

## Dear Delegates and Club Representatives,

With Prop 50 now law, Democrats finally have a chance to win California's 48th Congressional District and take back the House from Trump. But that depends on nominating a credible, electable candidate Democrats can unify behind. Ammar Campa-Najjar is not that candidate.

Campa-Najjar has lost three straight races to Republicans: in 2018 and 2020 for Congress, and again in 2022 for Chula Vista Mayor<sup>i</sup> — each time in winnable territory. In his last race, Ammar lost in a city with a 23-point Democratic registration advantage.

Ammar's repeated defeats have compounded a troubling pattern: a lack of clear principles Democrats can unite behind and a tendency to tell different groups whatever they want to hear.

In 2020, Campa-Najjar campaigned for votes with *Defend East County*, a group known for white supremacist rhetoric and whose founder was at the January 6 insurrection. In that interview, **Ammar said he was undecided between Trump and Biden, would consider investigating Barack Obama, and that he would likely support Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation to the Supreme Court**, one of the key votes to overturn *Roe v Wade*.<sup>ii</sup>

On reproductive rights in that same campaign, **Campa-Najjar wrote: "I don't support legal or illegal abortion; we need to reduce unexpected pregnancies to solve that."**<sup>iii</sup> Ammar also opposed the federal assault-weapons ban, saying, **"I don't believe in banning so-called assault weapons... that's a term coined by liberals who know nothing about guns."**<sup>iv</sup>

Ammar's abrupt shift in 2022 **from running in East County to be "[San Diego's most conservative Congressman](#)"**<sup>v</sup> to campaigning as a progressive in South County left voters with questions that remain unresolved about his actual principles.

None of this is ancient history. These positions will define Ammar again in 2026 – undermining his credibility with all voters, let alone Democrats. Democratic base groups like San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention have already weighed in and said they would **"not consider supporting Ammar Campa-Najjar because he opposes the assault-weapons ban and admits his views on guns are virtually the same as Issa's."**<sup>vi</sup> Sentiments like this will grow, and they tell us what November 2026 would look like should he become the nominee.

Ammar Campa-Najjar has positive qualities and we are thankful for his early efforts to boost Democrats in East County. But three losses, inconsistent positions, and shifting campaigns across different parts of the county make him the wrong candidate for this all-important race.

We need a nominee with a record of consistency and conviction — someone who will fight for gun safety, protect abortion rights, and stand up to Donald Trump without hesitation or apology.

If we fail to learn from the past, we will repeat it. Let's not make the same mistake again.

Sincerely,

**Lauren Cazares**, San Diego County Democratic Party East Area Vice Chair\*

**Stephanie Wells**, San Diego County Democratic Party North Coastal Area Vice Chair\*

**Georgine Tomasi**, former Escondido Union School District Trustee\*

**Barbara Amador**, Gun Violence Prevention Advocate, Escondido\*

**Rose Ann Sharp**, Founder, NeverAgainCA\*

*\*Titles for identification purposes only*

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<sup>i</sup> Ammar Campa-Najjar, *Ballotpedia*, [https://ballotpedia.org/Ammar\\_Campa-Najjar](https://ballotpedia.org/Ammar_Campa-Najjar).

<sup>ii</sup> The Activated Pod (@TheActivatedPod), Tweet thread (Mar. 11, 2021, 5:05 PM PST) <https://x.com/TheActivatedPod/status/1315334788274741248>.

<sup>iii</sup> Ammar Campa-Najjar, Comment to Tammy Curley, *Facebook* (approx. Oct. 2020). <https://x.com/TheActivatedPod/status/1316133379851468801>

<sup>iv</sup> Gun Owners Radio, *Ammo Background Checks; Ammar Campa-Najjar; CZ's at The Gun Range San Diego* (Apr. 26, 2020), at 28:40, YouTube, [https://youtu.be/h3voMp330L0?si=moRJZPFP3\\_y0iFM&t=1714](https://youtu.be/h3voMp330L0?si=moRJZPFP3_y0iFM&t=1714).

<sup>v</sup> *Editorial*, Ammar Campa-Najjar Is the Clear Choice in the 50th Congressional District, *San Diego Union-Tribune* (Oct. 7, 2020), <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2020/10/07/amm-campa-najjar-is-the-clear-choice-in-the-50th-congressional-district/>.

<sup>vi</sup> San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, *October 15, 2025: SD4GVP Endorses Marni von Wilpert for Congress* (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://sd4gvp.org/oct-15-2025-sd4gvp-endorses-von-wilpert-congress/>.