

California will elect a new governor in 2026. The primary is June 2 and the top two candidates will face off on November 3. If you are in California, make sure you are [registered to vote!](#) This election comes as a pivotal time for California's environmental leadership. California's next governor must be ready to step in and, from day one, continue the State's leadership on climate and environmental issues.

California has [made progress](#) over the past two decades to reduce emissions, deploy clean energy, ramp up the deployment of zero-emission vehicles, and build coalitions with other leading states. Successive governors from both parties have played a pivotal role in setting this agenda. However, California [is not on track to meet its 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target](#). The State needs to accelerate the pace of deployment, while tackling electricity affordability challenges, managing increasing climate risks, ramping up housing production, and ensuring California remains accessible for all residents. California's next governor needs to be ready to tackle these complex challenges.

California must take up this task in the face of a hostile federal government that is actively working against clean energy, zero emission vehicles, and protection of natural and working lands – and that is taking direct aim at state authority to advance clean energy policies, including California's authority to regulate vehicle emissions under the Clean Air Act.

To help ensure that California's next governor is ready, CLEE has launched a nonpartisan initiative to educate all candidates running for governor on critical climate, energy, and environmental issues. We have developed a set of [policy briefs](#) and will be extending invitations to all candidates to join one-on-one briefings on these topics. These materials and other resources will be hosted on our website, [ClimateVote.org](#), so that they are available to anyone who is interested.

The graphic features a background image of a coastline with waves crashing against rocks. At the top left is the logo for California Environmental Voters, which consists of a white checkmark inside a square followed by the text 'CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL VOTERS'. The main title is centered in large white font: 'Our Climate Future: A Forum with California's Next Governor'. Below the title is a blue horizontal bar with white text: 'Moderated by Sammy Roth and Louise Bedsworth'. Underneath that, the date and time are listed: 'Wednesday, January 28 at 4pm', followed by the RSVP link: 'RSVP here: envirovoters.org/forum'. Below the text are four circular portraits of the participants: Katie Porter, Xavier Becerra, Tom Steyer, and Eric Swalwell. At the bottom of the graphic are logos for the organizing institutions: UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy & the Environment; the Climate Center Action Fund; NRDC Action Fund; and the California State Seal.

As part of this initiative, CLEE will be co-hosting [a forum](#) with four of the top candidates running to be California's next governor on Wednesday, January 28. [California Environmental Voters](#) extended invitations to the top six candidates for governor, based on recent polling. Four candidates accepted the invitation; two did not. You can [register to join the forum here](#).

California's environmental leadership has transcended party - both in the Governor's Office and with the public. The next governor will be the steward of this legacy.