

# Know Before You Go: CA-25 District Primer

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

**In the last election, Republican Stephen Knight won this district by only 16,349 votes (6.3%).**

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

## About the Incumbent

**Introduction:** Republican Stephen Knight is in his second term representing California's 25th District, which includes parts of Ventura County and the northern, less densely populated part of Los Angeles County.

**Issues:** A committed conservative, Knight voted for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, and wants to restructure Social Security (which he calls a "bad idea"), and roll back environmental, labor, and employment protections he sees as hampering economic growth. He is anti-abortion with no exceptions, in favor of defunding Planned Parenthood, and opposes any and all sensible gun reforms.

**Recent Elections:** Knight has won the district twice, both times with roughly 53% of the vote. However, CA-25 voted for Clinton in 2016, and Knight's Democratic challenger didn't have deep ties to the district. Knight didn't publicly support Trump, but he has fallen in line with party support in Congress. Paul Ryan campaigned for Knight in 2016.

**Strengths:** Knight's lifelong connection to the district and service in the military and the LAPD are an asset in a district with many LAPD officers, military personnel, and aerospace workers. The National Republican Congressional Committee's Patriot Program, which supports vulnerable GOP candidates, will help fund his campaign.

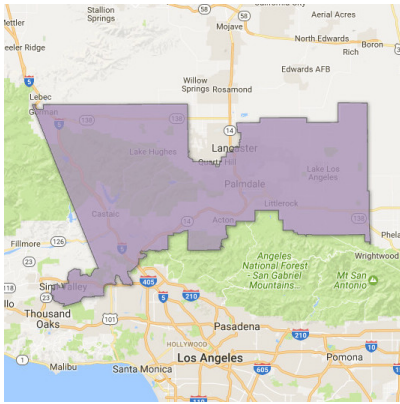
**Potential Weaknesses:** Knight is strongly anti-immigration in a district with a sizable Latino population (around 38%). He wants to repeal Obamacare and restructure Social Security despite his generally older constituency. He voted to delay a Department of Defense rule that protects military service members from predatory lending practices. He has avoided holding town hall meetings and was involved in a filmed altercation with anti-immigration protesters outside his office.

## About the Challenger

**Introduction:** Democrat Katie Hill is a first time Congressional nominee for CA-25. She was born and raised in the district and she currently lives on a farm in Agua Dulce. She has worked as the Executive Director for PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), and helped to pass measures that address homelessness, like Measures H and Prop HHH.

**Issues:** Hill is an advocate for Universal Health Care, and women's reproductive rights (she believes family planning for women and men should be a part of basic healthcare). She wants to protect Social Security and care for seniors, as well as care for veterans. While working for PATH, Hill saw how often veterans were left to live on the streets, and how deep their need for proper mental and physical care is. She believes in climate change, criminal justice reform, is a Gun Sense candidate for Moms Demand Action, and wants to work to fix income inequality, public education, and racial justice. She has identified as bisexual since she was a teenager and makes LGBTQ issues a priority.

**Strengths:** Hillary Clinton won this District in 2016. Hill is a new voice, is youthfully energetic, and is supported by Emily's List, Planned Parenthood, NARAL, Equality California, and Victory Fund. She has vowed not to take corporate political committees' contributions, and has the benefit of being the only Swing Left district in LA County. She has written editorials about fixing the ACA, and her non-profit work has demonstrated her promise and dedication to help the homeless, veterans, families, and seniors.



## CA-25: Better Know the District

### Geography

CA-25 covers parts of northern Los Angeles County and Ventura County. It contains three geographically and culturally distinct areas: Santa Clarita Valley, Simi Valley, and the Antelope Valley. Santa Clarita Valley and Simi Valley contain bedroom communities which feed into Greater Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, and Ventura County. Palmdale and Lancaster, in the Antelope Valley, are more isolated and connected to the nearby desert areas.

### Citizenry

CA-25 is becoming increasingly diverse. The population is currently 44.8% white, 35.7% hispanic, 7.7% Black, 7.8% Asian, and largely Catholic/other Christian with a small but vocal Mormon population. Santa Clarita Valley is culturally connected to Los Angeles and is the most Democrat-friendly part of CA-25. Roughly a third of its residents live in Valencia, a master-planned neighborhood and the location of Six Flags Magic Mountain. Young families tend to move here for larger houses and better schools. Simi Valley, the most conservative, wealthiest, and whitest (78.2%) part of CA-25, repeatedly ranks in the top-20 most conservative U.S. cities. Many LAPD officers live here. The Antelope Valley has expanded greatly in recent decades, including a rapid rise in African-American families. Palmdale and Lancaster were hit especially hard by the 2008 real estate crisis, with a reported 70% drop in home prices. Recovery started by 2013, but unemployment remains higher than California averages.

## CA-25: Facts & Stats

### Population Centers

- Santa Clarita, 182,371
- Lancaster, 161,103
- Palmdale, 158,351
- Simi Valley, 126,788

### 2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 137K (50%)
- Trump: 119K (44%)

### 2016 House Results

- Caforio (D): 122K (47%)
- Knight (R): 139K (53%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 134K
- Eligible, not registered: 129K

### 2014 House Results

- Knight (R): 61K (53%)
- Strickland (R): 53K (47%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 315K

### Elections

In 2016, CA-25 was one of the few California districts that voted for Clinton for president, but elected a Republican to the House.

### Higher Education

CA-25 is home to CalArts, Moorpark Community College, College of the Canyons, Antelope Valley College, and a handful of small private universities. California State University Northridge, while outside the district, has a large commuter enrollment from CA-25.

### Industries

Palmdale is closely associated with the aerospace industry due to its proximity to Edwards Air Force base. Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman are among CA-25's top-10 employers. Other industries have moved here to take advantage of special business incentive programs. Santa Clarita largely depends on entertainment, tourism, and education. A frequent film/TV location, it was recently named one of the most business-friendly L.A. cities due to its industry-specific initiatives, film-friendly ordinances, and economic development programs.

### Tourism

Magic Mountain, CA-25's second-largest employer, has more than three million visitors annually. The Antelope Valley Poppy festival hosts 60,000 visitors annually. Multiple county parks and wildlife sanctuaries and parts of the Angeles National Forest are located in the area. Old Town Lancaster and the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley are also tourist destinations.