

# Know Before You Go: CA-21 District Primer

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**92,000 registered voters in this district didn't vote in the last election.** We only need 20% of them to come out and vote Democrat to flip this seat. With your help, that's what we're going to do.

## About the Incumbent

**Introduction:** Republican David Valadao, a three-term incumbent, was born and raised in Hanford, CA where he lives with his wife, Terra, and their three children. He is of Portuguese descent, like many in the San Joaquin Valley, and is 40 years old. He is managing partner of Valadao Dairy, which he co-owns with his brothers. He attended College of the Sequoias in Visalia.

**Issues:** Valadao has consistently voted with Trump (98%). He's voted against the ACA and supported TrumpCare. He's voted against a women's right to choose, recently voting to criminalize abortions after 20 weeks. He opposes gay marriage, favored the Republican tax bill, and voted to weaken Dodd-Frank and to stop regulation of greenhouse gas. He supports building the Keystone Pipeline, and has cited "burdensome federal regulations" as a factor to California's drought (not Climate Change).

**Committees:** Valadao is on the Appropriations Committee, and three subcommittees.

**Recent Elections:** He won the district three times, with 57.8% of the vote in 2012 and 2014, and 56.7% in 2016.

**Strengths:** Valadao's support for Trump is tepid, at best. He is fully-aligned with Agriculture, the most powerful special interest in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Potential Weaknesses:** On Agricultural issues, Valadao sides with owners, ignoring laborers who need social programs and affordable healthcare. He supported Trump Care, which could strip coverage from up to 60,000 people in CA-21. Valadao has a 93% approval rating from the NRA and a 0% rating from the ACLU and Planned Parenthood.

## About the Challenger

**Introduction:** Democrat TJ Cox is an engineer, agricultural entrepreneur and small businessman with a background in chemical engineering and business administration. Cox is president of the Central Valley NMTC Fund which is investing in economically disadvantaged Central Valley areas by funding health clinics and job training programs.

**Issues:** TJ Cox supports expanding access to health care through community clinics, immigration reform and protection of DACA recipients, protecting Medicare and Social Security benefits for senior citizens, and enhanced education opportunities by fully funding public schools, community colleges and universities. Cox promotes improving air and water quality while supporting agriculture through investments in biomass and renewable energy, and increasing investment in the Central Valley through a federally funded Economic Empowerment Zone.

**Strengths:** TJ Cox plans to focus on healthcare policy and Valadao's vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act that would cut Medi-Cal for many district residents. Improved access to education may resonate in a district with about 43% of residents who don't hold a high school diploma. Protecting access to medical and social services and promoting economic investment in the Central Valley should appeal to a large segment of the population of one of the poorest districts in California. Cox's engineering and small business experience, combined with his record of creating jobs and financing community health clinics in the district set a firm foundation for his campaign.



## CA-21: Better Know the District

### CA-21: Facts & Stats

#### Largest Cities

- Hanford, 55,659
- Delano, 52,733
- Sanger, 24,950
- Selma, 24,414
- Portions of Bakersfield, 343,360, are in this district

#### 2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton, 55%
- Trump, 40%

#### 2016 House Results

- Valadao, 75,126 (57%)
- Huerta 57,282 (43%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 92k (59% turnout)

#### 2014 House Results

- Valadao, 45,907 (58%)
- Renteria, 33,470 (42%)

#### Geography

CA-21 is in the San Joaquin Valley, the southern half of California's Central Valley. The district includes all of Kings County, and portions of Fresno County, Tulare County, and Kern County. It is one of the largest congressional districts in the state. Approximately 700,000 people live and work in the district.

#### Citizenry

The district is predominantly Latino (71%), and 19.3% white. The district contains a significant number of undocumented immigrants, many of whom are agricultural laborers. In 2013, the undocumented populations in each of the counties within or partially within CA-21 were estimated as follows: Kings County - 10,500; Tulare County - 36,500; Fresno County - 58,000; and Kern County - 58,500.

CA-21 has a poverty rate of 30.2%, and is among the poorest Congressional districts in California. 58.6% of the district have earned a high school diploma or higher. 9.1% of the district have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The median household income is \$37,970, while the mean household income is \$54,034.

#### Elections

This district has a Cook PVI of D+5. 47% of registered voters are Democrats, while 30% are Republican. In 2016, Clinton won 55.2% of the vote in this district, while Trump won only 39.7%. Obama won this district in 2008 and 2012. CA-21 has repeatedly been a high priority district for the DCCC.

#### Higher Education

West Hills Community College has two major campuses, one each in Kings and Fresno Counties. College of the Sequoias has a main campus in Tulare County and a major satellite campus in Kings County.

#### Industries

Agriculture is the dominant industry in the district. Almonds, stone fruit and grapes are major crops grown in the district. Petroleum is a major industry in Kern County, which is at the southern end of CA-21.

Master Jet Base Naval Air Station Lemoore is located in CA-21. This station is reportedly home to the Navy's entire west coast fighter/attack capability. The base has approximately 6,000 active-duty military and over 2,000 civilian employees. According to the Kings County Economic Development Corp., the base contributes more than \$1 billion annually to the regional economy and creates over 13,000 jobs.

#### Tourism

I-5, a major thoroughfare for auto travelers between Northern and Southern California, runs through the western portion of CA-21. The eastern portion of the district, including the town of Hanford, is in close proximity to the Kings River and numerous destinations in the Sierra Nevada, including the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Kings Canyon National Park.