

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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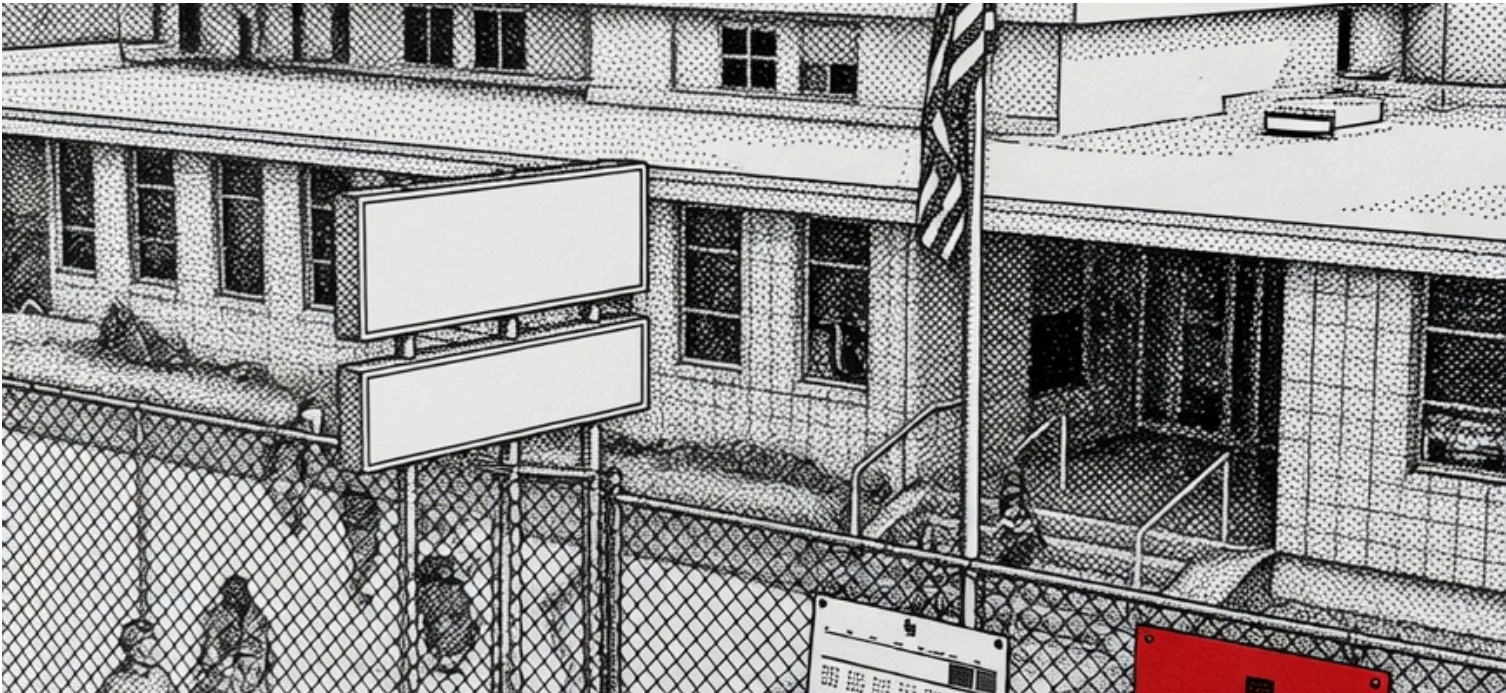
Serial Rapist Deported at Least Eight Times Faces Reinstated Charges in Clark County

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DOWNTOWN

Tuberculosis Exposure Reported at Innovation High School in Chula Vista



Illustration

The County’s Tuberculosis Prevention and Care Program, in collaboration with Innovation High School at 310 Broadway, Chula Vista CA 91910, are working to notify students and staff who were potentially exposed to tuberculosis (TB) at Innovation High School from June 1, 2025 to Sept. 4, 2025.

The school and County have notified individuals at highest risk of infection. No-cost TB screening is being arranged for students and staff who are at increased risk of infection.

TB is an airborne disease that is transmitted from person-to-person through inhalation of the bacteria from the air. The bacteria are spread when someone who is sick with TB coughs, speaks, sings, or breathes. People with frequent or prolonged indoor exposure to a person who is sick with TB should get tested. Brief interactions with a person with contagious tuberculosis are less likely to lead to TB infection than are those who have prolonged or repeated exposures.

“Symptoms of active TB include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss,” said Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., MPH, County Public Health Officer. “Most people who become infected after exposure to tuberculosis do not get sick right away. This is called latent TB infection. Some who become infected with tuberculosis will become ill in the future, sometimes even years later, if their latent TB infection is not treated. For people who think they

may have been exposed, blood tests and skin tests are an effective way to determine an infection.”

Effective treatments are available to cure people who are sick from active TB.

People who test positive for TB but who don’t have symptoms of active TB should get a chest x-ray and talk to a medical provider, as they most likely have a latent TB infection. People in this situation are infected with TB, but the infection is essentially dormant or “sleeping.” Taking medicines for latent TB infection can cure the infection and keep these people from getting sick.

It is especially important for individuals with symptoms of active TB and those who are immune compromised to see a medical provider to rule out active TB and to discuss preventive treatment.

Individuals who would like more information on this potential exposure should call the County TB Prevention and Care Program at 619-692-8621.

The number of people diagnosed with active TB in San Diego County has decreased since the early 1990s when it hit a high of 469. In 2020, there were 193 TB cases, 201 in 2021, 208 in 2022 and 241 in 2023. In 2024, a total of 247 people were reported with active TB disease in San Diego County. An estimated 175,000 people in San Diego County have latent TB infection and are at risk for developing active TB without preventive treatment.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 7, 2025



Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

COUNTY

Official Ballot Drop Boxes Open for November Special Election

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 7, registered voters can return their mail ballot for the Nov. 4 special election to any of the over 140 official ballot drop boxes located around the county.

Mail ballots for the County’s over 2 million registered voters are expected to arrive this week.

What do the Registrar’s official ballot drop boxes look like?

The Registrar’s official ballot drop boxes are red, white and blue and feature the Registrar’s logo along with the County seal. All boxes are labeled “Official Ballot Drop Box” and made from high grade, heavy gauge stainless steel.

Each official ballot drop box is designed to prevent physical damage and unauthorized access to mail ballots. The boxes feature double-locking access doors, anti-pry door jambs and other anti-theft construction measures. The Registrar’s ballot retrieval team is responsible for collecting ballots inside the box.

How do I return my ballot to an official ballot drop box?

Mark your ballot, seal your completed ballot inside your return envelope, date and sign your name on the return envelope, and return it in the mail or to one of the Registrar’s official

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Official Ballot Drop Boxes Open for November Special Election

ballot drop boxes around the county. Remember, your signature is required for your vote to count.

Visit sdvote.com to check the location list or the locator map for each facility’s hours of operation before heading out to return your ballot.

Early voting began Monday at the Registrar of Voters office in Kearny Mesa , located at 5600 Overland Ave., San Diego. The Registrar’s office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the Registrar encourages voters to take advantage of the convenience of voting by mail.

If you want to vote in person, take advantage of early voting. Starting Saturday, Oct. 25, select vote centers located around the county will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Saturday, Nov. 1, all vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the final day of voting, Nov. 4, all vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar’s office will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters throughout the state will decide whether to adopt

Proposition 50, an amendment to the State Constitution related to redistricting. You can learn more about the proposition in the California Voter Information Guide .

Voters who reside in the City of Poway’s Council District 2 will have an additional question on their ballot. Poway District 2 voters will decide whether to remove their elected representative on the city council from office. Only voters living in Poway’s Council District 2 are eligible to vote on this contest. If you’re not sure whether you live in the district, you can look it up at sdvote.com .

Learn more about voting in the November special election at sdvote.com, or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 7, 2025

COUNTY
County Offers Fee Waivers for Disaster Recovery-Related Processes

The County Board of Supervisors voted to waive certain fees for people who lost their homes in the Sept. 8 Coches Fire, including those associated with debris removal, burned vehicle

disposal, rebuilding and document replacement.

Four mobile homes, and three accessory structures were destroyed. The fee waiver effort is expected to save residents approximately \$18,000 for various permits and plan checks within the Building Division. In total disposal costs alone, residents could save up to \$4,300.

County Environmental Health and Quality estimates residents could save up to \$10,098 for the septic system or water well permits. The replacement of vital records and documents could save residents up to \$500.

A Planning and Development Services recovery liaison is assigned to each affected property owner and serves in a caseworker-type role working directly for those people who were affected by the fire. They help find recovery resources and help them with permitting and rebuilding information.

Guidance and resources are also provided to property owners at no cost on request for mobile home repair and permitting, safe restoration of water wells, pools, and septic systems, off property fire damage and erosion control.

Among the County service fees that can be waived are:

Various solid waste disposal fees can be waived for franchise haulers, transfer stations and landfills on fire debris collected from properties damaged or destroyed in the Coches Fire. Residents or their contractors may request to pass on these fee waivers when they arrange for service by informing the customer service representative that the service is for a Coches Fire-damaged property.

Household hazardous waste collection is available for free to property owners through a County Public Works (DPW) contractor.

For questions on debris collection or disposal, residents can reach out to DPW by email at recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov or by phone at (858) 694-2456.

Removal and disposal of burned or damaged vehicles, including mobile homes and recreational vehicles can be done at no cost through the County’s Vehicle Abatement Program.

Building plan check and permit issuance fees can be waived.

Septic system and water well installation permit fees and plan review fees can be waived.

Vital record, deeds and

other property-related and business document replacement fees from the Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk’s Office can be waived.

For assistance with this reach out to ARCCRecorderCountyClerk.FGG@sdcounty.ca.gov or (619) 237-0502.

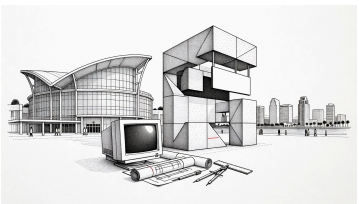
To qualify for the fee waivers, residents can apply with the County Building Division which will verify structures lost or damaged in the Coches Fire including those not listed in the initial damage report. Once qualified, they need only bring proof of parcel ownership to get the fee waivers.

In partnership with local non-governmental organizations, the Office of Emergency Services’ AlertSanDiego website can connect residents to supplemental recovery services, including financial assistance for immediate needs, mental health support, clothing replacement, hazardous tree removal, and short-term housing for households whose homes were destroyed. For information on this, reach out to oes@sdcounty.ca.gov or (858) 565-3490.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 3, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight: 3D Expo Solutions

Your Partner in Designing the Ultimate Trade Show Exhibit

Dennis Doyle’s journey in the trade show industry began in 1994 as a union carpenter with locals 974 and 831 in Baltimore and San Diego. While he honed his craft, he envisioned running his own business, so when the convention and trade show events world shut down in 2020 due to the pandemic, Dennis tapped into his lifelong love of surfing and opened a surfboard repair, sales, and rental business. It was built on resilience, craftsmanship and his deep commitment to helping others succeed. That entrepreneurial spirit set the foundation for 3D Expo Solutions.

Whether you’re a Fortune

500, startup or small business, 3D Expo Solutions handles every detail of your exhibit booth needs from custom design, fabrication and graphics to logistics, shipping, installation and dismantling. Clients know exactly what to expect well before an event thanks to detailed mockups and full setup photos from our 15,000 sq. ft. design studio in El Cajon. We create eye-catching, high-impact booths for conventions and trade shows, highlighting your brand and merchandise. We also design and build smaller, permanent, museum-quality, private installations to your specifications.

3D Expo Solutions is continuously upgrading and using the latest technologies and materials to deliver top-quality graphics, lighting, lamination, and printing. Booths are available for rental or purchase, and every project is tailored to your specifications, timeline, and budget. Sizes range from 10’ x 10’ to any size and are shipped domestically and

internationally with trusted partners to ensure everything arrives show-ready.

Some of our clients include industry giants Google TV, Lockheed, Delta, Panasonic, Nissan, Honda, BrinksHome, Ripple, Ultra Maritime, Modern Treasury, and GlobalJet, but 3D Expo Solutions is just as passionate about working with small businesses helping them create a unique and memorable presence. Reach out to Dennis 858-349-0630 for your exhibit needs.

Let the professionals take it from here. With 3D Expo Solutions, your next exhibit isn’t just built - it’s unforgettable.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 7, 2025

BUSINESS
TOOTRiS “Wind Beneath Your Wings Summit” unites more than 200 Child Care industry leaders

Earlier this month, Chamber member TOOTRiS hosted the First Ever Wind Beneath Your

Wings Summit in San Diego, uniting more than 200 Child Care leaders, innovators, and decision makers from 33 states in person and online. The mission was clear: to shape a stronger future for Child Care by putting technology at the center of building a system that is resilient, scalable, and sustainable for generations to come.

The discussions were candid and urgent. Child Care Resource & Referral agencies — the local organizations families and providers rely on — joined with industry leaders to share the challenges they face, reimagine what is possible, and share bold, innovative solutions. Throughout the Summit, TOOTRiS showcased how technology can serve as the backbone to scale those solutions into measurable, lasting change — unlocking new opportunities for families, strengthening providers, and supporting the employers who depend on them.

The Summit culminated in the 2025 Wings of Innovation

CCR&R Awards, where attendees voted live to award more than \$10,000 in prizes to six of the boldest ideas that were pioneered over the past year — from tackling rural Child Care deserts to expanding infant care and driving policy change.

Why this matters to you: Child Care is workforce infrastructure. Without it, hiring and retention suffer. The models honored at the Summit are real, working solutions — blueprints that can be adapted in any community. And with TOOTRiS as the technology partner, those solutions can scale quickly and effectively.

TOOTRiS News & Education Center: The 2025 Wings of Innovation CCR&R Award Winners

Innovative Minds, Bold Solutions: Announcing the Winners of the First Ever 2025 Wings of Innovation CCR&R Awards

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 3, 2025

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AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA
Serial Rapist Deported at Least Eight Times Faces Reinstated Charges in Clark County

Mexican national Carlos Nava, who re-entered the U.S. illegally after multiple removals, withdrew his plea deal, prompting prosecutors to reinstate the dropped charges tied to a case involving at least 17 victims.

A serial rape suspect with a nearly 20-year criminal history remains in custody in Nevada after withdrawing an Alford plea deal, triggering the reinstatement of multiple sexual assault charges.

Carlos Nava, a 49-year-old Mexican national, had previously agreed to plead to one

count of sexual assault with use of a deadly weapon. That July 30 agreement led to eight other charges being dropped, according to court records reported by 8 News Now.

On Sept. 25, the day he was scheduled for sentencing, Nava withdrew the plea. Prosecutors immediately reinstated the full slate of charges dating back to 2010, according to a court docket obtained by Fox News Digital.

Nava has been deported at least eight times since 2002 yet repeatedly re-entered the country illegally, Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed to 8 News Now. His most recent deportation occurred in 2020. He also has prior arrests for battery and domestic violence.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police discovered 17 pairs of underwear folded and stored in a backpack that also contained latex gloves, all tied with a rubber band, according to statements attributed to authorities by Fox News.

Police documents show officers sought additional assault victims in 2022. After one incident, Nava was reportedly seen driving a white Ford truck.

Nava remains held at the Clark County Detention Center. A new trial date is expected to be set following his next court appearance on Oct. 9.

The case has drawn reaction from state leaders amid ongoing debates over immigration enforcement.

Governor Joe Lombardo stated, "Under my watch, Nevada will never be a safe haven for dangerous illegal criminals who defy our laws and endanger our communities."

The governor's remarks follow a recent Memorandum of Understanding between Nevada and the U.S. Department of Justice that ended the state's temporary "sanctuary" designation. The agreement commits Nevada to complying with federal immigration law, using the National Guard to assist enforcement, and directing FEMA funds toward immigration operations.

Assemblywoman Cecelia Gonzalez responded that Lombardo was using immigrants as scapegoats, writing,

"This tragedy is no excuse to scapegoat immigrants. Nevadans know immigrants are part of our strength and foundation. Real safety comes from investment in our communities, justice, and solutions. Not cheap political fearmongering."

The dispute occurs as illegal immigration emerges as a central issue in the state's gubernatorial race between Lombardo and Attorney General Aaron Ford. Ford has maintained he "has never supported sanctuary for criminals" while previously sponsoring legislation that would have limited local cooperation on immigration matters.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Oct 7, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



County waives its own fees

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

COMMENTARY
Progressives' 'Affordability Agenda' Is a Fraud

Edward Ring argues that despite a strategic pivot toward economic messaging, progressive policies have driven up living costs and triggered population flight from blue states to red ones.

In the aftermath of the 2024 elections, progressives are shifting away from identity politics and toward economic concerns. Activists are now promoting an "abundance movement" and pairing it with an emphasis on "affordability."

Progressive activist and commentator Donna Brazile

recently highlighted this approach in The Hill. She pointed to Democratic candidates for governor in Virginia and New Jersey who are campaigning on plans to reduce the costs of health care, housing, energy and groceries. Brazile is quoted as saying former Rep. Abigail Spanberger is running on her

"Affordable Virginia Plan" while Rep. Mikie Sherrill is promoting her "Affordability Agenda."

This pivot is politically shrewd. Leftist messaging has long relied on "nurturing resentment and exploiting envy" while promising to redistribute wealth, a pitch that is easier to sell than

conservative arguments centered on meritocracy, private property and deregulation.

Yet the strategy cannot succeed in practice. Affordability in the United States has been declining since the 1970s "thanks to policies almost exclusively promoted by progressives." Whenever

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COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Progressives’ ‘Affordability Agenda’ Is a Fraud

progressive arguments prevailed, their policies failed.

Evidence of that failure appears in population movements. A 2030 apportionment forecast projects California losing one congressional seat, New York losing two, and Oregon, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Pennsylvania each losing one. By contrast, Texas and Florida are each expected to gain four seats, with Arizona, Utah and Idaho each gaining one.

These shifts demonstrate that people increasingly prefer to live in states run by conservatives. Even battleground states like Pennsylvania reinforce the pattern of dissatisfaction with long-dominant progressive governance.

Over-regulation and high taxes in blue states harm businesses, including housing construction and small enterprises. These governments have favored subsidized renewables while burdening conventional energy with rules, under-invested in infrastructure, and directed funds toward unionized public workers and aid programs instead of fixing the cost-of-living problems their own policies created.

As a result, blue states are losing residents yet continue to reelect the same leaders. This is due to progressives’ rhetorical edge and heavy financial support from “crony corporations and public sector unions” that benefit from the regulatory environment.

Progressive rules actually help large corporations that can absorb compliance costs, allowing them to dominate markets and raise prices — an outcome at odds with leftist rhetoric. In contrast, conservative-led states like Texas

and Florida deliver lower costs through fewer restrictions.

The median home price is \$866,000 in California but only \$339,000 in Texas. Progressive versions of affordability rely on rent control, high taxes and redistribution sold through resentment, while their abundance agenda offers only selective deregulation limited to high-density housing and renewables.

Edward Ring, director of water and energy policy at the California Policy Center, concludes that no matter how progressives rebrand, their policies and supporting interests are “inherently oriented” toward scarcity, high prices and hyper-regulation. Voters must ultimately decide between rhetoric and results.

The bottom line: Progressives “are inherently incapable of delivering abundance or affordability.”

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Oct 8, 2025

COMMENTARY Teachers Union Thwarts Bid to Tackle Antisemitism in California Schools

Will Swaim of the California Policy Center contends that union pressure transformed a targeted antisemitism bill into an ineffective bureaucracy that shields progressive politics at the expense of student safety and learning.

California faces a serious issue with antisemitism in its public schools, but a bill now awaiting the governor’s signature offers little hope of solving it, according to Will Swaim of the California Policy Center.

Swaim writes that Assembly Bill 715 began in February as a direct effort to address hatred against Jews in classrooms. It passed the state Assembly unanimously

and appeared headed for easy approval in the Senate.

Instead, the powerful California Teachers Association stepped in, leading to extended talks that reshaped the measure. The final version, approved by the Senate and sent to Gov. Gavin Newsom, calls for a large new Office of Civil Rights within the state education department.

This office would monitor civil rights issues for a wide array of racial, ethnic and gender identities preferred by the political left, with antisemitism added almost as an afterthought, Swaim writes.

The legislation would also create an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The job would involve developing educational materials, consulting with school staff and recommending new laws to prevent bias against Jews.

Yet Swaim notes that the coordinator would have scant real power to enforce change. He suggests this weak outcome explains why Newsom is likely to sign the bill.

Swaim writes that the measure represents “a do-nothing law that promises to do everything,” allowing the governor to sidestep a clash between Jewish lawmakers and the teachers union, which he describes as functioning like a fourth branch of state government.

Swaim sees a revealing upside in the union’s success at watering down the bill. By fighting meaningful action, the California Teachers Association has shown why the state’s once-admired school system now ranks near the bottom nationally.

In a July letter opposing the original Assembly version of AB 715, the union stated it was “firmly committed to schools that are free of racism, sexism, religious and

gender discrimination.” It quickly added worries about “academic freedom” and the need for instruction reflecting California’s diversity.

The union warned that backing the measure would aid “a regime in Washington D.C. that sows division” and could “weaponize public education” against progressive causes such as LGBTQ+ inclusivity, according to Swaim.

Swaim reports that the union’s deepest fear was that the bill might appear to “privilege” Jewish students over other groups. This would undermine the union’s goal of elevating certain identities while advancing its political aims.

The letter equated antisemitism with other biases, including racism, Islamophobia and anti-LGBTQ+ prejudice. It complained that the bill would set standards for teaching about Israel and Palestine that do not apply to conflicts in Ukraine, Rwanda or Congo.

Swaim counters that no organized effort in California schools promotes the Ku Klux Klan, marginalizes Muslim children, pushes young women into early motherhood or seeks to harm gay students. Antisemitism, however, has been actively promoted by some union affiliates and school leaders, he writes.

Examples cited by Swaim include the Oakland school board and its teachers union expressing support for Hamas and calling for Israel’s elimination after the October 7, 2023, attacks, prompting more than 30 Jewish families to leave the district.

In Berkeley, a federal complaint filed by the Brandeis Center and the Anti-Defamation League described “severe and persistent” harassment of Jewish students, including slurs, Holocaust references and biased

lessons. Similar incidents have been documented in San Francisco, Carmel, Campbell, Los Angeles, Pajaro Valley and Santa Ana.

Swaim points to United Teachers of Los Angeles President Cecily Myart-Cruz, who once said “It’s OK that our babies may not have learned all their times tables” as long as they understood concepts like the difference between a riot and a protest. He accuses union leaders of prioritizing ideology over instruction.

California spends more per pupil than any other state yet consistently ranks among the nation’s worst for public education, with especially steep declines in math, writing and science, Swaim observes. He argues that union officials find it easier to lecture about foreign conflicts than to reverse decades of educational decline.

Swaim calls for firing teachers who turn classrooms into sites of indoctrination rather than learning. Only then, he writes, can the state restore the quality of education that once made California schools the envy of the nation.

In blocking genuine reform on antisemitism, the union has laid bare its preference for progressive politics over the education of children, Swaim concludes.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Oct 3, 2025

ABOUT THIS PAPER San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first — City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.

MORE NEWS

COUNTY

Ballots Go Out to Registered Voters for November Special Election

Over 2 million ballots are on their way to the County’s registered voters for the Nov. 4 special election . Voters should receive their ballots the week of Monday, Oct. 6, but some may receive theirs as early as this weekend. The official ballot packet will also include an “I Voted” sticker.

Voters throughout the state will decide whether to adopt Proposition 50, an

amendment to the State Constitution related to redistricting. You can learn more about the proposition in the California Voter Information Guide .

Voters who reside in the City of Poway’s Council District 2 will have an additional question on their ballot. Poway District 2 voters will decide whether to remove their elected representative on the city council from office. Only voters living in Poway’s Council District 2 are eligible to vote on this contest. If you’re not sure whether you live in the

district, you can look it up at sdvote.com .

You can vote from home and return your ballot through the mail – no postage needed – or to any of the Registrar’s official ballot drop boxes starting Tuesday, Oct. 7, through the final day of voting Tuesday, Nov. 4. Visit sdvote.com for a list of locations and hours of operation.

Remember to sign and date your return ballot envelope. You must sign your return envelope for your vote to be counted.

Voters who return their

ballot through the U.S. Postal Service can track it by signing up for “ Where’s My Ballot? ”.

Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 6, at the Registrar of Voters office in Kearny Mesa , located at 5600 Overland Ave., San Diego. The Registrar’s office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the Registrar encourages voters to take advantage of the convenience of voting by mail.

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25, select vote centers located around the county will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Saturday, Nov. 1, all vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the final day of voting, Nov. 4, all vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar’s office will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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