

U.S. HOUSE CANDIDATE COMPARISON: CALIFORNIA-45

A Nonpartisan Resource for Voters in the 2024 Election

Catholic Social Justice teaches that we have a responsibility to participate in politics out of a concern for and commitment to the common good. We are called to engage with openness and empathy, inform ourselves about the issues of the day, partake in serious conversations about our nation's future, and **vote**.

Here is where the U.S. House District CA-45 candidates stand on the issues.

We invite you to consider this information prayerfully.

To learn more and make your voting plan, head to networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter.



Derek Tran
Democrat
derektranforcongress.com

Election Day:
Tuesday,
November 5th

Michelle Steel
Republican
Incumbent
michellesteelca.com



	Derek Tran	Election Day:	Michelle Steel
FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET	Yes. Supports clean energy and "increased investment into climate solutions " to "fight the effects of climate change ." "We need to get rid of our reliance on fossil fuels."	Environment Should addressing climate change be a top priority?	Mostly no. Opposed the Inflation Reduction Act, which committed \$369 billion to address climate change. Said banning new gas stations to combat climate change will lead to higher gas prices . Voted to not require major federal contractors to disclose climate emissions. Listed her endorsement from the American Conservation Coalition, focused on nuclear power as the main climate solution.
	Likely increase. "I plan on pushing common-sense legislation to make our economy work for everyone." Supports the Inflation Reduction Act and similar laws "to make the economy work ."	Economy Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Decrease. Would fight "burdensome and unnecessary federal regulations that stifle business growth and job creation." Is " fighting out-of-touch socialist policies that are driving up inflation." Government should live within its means.
FREEDOM FROM HARM	Tighten. Would " stand up to the gun lobby" and address the gun violence epidemic. Supports "universal background checks and a ban on assault weapons."	Gun Laws Loosen or tighten gun regulations?	Loosen. Voted against the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act , which tightened background checks and offered grants to states for "red flag" laws and crisis prevention programs. Voted against expanding background checks for private gun sales.
	Expand. "Will fight... against extremists who want to..." " discriminate against LGBTQ " communities."	LGBTQ Rights Limit or expand rights for LGBTQ+ people?	Limit. Voted against prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Voted against federally recognizing same-sex marriage .
	Wants more police on the streets to " crack down on rising crime " and put dangerous criminals in prison." Seeks "more investments in violence prevention and rehabilitation programs to address the root causes of crime."	Criminal Justice How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Sponsored the JUSTICE Act, supporting funding for body-worn cameras, law enforcement accountability, and de-escalation training. "I am committed to cracking down on criminals.... Police need MORE funds, not less."

	Derek Tran Democrat	Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th	Michelle Steel Republican Incumbent
FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY	Increase. <u>Supports</u> lowering the cost of prescription drugs. <u>Supports</u> allowing Medicare to <u>negotiate prices</u> . "Healthcare should be a <u>right</u> , not a privilege."	Health Care Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Mixed. <u>Supports</u> a "market-based" health system and <u>opposes</u> single-payer government medical insurance. <u>Supports</u> expanding access to telehealth for Medicare patients. <u>Supports</u> lowering prescription drug costs, but <u>voted against</u> a bipartisan bill to <u>cap insulin prices</u> .
FREEDOM TO LIVE IN A WELCOMING COUNTRY	Mixed: <u>Would</u> "modernize our asylum process; create...pathways to citizenship for undocumented [DACA] Dreamers" and others. <u>Would</u> ensure border agents have the numbers and "necessary resources to efficiently and humanely process migrant claims."	Immigration Defend the right to asylum and support a path to citizenship for DACA participants brought to the U.S. as children?	Opposes: <u>Supports</u> increased immigration <u>restrictions</u> because Biden policies <u>allow</u> "millions of illegal migrants to take advantage of our weak border." Unclear about DACA citizenship.
FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY	Easier. "Will work to <u>strengthen voting rights</u> for every American and defend our free and fair elections."	Voting Rights Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. <u>Voted against expanding</u> voter registration and voting access in 2022 and <u>2021</u> .
FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES	Easier. "All workers should be able to join a union." The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act <u>would give</u> "workers a chance to negotiate for better wages, benefits and working conditions."	Labor Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Harder. <u>Sponsored</u> a bill placing <u>restrictions</u> on unions. <u>Voted against</u> the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would <u>protect</u> union organizing and collective bargaining.
	Yes. "Will fight to make the minimum wage a living wage."	Minimum Wage Raise federal minimum from \$7.25/hour?	No. <u>Opposed</u> raising the federal minimum wage to \$15. <u>Introduced</u> a bill ending minimum wage rights for gig workers.
	No position found.	Student Financial Aid Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	Unclear. <u>Opposes</u> student loan forgiveness; it will "cost taxpayers billions of dollars." Student debt is " <u>not sustainable</u> for students and families. Congress must make reforms."
	Likely raise. <u>Supports</u> "going after" "greedy and harmful corporations." <u>Wants</u> "more transparency to stop corporations from buying elections," with tax cuts for "middle-class families and small businesses."	Taxes Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	No position found specifically on taxing the wealthy and corporations. <u>Supports</u> lower taxes for "working Americans and small businesses."