



# Know Before You Go: CA-24 District Primer

*June 2018 • Researched, summarized, and edited by Swing Left's all-volunteer research team!*

**In the last election, Democrat Salud Carbajal won this district by 21,254 votes (6.8%).**

That's too close! With your help, we're going to keep this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

## About the Incumbent

**Introduction:** Democrat Salud Carbajal is seeking his second term representing CA-24 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Born in Mexico, he served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, including active duty service during the 1991 Gulf War. He holds a master's degree in organizational management from UCSB and served as a Santa Barbara County supervisor for 12 years.

**Issues:** Carbajal campaigned on a promise to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, support veterans, create jobs, make higher education more affordable, and protect the middle class. He opposes offshore oil drilling as proposed by the Trump administration.

**Committees & Legislation:** Carbajal serves on the Armed Services and Budget committees. He co-sponsored the Statue of Liberty Values Act to block the use of federal funds to enforce President Trump's Muslim immigration ban, and he introduced the California Clean Coast Act to ban offshore oil and gas leasing along California's Outer Continental Shelf.

**Recent Elections:** The 2016 CA-24 campaign, for a seat that became open upon the retirement of the Democratic incumbent, was the second most expensive in the state. Carbajal won by just under 7%, taking Santa Barbara County but losing San Luis Obispo County.

**Strengths:** Carbajal's positions on climate change and the environment, reproductive rights, minimum wage, and access to higher education are popular among Democrats as well as some moderate Republicans and independents. His personal story allows him to connect with immigrant communities, and his military record appeals to veterans.

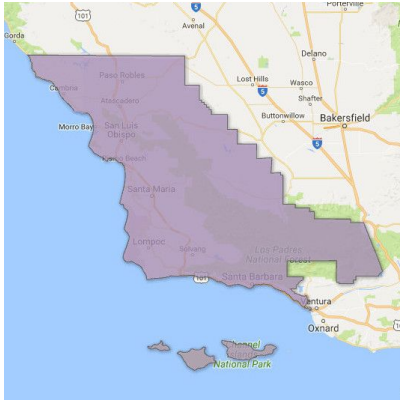
## About the Challenger

**Introduction:** Republican Justin Fareed was born and raised in Santa Barbara, attended Santa Barbara High School, and played football at UCLA, where after graduation, he joined the coaching staff. After UCLA, he worked as an aide for Congressman Ed Whitfield of Kentucky, and now is the president of his family's business, Pro-Brand Sports. He was the Republican nominee for this seat in 2016.

**Issues:** Fareed wants to strengthen the local economy and create jobs, by cutting through red tape. He wants to lower taxes, and provide greater accountability on how tax dollars are spent to eliminate debt. He supports immigration reform and has supported the wall in the some capacity. He believes that Obamacare doesn't work. His stance on a lot of social issues (abortion, gay rights, legal marijuana) are unknown.

**Strengths:** He is well-funded and has the financial support of a lot of oil companies, as well as the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. His family has deep ties to the community, and he has the support of a lot of small business owners. He outperformed Trump in the area in the 2016 election, so he may reach out of his party and independents. He has the support of the Santa Barbara Sheriff and other law enforcement agencies.

**Potential Weaknesses:** He has already run for this seat twice and lost, and he doesn't take firm stands on a lot of issues. He supported Trump in 2016, and never wavered from that. He has accepted money from a company that was responsible for a major oil spill in Santa Barbara County and is not against further offshore oil drilling in Santa Barbara County. In regards to equal pay for women, he thinks pay should be merit based.



## CA-24: Facts & Stats

### Population Centers

- Santa Maria, 100,000
- Santa Barbara, 88,000
- San Luis Obispo, 44,000
- Lompoc, 42,000
- Goletta, 30,000
- Atascadero, 26,000

### 2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 177K (57%)
- Trump: 114K (37%)

### 2016 House Results

- Carbajal (D): 166K (53%)
- Fareed (R): 145K (47%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 86K
- Eligible, not registered: 130K

### 2014 House Results

- Capps (D): 103K (52%)
- Mitchum (R): 96K (48%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 154K

## CA-24: Better Know the District

### Geography

CA-24 runs along California's southwestern coastline and encompasses Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties and parts of Ventura County. Large sections are rural, with many households living in unincorporated areas and small towns. A swath of the district is occupied by Vandenberg Air Force Base.

### Citizenry

The district is diverse ethnically and economically. It is 45% non-Hispanic white, and 45% Hispanic or Latino heritage. Santa Barbara County leans liberal, and San Luis Obispo leans conservative. The counties' household poverty rates are 15.6% in Santa Barbara and 14.4% in San Luis Obispo, both of which are slightly less than the statewide average of 16.6%. Issues of note in the district include immigration, water access, and environmental protection/conservation.

### Elections

Historically, the voter base had been Democratic, but it is now more balanced between the parties thanks to redistricting. Nevertheless, Democrats have held the congressional seat since 2013, and the party has made steady gains in presidential voting over the past three elections: 52% for Obama in 2008, 54% for Obama in 2012, and 57% for Clinton in 2016.

### Higher Education

There are several colleges, universities, and business and law schools in the district. They include two of the largest employers in the area: the University of California at Santa Barbara and California Polytechnic State University. Santa Barbara City College serves the post-secondary aspirations of many students from nearby K-12 districts.

### Industries

CA-24's biggest industries include education, healthcare, tourism/hospitality, and agriculture-related businesses. Aerospace and oil had been big in the past, but have scaled back substantially in recent decades.

### Tourism

The district's diverse tourism industry includes beaches, wineries and such landmarks and attractions as Hearst Castle. Tourism is viewed as a way to replace lost aerospace jobs.