



## What's going on?



Photo by [Priscilla Gyamfi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Trump has chosen war thousands of miles away, while in Santa Clara County we are choosing to peacefully fight for democracy every day. "[You see, war is not the answer, for only love can conquer hate.](#)" This war may be a shiny object we are compelled to focus on, but we can not waste too much bandwidth on it. We must continue to be steadfast in organizing to support causes and candidates we know will help save these last vestiges of democracy.

### **War! What is it good for?**

#### **The Iran War: Causes, Costs, and Consequences**

Even though Iranian officials had signaled willingness to negotiate a new nonproliferation deal in February, with terms mediators described as going [further than any previous agreement](#), the Trump administration chose war over diplomacy. Instead of accepting it, the administration launched Operation Epic Fury. The Defense Intelligence Agency assessed that Iran was at least a decade away from missiles capable of reaching the United States. This was not a war of necessity, it was a war of choice, driven by the logic of force over law and likely Trump's need to distract from his [coverup of the Epstein files](#).

The consequences are already severe, and history warns they will deepen. We've seen this before in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya: regime change launched with confidence and

ending in chaos. The administration has announced the end of Iran's theocratic regime as a goal, but offered [no real plan](#) for what political order would follow. Without a plan for the day after, the vacuum we create will be filled with suffering.

[“Life is much too short and precious to be fighting wars these days; war can't give life, it can only take it away.”](#) The human and financial toll of this war is staggering. Among those killed are [200 children and 11 healthcare workers](#). Experts estimate the direct cost at [\\$65 billion](#), almost exactly what it would take to extend enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies for [two years](#). This administration slashed Medicaid and education funding, then found billions for bombs.

Needless to say, Democrats must continue to stand for diplomacy, accountability, and building a rules-based world order, not bloodthirsty wars of ego.

### [For What It's Worth:](#) **A Story of Hope from Our Next Generation**



Photo by Nivi C. Shome

On January 30th, approximately one thousand students at a local high school chose not to attend their advisory period (a free study block) to protest and speak their minds against the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the Trump Administration. Working collaboratively with school administrators, the students split the demonstration into three parts: a moment of silence for the lives lost by ICE, speeches by the student activists aimed at informing and inspiring the attendees, and a march around the campus to collectively reject brutality. You can read more [here](#).

### **Help Us Stand Up For Something: SCCDP Endorsements**

Below you will find the list of Santa Clara County Democratic Party endorsed candidates and measures so far for the June primary. Candidates are endorsed via a process that includes submission of a candidate questionnaire and interviews by the Endorsement Committee, which makes endorsement recommendations to the Central Committee.

- San Jose City Council District 5, sole endorsement
  - [Peter Ortiz](#)
- San Jose City Council District 7, dual endorsement
  - Rafael Garcia
  - [HG Nguyen](#)
- San Jose City Council District 9, sole endorsement

- [Gordon Chester](#)

- Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority [Measure D](#)

Further endorsements for the June Primary election (City of San Jose and Santa Clara County offices) will be considered at a special meeting of the Central Committee on March 19 and the regular meeting on April 2. The endorsement process for races in November will start sometime this summer. Candidates can learn about the process and request consideration by completing the form [here](#).

In the end, we will need to “[take a stand, make a stand for what's right, \[because\] it's always worth, always worth the fight](#)” for these candidates and measures the Central Committee has found will do something right for Santa Clara County.

### [America the Beautiful](#): Support Open Space in Silicon Valley

In addition to the candidates on the ballot, Santa Clara residents will get the chance to vote on [Measure D](#) in the June primary: Funding for the Open Space Authority. Open Space Authority is a Santa Clara based special district in place since 1993 charged with maintaining over 30,000 acres of open land within Silicon Valley. These spaces are open for all Californians to visit and see the Bay's natural beauty. Last year alone, over 500,000 visited their four open space preserves,

To date, these preserves have been funded through a 2-cent-per-square-foot parcel tax overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2014. Measure D is a renewal of this parcel tax to maintain these green spaces, as the initial tax is set to expire at the end of 2029. Without this initiative, the Open Space Authority warns it will have to scale back operations across the four parks. As a voter-sponsored initiative, Measure D requires a simple majority to pass.

### Under The Radar:

It's hard to keep track of the damage Trump and the GOP are causing. Here's some stories to pay attention to.

Trump's Iran misadventures aren't popular. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/poll-majority-voters-disapproves-trump-handled-iran-rcna261564>

The DOJ is trying to take down Epstein files. Why? Read on. <https://www.cbsnews.com/projects/2026/epstein-files/>

Pam Bondi finally released more Epstein documents - that implicate Trump in at least one rape of an underaged girl. <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/03/05/donald-trump-epstein-files-allegations-00816123>

Republicans block funding for DHS agencies (except ICE, CBP). Despite complaining about lack of funding. <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5779152-democrats-bill-dhs-tsa-fema/>

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