

Know Before You Go: CA-39 District Primer

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

In the last election, Hillary Clinton won this district by 9%. With your help, we're going to win this House seat for the Democrats in 2018!

About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Retiring Rep. Ed Royce endorsed **Republican Young Kim** for the race when he announced his retirement. Kim was his Director of Community Operations. Jumping into the race in January, Kim raised over \$900,000 by mid-May. Kim is a former member of the California State Assembly from the 65th district, having served one term after defeating Democrat incumbent Sharon Quirk-Silva in 2014, becoming the first Korean-American Republican woman to serve in the State Assembly. Quirk-Silva regained the seat in 2016.

Issues: Kim says she will work across the aisle to break partisan gridlock. She is a proponent of deregulation, lower taxes, and less government. Kim wants to fix the broken immigration system and emphasizes local control of education decisions.

Strengths: Kim worked in the CA-39 office for 23 years, and is very well acquainted with the people, politics, and workings of a Congressional race. Her background as an immigrant and her Korean heritage may also come into play with the CD's large immigrant and Korean populations. Fighting for and/or promising lower taxes often resonates with voters.

Potential Weaknesses: CA-39 keeps moving away from the Republican party. While voters designating "Democrat" have increased, designating Republicans have dropped and the District swung Clinton by 9%. With her 23 years in Royce's office, Kim is a career politician, which can rub some voters the wrong way. While in the State Assembly, Planned Parenthood affiliates of California gave Kim a 67% rating. She also earned an "A" from Gun Owners of California and was endorsed by Gun Owners of CA Campaign Committee. Kim earned a 0% from Sierra Club of California for consistently voting against conservation measures.

About the Democratic Challenger

Introduction: **Democrat Gil Cisneros** served as a U.S. Naval Officer for 10 years and has not run for office before. After winning the California Mega Millions, Cisneros, an education policy expert, co-founded the The Gilbert & Jacki Cisneros Foundation, an organization committed to strengthening public schools, and creating college opportunities for students and veterans.

Issues: Cisneros's main focus is on education: maintaining funding for public education at all levels, expanding access to higher education, developing programs especially for Veterans, and increasing per pupil spending. He will also defend attacks on the ACA and fight to bring down healthcare costs, including pharmaceutical drug prices.

Strengths: Cisneros's commitment to not taking PAC and big interest money and an endorsement from End Citizens United should resonate with progressives in a congressional district that is considered a toss-up and swung for Clinton by almost 9% in 2016. Cisneros raised a staggering \$4 million. His background in the Navy may sway some conservative voters, while a focus on education should have broad appeal.



CA-39: Better Know the District

Geography

Most of the district is in Northern Orange County, but it also includes slices of Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County. It's a densely populated area with many hilly sections, especially in Chino Hills, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, La Habra Heights, and Anaheim Hills.

Citizenry

With a population of over 700,000, the district is racially and ethnically diverse: 55.1% white, 28.3% Asian, and 2.4% black. Ethnicity: 34.6% Hispanic. The most common languages spoken at home other than English are Spanish and Mandarin. There is a sizable and growing Asian population from China and other countries. 34.5% of residents are foreign born, of which 75% are from Latin America and 21% from Asia.

The district has a diverse income level, with a median household income of \$76,000. Unemployment is 3.7%, and about 10% of the population lives below the poverty line. More than 80,000 people are at risk of losing health insurance if Obamacare is repealed.

Higher Education

CA-39 includes Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Pomona, Fullerton College, and Mt San Antonio College.

Industries

Accommodation and food services is the biggest industry in the district, followed by retail and wholesale trade, then healthcare and social assistance. Major employers include Knott's Berry Farm, the various educational institutions, Bank of America and St Jude Medical Center.

Tourist Sites

There is the Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, the Richard Nixon Presidential Library is in Yorba Linda, and the Hsi Lai Temple is in Hacienda Heights.

CA-39: Facts & Stats

Largest Cities

- Anaheim 340,000
- Fullerton 137,000
- Buena Park, 82,000
- Chino Hills, 75,000
- Yorba Linda 65,000
- 50,00-60,000: La Habra, Diamond Bar, Hacienda Heights, Placentia, Rowland Heights

2016 Election Results

- Clinton 52%, Trump 43%
- Royce 57% (150,777), Brett Murdock 43% (112,679)
- Registered, didn't vote: 103K (71% turnout)
- Eligible to vote, not registered: 100K
- There are 6K more registered Republicans than Democrats (out of a voting population of 367K)

Previous House Elections

- 2014: Royce 68%, Peter Anderson 31%.
- 2012: Royce 58%, Jay Chen 42%