessive” tactics.
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	Yes. “We have to not let Iran get a nuclear weapon.” Says the US should “keep our eye on the prize.... Once we are able to get rid of their nuclear capabilities, oil prices will come down again.”	No. “I would not support continuing an unauthorized war.... I would call for reasserting congressional authority.” “While Iran must never obtain a nuclear weapon, we can’t afford Trump’s reckless, directionless war.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Unclear. Opposed a half-cent sales tax increase, saying it was “being pushed by labor unions and their political allies.” In 2019, opposed a regional airport authority decision to do a project labor agreement with local unions. “I’m not anti-union,... But I draw the line at discrimination.”	Easier. Helped write the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act , which would protect collective bargaining and organizing rights. Supports the bill’s passage. “ We’re taking the fight to Congress to pass the PRO Act, expand union rights.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. Opposes transgender athletes in women’s sports. “ Men should not be competing in women’s sports.”	Expand. “I will fight ...to pass the Equality Act ,” protecting “against discrimination in employment, housing, education and public life.” Opposes book bans targeting “LGBTQ+ voices.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Likely no. Called a \$25 per hour minimum wage for San Diego hospitality workers a “mistake.” Opposed California’s \$20 minimum wage for fast food employees. Increases are “costly mandates that make living here even more expensive.”	Yes. Voted to raise the minimum wage for San Diego hospitality workers at large hotels, event centers, and amusement parks to \$25 per hour. “Big corporations on our waterfront are not small businesses.... They can pay a living wage.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Likely lower. Opposes a “Billionaire Tax” state ballot measure, saying the legislature could amend this one-time tax without voter input. “The answer isn’t tax, tax, tax—it’s getting government to live within its means.”	Raise. “The ultra wealthy in this country should be paying their fair share.” “We need to undo the permanent tax cuts from 2017,” which included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate and large tax breaks for the wealthy .”
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. Worked to put an initiative on the CA ballot in November requiring government-issued ID whenever one votes, not just when registering. “ Voting is one of our most sacred rights. Protecting it shouldn’t be controversial.”	Likely easier. Supports passage of legislation requiring certain states to get preclearance before changing voting rules. “The constitution is clear: states run elections and the federal government sets guardrails to protect voting rights.”

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