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2026 ELECTIONS

Sherman, Thompson to face off

Both are headed to November's runoff in race to represent California's 32nd Congressional District

By **Linh Tat**
LTAT@SCNG.COM

Democratic Rep. Brad Sherman and Republican Larry Thompson are headed to November's runoff in the race to represent California's 32nd Congressional District, ending the possibility of a Democrat-versus-Democrat generational battle that had been a major storyline throughout the

Inside: President Donald Trump slams California elections, alleges 'cheating' in governor and L.A. mayor races. **PAGE A3**

primary election. More votes will be tabulated in the coming days. But already, The Associated Press has called the race for Sherman

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Updated primary results show how L.A. County's close, high-profile races, measures are shaping up

Staff report

The dust was settling Thursday across Los Angeles County, where voters on Tuesday cast their ballots on an array of local, state and congressional races across the region.

On Thursday, the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters continued its regular process of tabulating, including the count

Inside: A bevy of judicial races were on L.A. County voters' ballots this primary election, but only 10 were contested races. **PAGE A3**

of vote-by-mail ballots returned by Election Day and received within seven days of Election Day, conditional voter registration (same-day registration) ballots, provisional

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PASADENA

Military's loud noises rattle neighborhood



Residents were subjected to sounds of gunfire, flashbangs and low-flying helicopters Wednesday night and Thursday morning, as the military held training moves at the former St. Luke hospital in Pasadena. **PHOTOS FROM KNN NEWS VIDEO**

Helicopters and gunfire heard in area traumatized a year ago by Eaton fire

By **Ruby Gonzales** and **Sydney Barragan**
STAFF WRITERS

Northeast Pasadena, a section of the city affected by the Eaton fire, was subjected to the sounds of gunfire, low-flying helicopters and triggered car alarms from Wednesday night to early Thursday morning as the U.S. military conducted a training exercise at the former St. Luke Medical Center.

Many residents flooded the city's Facebook page after it posted a notice about the exercise, with many questioning the timing of the exercise and why it had to be in Pasadena. A few pointed out it was finals week at some local schools. Some speculated the military was training for urban warfare.

"They (residents) were dumbfounded more than puzzled and upset," Pasadena Councilman Rick Cole said.

The military also had



An unidentified branch of the U.S. military conducts a training exercise Wednesday night and Thursday morning at the former St. Luke Medical Center site in Pasadena.

a training exercise late Wednesday in Irvine near Alton Parkway and Irvine Boulevard, city officials said on social media.

Cole said he headed to the site of the former hospital on the 2600 block of East Washington Boulevard on Wednesday to see what was going on and to answer questions by the public. He recorded videos, which he posted on social media.

"It was pretty noisy," he said. "It's an extremely quiet

neighborhood. This is half a mile from where the Eaton fire started."

The neighborhood was traumatized a year ago by the fire, he said. Then all of a sudden, Cole said, there are Army Rangers on the hospital roof and the sound of gunfire.

"This was surreal," he said. The helicopters were around until 2:10 a.m. on Thursday, according to Cole.

"I don't appreciate what is going on across the street,"

Rachel Spencer, who lives nearby, told Key News Network, a freelance news organization that sometimes works with the Southern California News Group.

She said a Pasadena officer came to her door around 7 p.m. on Wednesday and notified her about the training. But she wasn't told there will be men jumping out of helicopters, helicopters flying low, and explosions and gunfire inside the hospital, she added.

"It's insane. It's 2 a.m. and I'm outside. This is crazy," Spencer said.

The city was told not to disclose what military branch did the exercise, said Lisa Derderian, spokeswoman for Pasadena.

In March, the military contacted the Pasadena Police Department and asked if officers could assist with security while it conducted urban combat training in the

See **NOISE** on Page A5

MIDDLE EAST

Is Trump boxed in by war in Iran?

With president in a holding pattern, his allies, critics worry he's finding himself in a bind

By **Aamer Madhani** and **Matthew Lee**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is facing warnings from foes and allies alike that he's getting boxed in on the Iran war, a conflict he sold as a brief military incursion but that has since settled into a holding pattern.

It's been nearly a week since U.S. and Iranian negotiators reached a tentative agreement to extend the ceasefire in the conflict by 60 days and start a new round of talks on Iran's nuclear program that required Trump's signoff.

But Trump has called for unspecified changes

See **IRAN** on Page A5

LONG BEACH

City's first outdoor amphitheater to open this weekend

By **Christina Merino**
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The final touches are being made to open the doors this weekend to the F&M Bank Amphitheater of Long Beach, the city's first outdoor amphitheater along the downtown waterfront.

Thousands of visitors will be descending on Long Beach to experience live music and entertainment at the outdoor amphitheater, the second largest in Los Angeles County, officials said. Located near the historic Queen Mary, the venue will feature a range of seating, food and beverage offerings, and accessible transportation options, in an effort to boost the local economy.

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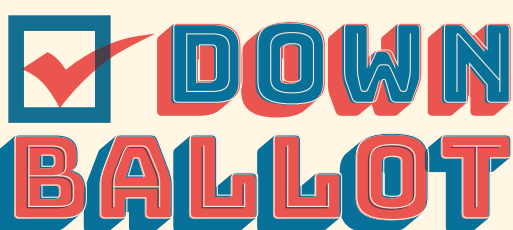
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ELECTION YEAR UPDATES



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CONGRESS

From Page 1

and Thompson, setting up a rematch between the two. In 2024, Sherman defeated Thompson in a landslide victory, capturing 66% of the vote that year.

Sherman, who is completing his 15th term in Congress, and Thompson, an attorney and talent manager, remained in the top two spots in this nine-person contest on Thursday, with Sherman receiving 36.7% of the votes that had been counted so far and Thompson receiving 36.1%, according to the California secretary of state's office.

Democrat Jake Levine, a climate and energy expert who worked for the Obama and Biden administrations and had campaigned on the idea that it was time for a new generation of Democrats to lead, was in third place with 13.5%.

When reached Thursday, he said he was waiting for more ballots to be counted to see how the numbers ultimately



Democratic incumbent Rep. Brad Sherman, left, is running against Republican Larry Thompson, a talent manager, film producer and entertainment attorney. COURTESY IMAGES

mately would shake out.

The six other candidates in the race each has received less than 6% of the votes counted so far.

By his own admission, Sherman, in an interview Thursday, said although he expects to win in November, he's not so sure it will be by a landslide this time.

As a result of the midcycle redistricting that California voters approved last year, the 32nd Congressional District — which represents parts of western San Fernando Valley, Pacific Palisades and a portion of Ventura County — picked up conservative-leaning

Simi Valley.

While it's still considered a heavily Democratic district, the number of registered Democrats versus Republicans here narrowed by roughly eight percentage points after redistricting.

During the 2024 general election, 50.95% of registered voters in the district were Democrats and 20.32% were Republicans, while another 22.13% had no party preference.

Now, the district is 46.46% Democratic and 23.9% Republican. No-party voters make up another 22.59%.

Sherman believes he'll ultimately

prevail in November and said he's more focused on ensuring Democrats regain control of the House than on how wide a margin he wins by.

"I do think I will win in November," he said. "I look forward to talking to voters. What matters to me most is whether Democrats take back the House."

Thompson, meanwhile, also expressed optimism about his chances of winning in November, despite running as a Republican in a district where Democrats still enjoy a more than 22-point voter registration advantage.

Besides the fact that CA-32 now includes the more conservative Simi Valley, he said that with Republicans Steve Hilton and Spencer Pratt performing well in the races for governor and Los Angeles mayor, respectively, he senses a "sort of conservative movement taking place here."

That said, Thompson considers himself a "centrist Republican."

"My campaign is more about common sense.

I'm not so much running against Democrats, but I'm running for Californians," he said.

Several of the other candidates in this race had criticized Sherman, who is completing his third decade in office, for being too entrenched in the establishment and out of touch with constituents.

One of those candidates who campaigned on the idea that it was time to elect a new, younger generation of Democratic leaders was Levine, who was competitive with Sherman in terms of fundraising.

He said Thursday that he was waiting to see how the race ultimately will shake out, but that he was proud of the effort by his campaign. He said he believed his message resonated with voters, including a new generation of voters, on issues of affordable housing and the economy.

"I don't know what the final numbers will be, but it looks like we will have more than 20,000 people who said this message resonated

with them," Levine said, referencing the number of people he projects voted for him.

"Taking on a 30-year incumbent is a tall order, and change is hard, and change takes time. ... We were still able to move tens of thousands of people into this movement," he continued, adding that he believed the groundwork had been laid for future change in the district.

Sherman, 71, is nearly 30 years Levine's senior.

He dismissed suggestions that he should step aside because of his age, noting that, based on the ballot count so far, the majority of voters had voted for either him or Thompson, who is 81.

"Voters are not voting on the basis of age. They're voting on who's going to do the best job," Sherman said. "Sometimes that's a 25-year-old. Sometimes the best job is done by somebody who's been there a while."

"If the voters in the district thought somebody else could do a better job," he said, "then they could've voted for that person."

COUNTY

From Page 1

ballots and ballots requiring additional review or verification.

Updated results from the count came shortly after 4 p.m., showing fresh results in races across the county. The state's Secretary of State's office also updated their results shortly after 5 p.m.

Most races across the region appeared relatively unchanged since early results were posted Tuesday night. Front-runners mostly stayed front-runners.

But there were a handful of close contests at the local, state and congressional levels as semi-official results showed Thursday afternoon. In most cases, the front-runner was set, but in some contests, the race for second spots, whether it be for a challenger in the November runoff or for a second city council seat, remained a question mark.

The following updates show the closest races so far, as well the latest on some of the region's most high-profile contests, including measures.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles

Mayor

The Los Angeles mayoral race remained one of the most closely watched contests as election officials continued counting ballots. As of Thursday's semi-official results, Mayor Karen Bass led with 35.1% of the vote and had already been projected by The Associated Press to advance to a November runoff. Former reality television star Spencer Pratt continued to hold the second position ahead of Councilmember Nithya Raman, with 29.4% and 23.4% of the vote, respectively. Pratt's lead narrowed to roughly 33,000 votes, down from about 37,000 votes following Wednesday's update.

Fourth-place finisher Adam Miller, a tech entrepreneur and nonprofit leader, issued a statement Thursday thanking supporters and pledging to remain active in addressing city issues.

City Attorney

As of Thursday's semi-official results, Deputy Attorney General Marissa Roy and Deputy District Attorney John McKinney continued to hold the top two positions in the city attorney race, while incumbent Hydee Feldstein Soto remained in third place and attorney Aida Ashouri in fourth. Roy led with 38.5% of the vote, followed by McKinney at 32.1%. Feldstein Soto received 19.3%, while Ashouri garnered 10.1%.

Los Angeles City Council

Most Los Angeles City Council incumbents appeared headed for reelection as of Thursday's semi-official results, with several holding comfortable leads well above the threshold needed to avoid November runoffs. The city's two open-seat contests, however, remained unsettled and



Mail-in ballots wait to be sorted at the Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday. KEITH BIRMINGHAM — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

appeared likely to continue into the fall.

Council District 3

As of Thursday's semi-official results, businessperson Tim Gaspar continued to lead the race to succeed termed-out Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld with 48.7% of the vote, followed by Barri Worth Girvan, former director of community affairs for Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, with 39.5%. Adviser Christopher Robert "C.R." Celona received 11.8%. Gaspar remained just below the majority threshold needed to avoid a November runoff.

Council District 9

As of Thursday's semi-official results, former Council District 9 deputy chief of staff Jose Ugarte continued to lead the race to succeed termed-out Councilmember Curren Price with 41.0% of the vote, remaining below the threshold needed to avoid a runoff. Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Co-Director Estuardo Mazariegos followed with 22.9% of the vote, while Jorge Nuño, Martha Sánchez, Elmer Roldan and Jorge Hernandez Rosas trailed behind.

Measures CB, TC and TT

Los Angeles voters appeared poised to approve Measures CB and TC while rejecting Measure TT. As of Thursday's semi-official results, Measure CB, which would apply cannabis business taxes to unlicensed cannabis businesses, received more than 70% support, while Measure TC, which would apply the city's transient occupancy tax to online travel companies, remained above the majority threshold needed for approval. Measure TT, which would increase the city's hotel occupancy tax to fund city services, continued to trail, with a majority of voters opposing the proposal.

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

By Thursday, semi-official returns showed Mayor Kim Bowman had garnered 42.5% of the vote, according to the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder's Office. But the race for a second available seat was exceedingly close, with Planning Commissioner Nerses Aposhian at 28.9% of the vote hanging on to a slim lead against Quemars Ahmed, a member of the

city's Sustainability and Resilience Commission, at 28.6% — only a 22-vote difference.

COVINA

Two political newcomers are vying for the city clerk post, and were in a virtual dead heat, as of release of latest results at 4:11 p.m. Thursday. Susan Zermeno, a 59-year-old retired city planner and land use consultant is in a tight contest with Rosie Richardson, 37, a community outreach manager. The latest results had Zermeno, with 50.4% of the vote and Richardson close behind at 49.5%.

Less than 65 votes separate the two, as of Thursday afternoon, according to the L.A. County Registrar of Voters Office, although Zermeno's slim lead has been widening since Election Day. The winner in this contest would succeed Andrew Aleman, who served as city clerk until March, when his term ended. Aleman appears headed to winning the District 5 council seat vacated by Councilmember John King, who is retiring. As of the latest results released on Thursday, Aleman has 62.2% of the vote, in the two-candidate race.

MONTEREY PARK

Here's one that wasn't close. But it is high-profile, given that it's the first of its kind. A community-driven effort in Monterey Park to ban data centers from the city was headed for an historic victory. As of the L.A. County's latest results posted on Thursday showed, yes on Measure NDC had 86.6% of the votes. The measure appeared on its way to becoming the first instance of a California city instituting a data center ban. Strong local opposition to a proposed data center project late last year in Monterey Park resulted in the measure being placed on the ballot.

TORRANCE

The Torrance mayoral race was still close as of 4:11 p.m. Thursday, with incumbent Mayor George Chen appearing to maintain a slight lead over City Councilmember Sharon Kalani. According to the Los Angeles County registrar's most recent update, Chen had 51.35% of the votes while Kalani had 48.65%.

Kalani challenged Chen

in the middle of her four-year City Council term, speaking out against many of the current mayor's policies when it comes to public engagement and international relations. Should Kalani win, the District 4 seat will be left vacant. This election acts as Torrance's General Municipal election, so whomever wins will go on to be the mayor for the next four years.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Sheriff

In the race for L.A. County sheriff, incumbent Robert Luna was leading with 44.5% of the vote over the man he defeated four years ago, Alex Villanueva, who had 23.7%, according to the latest returns from the June 2 primary on Thursday.

Eric Strong, who had experience in both the Compton and Pasadena police departments before joining the Sheriff's Department in 2000, was a distant third with 11.9%.

If Luna does not go above 50% in this primary election, he will most likely face off against Villanueva in a two-person race in the November general election.

Supervisor

State Sen. Maria Elena Durazo and incumbent Supervisor Lindsey Horvath continued to enjoy big leads, semi-official results from Thursday showed.

Durazo, a Democrat running for the District 1 seat in the San Gabriel Valley, had a commanding lead of 57.1% of the vote. Horvath, whose district spans from West Hollywood to the San Fernando Valley, had garnered 63.6%, enough for her to declare victory earlier this week.

Measure ER

The half-percentage point sales tax raise for health-care services in L.A. County was trailing, with 52.3% of votes against, and 47.7% in favor, according to semi-official returns on Thursday. Measure ER needs 50% of the vote plus one for approval.

CONGRESS

For Congress, most races appeared unchanged from their initial result trajectories earlier in the week. But in a highly watched county contest, District 32, the Associated Press on this week called the race, mean-

ing Democratic Rep. Brad Sherman and challenger Republican Larry Thompson survived the primary and are headed to a runoff in November to represent a district that spans from the Palisades on the coast to chunks of the San Fernando Valley. On Thursday, the latest results from the secretary of state, shortly after 5 p.m., showed Sherman with 36.7% of the vote, and Thompson with 36.1%.

In District 37, Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, a Democrat, was enjoying a large lead at 52.7% of the vote, in the contest for representing south and southwest L.A., including South Vermont and Culver City. But the race for who will run against her in November was definitely closer, with Republican Baltazar Fedalizo (12.9%) and Democrat Samantha Mota (10.4%) battling it out.

ASSEMBLY

District 66

District 66 was tight among three candidates in the primary for who will be the top two to run-off in November. Four Democrats were competing for the seat, which includes many South Bay communities, stretching from El Segundo and Manhattan Beach southward through Torrance and San Pedro. Leading was Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Paul Seo, at 26.05%; then registered nurse Jessica Zonia Maldonado, 24%; School board trustee Sara

Deen at 22.3%.

STATE SENATE

District 24

Things were close for the ordering of the top two in District 24, a coastal district, from Agoura Hills and Malibu down to Torrance and Rancho Palos Verdes in the South Bay, while stretching up to include Beverly Hills and West Hollywood. The race drew 10 candidates who are all vying to replace termed-out Sen. Ben Allen. And it's been an expensive race. The Democratic candidates are: Eric Alegria, vice president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified school board; Amaris Dordar, an attorney; John Erickson, a West Hollywood City Council member; Ellen Evans, a neighborhood association co-founder; Brian Goldsmith, a media consultant; Mike Newhouse, the owner of a small law firm; Dr. Sion Roy, a Santa Monica College Board trustee; and Zennon Ulyate-Crow, executive director of a nonprofit. Real estate agent Kristina Irwin and G. Rick Marshall, a chief financial officer, are running as Republicans. Early results showed the top finishers as Marshall at 19.6%, Goldsmith at 18.9%, Erickson with 17.2% and Irwin at 15.6%.

Staff writers David Wilson, Madeline Armstrong, Anissa Rivera, Teresa Liu, Linh Tat, Steve Scauzillo and Ryan Carter contributed to this report.

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Thought for the day

MATSUO BASH (BORN MATSUO KINSAKU), JAPANESE MASTER HAIKU POET

"Path of the sun / the hollyhock leans into / early summer rain." (haiku 653, chapter six, from "Bash — The Complete Haiku," translated with an introduction, biography and notes by Jane Reichhold, 2008)

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