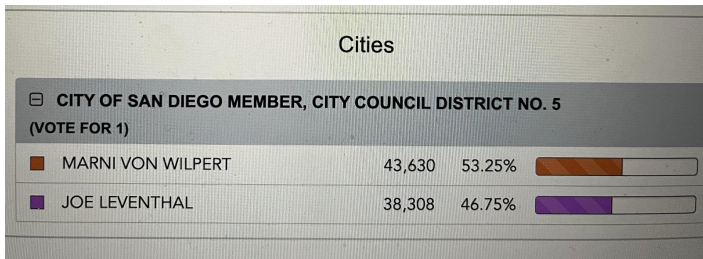


Fact Check: Setting the Record Straight on Marni von Wilpert

Background: California’s 48th Congressional District spans both San Diego and Riverside Counties. The largest voting populations are in the following order: Unincorporated Riverside County, the cities of Temecula, San Marcos, Vista and Escondido. **To flip CA-48, we’ll need to advance a candidate who has a proven record of outperforming Democrats and can win swing voters who are Latinos and veterans.**

CA-48 candidate **Marni von Wilpert has been misleading voters and supporters on her record and viability.**

1. **Marni von Wilpert did not flip a Republican seat.** She ran in an open seat held by an Independent in a district that favored Democrats by 5.5 points.
2. Additionally, **von Wilpert underperformed Joe Biden by 8 points in her city council District race,** securing only 53% to Biden’s 61.7% during the 2020 election. She has a history of underperforming top of the ticket Democrats:



☰

Give Now

Von Wilpert came in slightly ahead of Leventhal in the March primary, with 39.8% of the vote to Leventhal's 36.9%. The third-place finisher was Democrat Isaac Wang.

The district is relatively balanced, with 36% percent of voters registered as Democrats, 31% as Republicans and 28.1% with no party preference. It covers northern San Diego neighborhoods including Black Mountain Ranch, Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, and Rancho Peñasquitos.

As a deputy city attorney, Von Wilpert said she's been on the front lines of enforcing San Diego County's public health orders during the pandemic.

San Diego City Council District 5	Dem Two-Way
Biden 2020	61.7%
Padilla 2022	57.4%
Schiff 2024	57.6%
Harris 2024	61.2%
Newsom 2022	56.0%



3. **Marni von Wilpert has never lived in CA-48, her district is more than 10 miles away and she has zero electoral record in any part of the district.** CA-48 voters have never seen Marni on the ballot.

4. **Failed path to victory:** Palm Springs, the newest part of CD-48, is a critical constituency made up of reliable Democratic voters, yet neither Will Rollins, Christy Holstege, nor Lisa Middleton won their elections to higher office due to their inability

to reach voters beyond Palm Springs. Marni von Wilpert, as her record will show, is a candidate in the same vein, who will fail to win over Latinos and veterans, who are the true swing voters in this district.

5. **Supporting ICE: Local activists oppose von Wilpert** for voting several times to continue usage of Flock Automated License Plate Reader cameras, which can share data with federal agencies like DHS and ICE.
6. **Housing failures:** Marni von Wilpert shockingly took credit at a press conference for securing \$1 million for down payment assistance to public school teachers, failing to mention that she voted against that very program back in 2021. Four years later, she hoped no one would remember her vote.
7. Under von Wilpert's watch, the **average rent of a 2-bedroom apartment has gone up by 32%** (~\$2200 in 2021 to ~\$2900 today, data gathered from Zillow). She voted to roll back a popular ADU permitting ordinance, making it harder to build affordable homes.
8. According to her colleagues on city council, **Marni von Wilpert has a history of embellishing her record and taking credit for others' work**, including claims of being sued by the NRA (the City Attorney was the defendant) and responsibility for popular city ordinances like the Grocery Transparency Ordinance (CM Sean Elo-Rivera was the lead).
9. **von Wilpert voted for the controversial, regressive Balboa Park parking fees** as a way to cover up mismanagement of the city budget.

1. Von Wilpert has no record of “flipping a red district”

Marni von Wilpert has no electoral record of defeating a sitting Republican. While she claims to have flipped a district from red to blue, her [election to San Diego City Council was the result of an open seat held by an independent, with no incumbent running and a Democratic vote advantage.](#) In 2020, Joe Biden won her district with more than 61% of the vote, while von Wilpert garnered only 53.3%. While the seat was previously held by an Independent, it was not the result of challenging a Republican with incumbent protection infrastructure.



Democrat Councilmember Marni von Wilpert was one of the City Council members who voted to approve the implementation of paid parking at Balboa Park.

She supported the measure in two key votes in late 2025, which ended a century-long tradition of free parking at the park. Paid parking officially went into effect on January 5, 2026.

Marni Von Wilpert went from wanting Senate District 40 to running for California's 48th Congressional District 🤔👀

Von Wilpert claims she can win Republican women, but recent anecdotal evidence counters that narrative. Republican women who haven't left the party are never going to swing to a Democrat.

2. Marni von Wilpert has no electoral record in CA-48

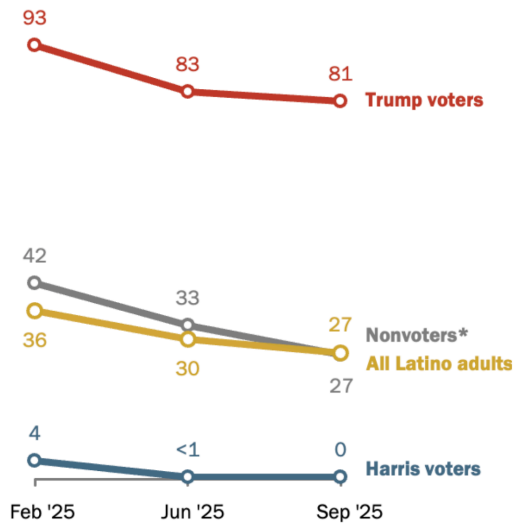
Von Wilpert represents District 5 on the San Diego City Council, however no part of the city of San Diego is in this congressional district. The communities that previously elected her do not overlap with California Congressional District 48, which is at least 10 miles away, and **she has no electoral history in this district. Not a single CA-48 voter has ever seen her on a ballot.**



She often claims to have grown up in the district. Marni von Wilpert grew up in Scripps Ranch, an affluent suburban area of the City of San Diego that has never been included in the traditionally Republican stronghold of pre-Prop 50 CA-48, or the CA-50 of the previous decade.

Trump's approval has declined among Latinos, including his 2024 voters

% of U.S. Latino adults who say they **approve** of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president



* Nonvoters are those who did not vote in 2024 but were eligible to do so.

Note: Validated voters are adult citizens for whom a record of voting was found in official state election records. Vote choice is based on self-reports from surveys. Those who were not eligible to vote are included in the share for all Latino adults but are not shown separately. Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer or offered other answers are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 22-28, 2025. "Majorities of Latinos Disapprove of Trump and His Policies on Immigration, Economy"

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Of the 462,000 registered voters in CD-48, 51.7% of them live in Riverside County, where Marni von Wilpert has neither received a single vote, nor has ever campaigned. The rest live in the battleground cities of Escondido, San Marcos, and Vista, as well as unincorporated parts of San Diego County, all of which are far outside of the city of San Diego.

Palm Springs, the newest part of CD-48, is a critical constituency made up of reliable Democratic voters, yet neither Will Rollins, Christy Holstege, nor Lisa Middleton won their elections due to their inability to reach voters beyond Palm Springs. Because the truth is the real swing voters who can flip this district are Latinos and veterans; neither of which came out in numbers for those candidates. Marni von Wilpert, as her record will show, is a candidate in the same vein, who will fail to win over these constituencies.

<https://www.npr.org/2025/11/24/nx-s1-5619170/trump-latinos-poll-immigration-economy-pew>

3. Approved surveillance technology used by federal immigration officers

Von Wilpert voted in favor of the continued use of surveillance videos and Automated License Plate Readers, even though the data could not be safeguarded against federal government access for immigration enforcement.

According to the Immigration Policy Tracking Project, "ICE officials have asked state/local law enforcement offices to search Flock cameras on their behalf. **Reportedly more than 4,000 lookups have been conducted at the behest of the federal government for immigration purposes,** "giving

federal law enforcement side-door access to a tool that it currently does not have a formal contract for.”

Automated license plate readers spark slew of privacy concerns in San Diego

“The idea that federal law enforcement agencies could use automated license plate readers, or ALPRs, to target people for political speech, their immigration status or those seeking reproductive care, has heightened the alarm in recent weeks.” - 6/29/25

4. Failed to address our region’s housing affordability crisis

In San Diego, nearly 40% of households are burdened by the cost of housing, with Native, Latino, and African American populations representing a higher proportion of these burdens. Despite this and despite being on San Diego City Council since 2020, von Wilpert has repeatedly voted to limit the expansion of affordable housing in our community. She approved restrictions on building ADU units while median home prices skyrocketed by over \$200,000 and has done little to resolve the lack of affordable housing. Under her watch, rents have increased by an average of 14% in the City of San Diego.

Cost Burdened Households

“Low-income residents can qualify for Section 8 vouchers, but neither the San Diego Housing Commission nor the Housing Authority of the County of San Diego have selected new names from their Section 8 waitlists since 2022... **The supply of affordable housing units in San Diego is not enough to meet current demand and is declining.**”

-1/9/26

Marni von Wilpert claims to be the champion for a public school teacher down payment assistance

program, but she was the sole vote against the entire program back in 2021 to appease constituents who didn’t want new housing. The San Diego City Council Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2021, Item 330c show the record of her votes on this issue previously:

<https://sandiego.hylandcloud.com/211agendaonlinecouncil/Meetings/ViewMeeting?id=4539&doctype=3>

San Diego City Council approves rollback of ADU incentives

“The San Diego City Council voted 5-4 on Monday to impose new restrictions on accessory dwelling units (ADUs), setting up a possible confrontation with state housing officials who warned the changes could violate state law.”

- 6/17/25

5. Has a history of embellishing her accomplishments and taking credit for work done by her colleagues

Von Wilpert claims to have been sued by the NRA for her ordinance banning ghost guns in the City of San Diego. She also claims she won. In actuality, the City of San Diego, represented by City Attorney Mara Elliott, was the defendant in a lawsuit filed by local gun owners. The NRA was not a plaintiff in the suit, which was ultimately dismissed by a judge and never brought to trial.

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	and SAN DIEGO CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID NISLEIT	
7		
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
9	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
10	JAMES FAHR; DESIREE BERGMAN;)	Case No. 21cv1676 BAS (BGS)
	COLIN RUDOLPH; SAN DIEGO)	
11	COUNTY GUN OWNERS PAC; AND)	DEFENDANTS CITY OF SAN
	FIREARMS POLICY COALITION,)	DIEGO AND SAN DIEGO
12	INC.,)	CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID
	Plaintiffs,)	NISLEIT'S RESPONSE TO
13		PLAINTIFFS' APPLICATION
14	v.)	FOR TRO; ALTERNATIVE
		MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
15	CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA)	INJUNCTION
	AND DAVID NISLEIT, IN HIS)	
16	OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF)	Date: October 19, 2021
	POLICE OF SAN DIEGO CITY,)	Time: 9:30 a.m.
17	CALIFORNIA,)	Judge: Hon. Cynthia Bashant
	Defendants.)	Court Room: 4B
18		

Von Wilpert also claims to have written San Diego's Grocery Transparency Ordinance, and gives no credit to her colleague, Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera (San Diego District 9), who led the effort and wrote the original ordinance. The original law passed in March 2025, but had to be partially rolled back in July of 2025. The rollback passed unanimously, meaning that von Wilpert and her colleagues recognized the flaws of the original law.

6. Increased parking fees across the city

During von Wilpert's time on the city council, parking meters have doubled their rates and new parking restrictions have been put into place. She's also supported parking cost increases such as dynamic pricing and surge pricing for special events, increasing costs to residents and visitors.

Von Wilpert voted in favor of permitted, annual parking fees for Balboa Park, negatively impacting many businesses, museums, and cultural institutions in the area.

Balboa Park museums say parking fees cut visits by 20% or more.

"The new fees will reduce museum revenue by \$20 million to \$30 million, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership predicted. Layoffs and reduced exhibits may result."

Current San Diego City Councilmember and candidate for California's newly redrawn 48th Congressional District, Marni von Wilpert is one of the least viable candidates in a district where **swing voters are Latinos and veterans**. She has never lived in the district, her district is more than 10 miles outside of CA-48, and has **zero electoral record in the district. In fact, not a single CA-48 voter has ever seen Marni on their ballot.**

Additionally, Marni's voting record does not reflect the values of Democrats in San Diego. She has voted against affordable housing projects, the safety of immigrants in our community, and increasing fees and cost of living throughout San Diego.

The people of California's 48th district deserve a representative who will fight for their rights and their values, not vote against them.