

3-Time Loser Ammar Campa-Najjar Is a 2026 General Election Liability

With The House Majority On The Line, Democrats Can't Put A Must-Win Seat In The Hands Of A Serial Candidate Who Will Say Anything And Has Still Lost, Again and Again and Again



[CNN, [3/18/17](#)]

“I ran for Congress to work with Trump” - Interview With Defend East County a now defunct white supremacist organization [[KPBS San Diego](#), 10/11/20; [YouTube link](#)]

“[Campa-Najjar] also reiterated stances he’s previously made in support of Trump’s border wall and against his impeachment.” [[KPBS San Diego](#), 10/11/20]

“I don’t support legal or illegal abortion we need to reduce unexpected pregnancies to solve that.”- Campa-Najjar [Captured via Twitter, [10/13/20](#)]

“I don’t believe in banning so-called assault weapons, first of all that’s a term that was coined by liberals who know nothing about guns...” [YouTube, 4/26/20 - [28:10 mark](#)]

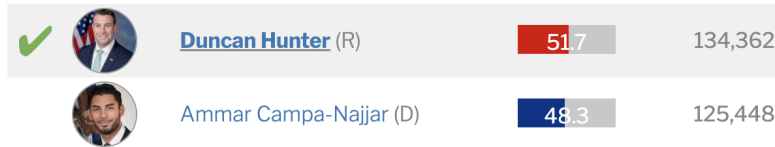
“My vote’s still open, you guys think I’m going to vote for Biden—not necessarily. I still want to see how they perform at the debate,” said Campa-Najjar when asked if he supports President Donald Trump’s reelection or his Democratic challenger Former Vice President Joe Biden” [[NBC San Diego](#), 10/13/2020]

“A brazenly cynical ideological chameleon whose views depend on his audience” [[San Diego Union Tribune](#), 10/28/22]

Apparently, Losing Thrice Wasn't Enough.

Now, Campa-Najjar is running for CA's new 48th Congressional District in Northern San Diego and Riverside County.

2018



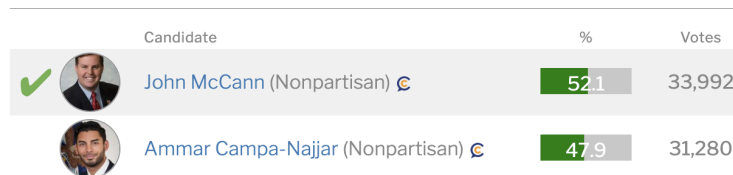
Despite 2018's blue wave and an opponent under federal indictment, Campa-Najjar loses this East County San Diego Congressional race.

2020



Campa-Najjar runs again for the same East County seat and loses to Rep. Darrell Issa by 8%.

2022



Campa-Najjar moves to the US-Mexico border to run for Mayor of Chula Vista. Despite the city being D+24% and having a massive spending advantage, Campa-Najjar loses yet again to a Republican.

Ammar Campa-Najjar's Record Is the Problem

1. Campaigned with White Nationalists/Jan 6th Insurrectionist
2. Opposed abortion rights
3. Supported Amy Coney Barrett for Supreme Court
4. Opposed Trump impeachment
5. Supported Trump's border wall
6. Pushed to investigate Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton
7. Lost the East County race where he said all that.
8. Then moved to Chula Vista to run for Mayor as a liberal, flip-flopped on all his policy positions and lost again.

2020 Congressional Campaign

Campa-Najjar lost a campaign for CA 50 to Darrell Issa by [8 points](#) in November 2020.

Defend East County Interview with White Nationalists/Jan 6 Insurrectionist

Campa-Najjar Participated In “Lengthy Sit-Down Interview” With “Defend East County” Founder Justin Haskins, Promised “More Town Halls And Sit-Downs With The Group.”

“Hoping for an upset in one of California’s most conservative congressional districts, Democratic Candidate Ammar Campa-Najjar faced frustration from the left this week after an interview with a right-wing group. ‘We have 28 more days, and what am I doing?’ Campa-Najjar asked Defend East County Founder Justin Haskins during a Facebook live stream last week. ‘I’m talking to the people at Defend East County!’ the Democrat proclaimed, promising more town halls and sit-downs with the group... Campa-Najjar did a lengthy sit-down interview with Haskins for the 22,000+ member conservative group known by some as DEC.” [NBC San Diego, [10/13/20](#)]

Defend East County Followers Had “Espoused Right-Wing Conspiracy Theories, Made Racist Statements And Called For Violence Against Black Lives Matter Protesters.”

“Members of the loosely organized group, which has a large following on Facebook, say it exists to protect residents and businesses of East County. But its followers have on the Facebook page espoused right-wing conspiracy theories, made racist statements and called for violence against Black Lives Matter protesters. In the video, Campa-Najjar and Haskins are sitting shoulder-to-shoulder and not wearing masks. They are smoking cigars and drinking whisky.” [KPBS, [10/11/20](#)]

- **Haskins Was At Capitol During January 6 Riot, DEC Instagram Account Livestreamed Capitol Attack.** “On Instagram, Justin Haskins, the founder of the civil defense group Defend East County, or DEC, acknowledged he was at the Capitol and defended the ‘constitutional duty to overthrow a tyrannical government.’ DEC’s Instagram account also livestreamed a video from the Capitol as it was under attack, filming amid a crush of people near one of the entrances as the crowd tried to breach it.

One woman can be heard yelling, 'We need more men up there to storm!' The video has since been removed but it is archived on YouTube by Brooke Binkowski, the San Diego-based managing editor of fact-checking website TruthorFiction.com." [Union-Tribune, [1/17/21](#)]

- **Defend East County's Facebook Page Had Been Removed "Multiple Times Due To Members' Posts Advocating Violence Against Black People."** "The group's Facebook membership quickly grew to more than 22,000. But the social media giant has removed DEC's page multiple times due to members' posts advocating violence against Black people. Today, Haskins estimates that its membership is somewhere between 6,000 and 8,000 'spread across multiple different groups on multiple platforms.' In addition to being present for the Capitol insurrection, Haskins and many in DEC have adopted some of the false fringe theories of other extremist groups, many of which take their cue from the internet conspiracy phenomenon QAnon." [KPBS, [10/21/21](#)]

Campa-Najjar Told DEC He Was Undecided Between Voting For Donald Trump Or Joe Biden. "My vote's still open, you guys think I'm going to vote for Biden—not necessarily. I still want to see how they perform at the debate,' said Campa-Najjar when asked if he supports President Donald Trump's reelection or his Democratic challenger Former Vice President Joe Biden." [NBC San Diego, [10/13/20](#)]

Campa-Najjar Said He Would Likely Support Judge Amy Coney Barrett's U.S. Supreme Court Confirmation, Would Consider Investigating Barack Obama And Hillary Clinton. "Campa-Najjar did say he had voted for Biden in the March Primary. The 31-year-old also said in the interview that he would likely support Judge Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court and, if elected, would consider investigating Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton." [KPBS, [10/11/20](#)]

Campa-Najjar also purportedly made a series of comments in the Defend East County Facebook group, according to screenshots captured by Activated Podcast, in which he claimed he would drop his Democratic party affiliation and said he opposed legal abortion:

Campa-Najjar:

"I don't support legal or illegal abortion we need to reduce unexpected pregnancies to solve that."

[Twitter, [10/13/20](#)]



- **Campa-Najjar: “I’m going to change to independent. I don’t see myself in either party frankly.”** [Twitter, [10/13/20](#)]



Multiple outlets reported on these comments, with screenshots, during Campa-Najjar’s 2022 mayoral campaign:

- "Campa-Najjar, a registered Democrat, was criticized in October 2020 for a live-stream interview he held with Defend East County, a known far-right group whose followers regularly promote right-wing conspiracy theories, make racist statements, and publicly called for violence against Black Lives Matter protesters. Campa-Najjar and the group’s leader, Justin Haskins, smoked cigars and drank during the interview... During that same period, as Campa-Najjar worked to garner voter from conservative East County voters, he expressed in a Facebook exchange that he did not 'support legal or illegal abortion', taking a position that seemed at odds with his endorsement by Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice PAC, and other pro-choice groups, including the Democratic Party and several prominent elected officials." [La Prensa, [5/7/22](#)]
- "In 2020, [Campa-Najjar] ran against congressman Darrell Issa to represent California’s 50th Congressional District. Running as a Democrat, Campa-Najjar flaunted his proximity to Donald Trump through comments in the Defend East County Facebook group. Campa-Najjar commented that he intended to switch his party affiliation to Independent once elected, and that he did not support 'legal or illegal' abortion." [Left Coast Right Watch, [8/10/22](#)]

Campa-Najjar “Reiterated” His Support For Trump Border Wall And Opposition To Trump’s Impeachment. “[Campa-Najjar] also reiterated stances he’s previously made in support of Trump’s border wall and against his impeachment.” [KPBS, [10/11/20](#)]

About Two Dozen Activists “Disavowed Their Previous Support” For Campa-Najjar After DEC Appearance: “He Abandoned His Own Supporters; He Devalued And He Denied Our Pain.” “Monday night, about two dozen activists and protesters disavowed their previous support for Campa-Najjar at a gathering outside the sheriff’s substation in Santee. ‘I think it takes an incredible amount of courage to go into the lions’ den,’ said Setche Kwamu-Nana, a diversity, inclusion and equity specialist. ‘But my problem is, in so doing, he abandoned his own supporters; he devalued and he denied our pain.’” [Union-Tribune, [10/13/20](#)]

Other Right-Wing Positions During 2020 Race

February 2020: Campa-Najjar Called Trump’s First Impeachment Trial “Unfair And Partisan.” In a February 2020 op-ed after Donald Trump was acquitted of two impeachment charges by the U.S. Senate, Campa-Najjar wrote, “I join many who feel that the impeachment trial was unfair and partisan. The lack of firsthand witnesses allowed to testify, the obstruction of the process, and the sense that accountability and transparency are gone. Impeachment is over, and quite possibly, broken for good.” [Times of San Diego, [2/5/20](#)]

Campa-Najjar: “I’m Going To Investigate Trump, Biden, Hillary – All Of Them.” “Haskins also asked Campa-Najjar multiple questions about whether he would investigate Clinton and Obama in relation to the investigation into the 2016 Trump campaign’s involvement with Russia. Trump has continuously said, without evidence, that both Clinton and Obama spied on his campaign in 2016. Trump’s accusations have become a rallying cry for his followers. In response to Haskins’ questions, Campa-Najjar said he would be willing to continue investigating, but that everyone should be investigated. ‘I’m going to investigate Trump, Biden, Hillary — all of them,’ he said. But he also said ‘I think the country needs to move on’ from the investigations.” [KPBS, [10/11/20](#)]

Campa-Najjar Opposed Assault Weapons Ban, Saying The Term Was “Coined By Liberals Who Know Nothing About Guns.” In an interview with Gun Sports Radio in 2020, Campa-Najjar stated his opposition to an assault weapons ban:

“I don’t believe in banning so-called assault weapons, first of all that’s a term that was coined by liberals who know nothing about guns... I just don’t think it would work and it would just give criminals an advantage over the rest of us law-abiding people...that’s where I break ranks with my own party.” [YouTube, 4/26/20 - [28:10 mark](#)]

Campa-Najjar Contributed \$650 To San Diego County Gun Owners PAC. According to San Diego County campaign finance records, Campa-Najjar contributed \$650 to the San Diego County Gun Owners PAC in September 2020:

Schedule A (Continuation Sheet) Monetary Contributions Received		Amounts may be rounded to whole dollars.		Statement covers period from 07/01/2020 through 10/17/2020		SCHEDULE A (CONT.) CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page 81 of 541 I.D. NUMBER 1379388	
DATE RECEIVED	FULL NAME, STREET ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE OF CONTRIBUTOR (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER ID NUMBER)	CONTRIBUTOR CODE *	IF AN INDIVIDUAL, ENTER OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER (IF SELF-EMPLOYED, ENTER NAME OF BUSINESS)	AMOUNT RECEIVED THIS PERIOD	CUMULATIVE TO DATE CALENDAR YEAR (JAN. 1 - DEC. 31)	PER ELECTION TO DATE (IF REQUIRED)	
7/30/2020	C & K Duncan LLC DBA Duncan's Gunworks San Marcos CA 92078	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		300.00	300.00		
8/3/2020	Gordon Caha Lakeside CA 92040	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired N/A	250.00	250.00		
8/3/2020	Janet Caha Lakeside CA 92040	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired N/A	250.00	250.00		
8/28/2020	Jean-Luc Calouro La Jolla CA 92037	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Aeronautical Engineer Manager NGC	100.00	100.00		
9/14/2020	Ammar Campa-Najjar Jamul CA 91935	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Candidate Congress	650.00	650.00		

[\[San Diego County Campaign Finance Reports\]](#)

- **San Diego County Gun Owners Had Previously Opposed Assault Weapons Ban, Safe Storage Measures.** [Union-Tribune, [8/16/19](#); Union-Tribune, [9/11/19](#)]

2022 Chula Vista Mayoral Race

Voice Of San Diego Headline: Campa-Najjar “Parachute[d]” Into Chula Vista Mayor’s Race After Running For Congress As A “Gun-Loving, Cigar-Smoking Moderate,” “East County Son.” “Ammar Campa-Najjar spent four years making a name for himself as an electable Democrat in East County. He portrayed himself as a gun-loving, cigar-smoking moderate Democrat who, if elected to the 50th District, would push back against the progressive wing of his own party. In interviews, he referred to himself as an ‘East County son’ and proudly said, ‘I was born and raised in East County.’” [Voice of San Diego, [8/18/21](#)]

Campa-Najjar Claimed He Was Living At “His Grandmother’s Old House In Eastlake, Which Was Passed Down To His Mother And Now To Him.” “Campa-Najjar said he’s currently living in his grandmother’s old house in Eastlake, which was passed down to his mother and now to him.” [Voice of San Diego, [8/18/21](#)]

Campa-Najjar Sent “Misleading” Campaign Mailer Depicting Him Posing With “Family That Isn’t His.” “Voters in Chula Vista received a campaign mailer this week with a front page picture of a candidate, a woman, and two young children in what would appear to be a family portrait, but the woman is not his wife or partner, and the kids are not his children. The campaign literature, in support of Ammar Campa-Najjar, 33, who is running in the race to decide the next Mayor of Chula Vista in the southbay area of San Diego County, does not identify the woman or the children, giving the impression of a family portrait that is commonly used in political campaigns.” [La Prensa, [5/7/22](#)]

Investigator Hired By Campa-Najjar’s Opponent Documented Dozens Of Videos They Said Showed Campa-Najjar Living At San Diego Condo. “John McCann, a Chula Vista

council member who is running for mayor, alleged Tuesday that his opponent, Ammar Campa-Najjar, is unqualified to run for the post because he does not live within city limits. At a press conference Tuesday in San Diego, McCann said that his campaign had hired Lawrence Hamilton, a private investigator and former FBI Agent, to find out whether his opponent lives in Chula Vista. Over the course of 32 nights, Hamilton said at the press conference, he compiled more than 70 videos and photos of Campa-Najjar living with his girlfriend Sara Jacobs at her condominium in San Diego. Jacobs represents the 51st Congressional District. A Democrat, she is seeking re-election in November. Hamilton said he or his associates kept watch every night since August both at Jacobs' home and Campa-Najjar's residence in Chula Vista." [San Diego Union-Tribune, [10/13/22](#)]

Campa-Najjar Lost Race To Republican John McCann, Despite Democrats Holding 2-1 Voter Registration Advantage In Chula Vista. "Chula Vista Councilmember John McCann led businessman Ammar Campa-Najjar in the race to lead San Diego County's second-largest city, early results showed Tuesday. McCann, a Republican, is a four-term City Council member. Campa-Najjar, a Democrat, owns a public affairs firm... Of Chula Vista's nearly 300,000 population, about 163,400 are registered voters. An estimated 46 percent are Democrats, 26 percent have No Party Preference and 22 percent are Republicans, according to the county Registrar of Voters. The campaign trail turned contentious in recent weeks as McCann continued to challenge the legitimacy of Campa-Najjar's residency, even hiring a private investigator to tail his opponent, who he claimed lived in San Diego with his girlfriend." [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/10/22](#)]

La Prensa Reported "Over \$1 Million" Was Spent Supporting Campa-Najjar's Campaign, With McCann's Campaign Spending Just Over \$250,000. "In the last filing, McCann's personal campaign committee reported spending \$259,544.63, including \$165,360 McCann contributed and \$5,000 he loaned to his campaign. There were no independent campaign committees created to support McCann's campaign... Campa-Najjar's personal campaign committee reported spending \$253,237.48, including \$55,635.55 still owed to vendors two weeks before the election... But, in addition to his own campaign committee, Campa-Najjar benefitted from two independent committees created solely to help his campaign. One group, named 'Residents for a Brighter Chula Vista, Supporting Ammar Campa-Najjar for Mayor 2022', reported spending over \$350,000 through August 2022, including paying \$50,000 to Grassroots Resources, a political consulting group owned by Jesus Cardenas and managed by his sister, Andrea Cardenas, who currently serves on the Chula Vista City Council... The other campaign committee, named 'Real Working Families in Support of Ammar Campa-Najjar for Chula Vista Mayor 2022', which reported spending over \$205,000 through October 22nd, was primarily funded by local labor unions... Political insiders estimate that more than \$200,000 was spent in by the Democratic Party in support of Campa-Najjar's campaign, bringing the total spent in Campa-Najjar's campaign to over \$1 million." [La Prensa, [12/2/22](#)]