

UC-AFT Committee on Political Education (COPE Council) Meeting Guide

Meeting date: 2024-01-21

Question for the COPE Council: shall UC-AFT endorse a candidate for US Senate for the March 5, 2024 California Democratic Primary?

Note: while it may endorse candidates for federal office, our COPE cannot donate to them

List of potential actions:

- Yes, endorse one or more candidate
- No, do not endorse any candidate

ENDORSEMENT DECISIONS BY OUR LABOR AFFILIATES

- CFT: "Open" endorsement; CFT takes no official position, allows locals to endorse
- CLF (AFL-CIO): Triple endorsement of Lee, Porter, and Schiff

VIDEO OF CANDIDATES SPEAKING TO OUR ISSUES (90 MINUTES LONG)

- Link to video of CFT State Council interviews with three top candidates (includes youtube ai transcript feature): <https://youtu.be/cY5-RBf9HJ8?feature=shared>

FUNDRAISING THROUGH SEPT 30, 2023 (OCT-DEC 2023 DATA NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL FEBRUARY)

- Adam Schiff, \$32 million cash on hand
- Katie Porter, \$12 million cash on hand
- Barbara Lee, \$1.3 million cash on hand

HELPFUL NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RACE

- Race overview: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2023-11-19/2024-california-senate-election-ballot-four-times>
- Foreign policy: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2023-10-26/israel-foreign-policy-california-senate-lee-schiff-porter>
- Polling: <https://emersoncollegepolling.com/california-2024-poll-schiff-and-garvey-gain-support-in-crowded-primary/>; <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/12/21/schiff-california-senate-00132816>

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME

BARBARA LEE

- Campaign web site: <https://barbaraleeforca.com/>
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Lee
- Current position: US Representative for Bay Area district since 1998
- Age: 77 years old
- Most known for: casting a vote in opposition to the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001
- Endorsements: <https://barbaraleeforca.com/endorsements/>

Performance at CFT State Council Zoom Interview: Stood out by not just supporting teachers' unions, but calling for free college and the abolition of student debt, and linking her campaign to other social movements. Demonstrated clear understanding of K-12 and higher education issues.

KATIE PORTER

- Campaign web site: <https://katieporter.com>
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katie_Porter
- Current position: US Representative for Irvine district since 2018
- Age: 49 years old
- Most known for: winning as a Democrat in an historically Republican district, challenging corporate power in House hearings (sometimes using whiteboards)
- Endorsements: <https://katieporter.com/news/>

Performance at CFT State Council Zoom Interview: Stood out by positioning herself as not a career politician and therefore outside the Democratic Party establishment, willing to take on corporate power. Demonstrated clear understanding of K-12 and higher education issues.

ADAM SCHIFF

- Campaign web site: <https://www.adamschiff.com/>
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Schiff
- Current position: US Representative representing a northern Los Angeles County district since 2000
- Age: 63 years old
- Most known for: Lead Prosecutor for Donald Trump's first impeachment trial in 2020
- Endorsements: <https://www.adamschiff.com/endorsements/>

Performance at CFT State Council Zoom Interview: Gave the single best explanation of how growing inequality today can be traced back to the decline of labor union membership, and why remedying inequality must include making it easier to form unions and bargain contracts. Demonstrated clear understanding of K-12 and higher education issues.