

Why Scott Baugh Must Not Win CA-47

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Making Waves for Democracy 10/22/2023 meeting

About the District - Cities: Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Newport Beach, and Seal Beach, and portions of Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, and Laguna Woods. The district is considered [+3 Dem](#) by Cook PVI.

Leans Democrat, but turnout is key!

In 2020, the district [voted](#) for Biden by 11%, but in 2022 Katie Porter only defeated Scott Baugh by just over 9000 votes or 3.4%. The difference was OC's overall voter turnout was 87% in [2020](#) and only a 55% turnout in [2022](#). Republicans nearly always turnout at higher rates than Dems and nearly always complete more of the ballot than Dems.

So, we need to reach out to low-propensity Dem voters to ensure they not only vote but also vote in this race. They need to know why their vote matters and why we need to keep Scott Baugh from winning this seat.

Scott Baugh has a long history of corruption.

In 1996, Scott Baugh was criminally indicted for violating campaign finance laws and perjury, including [4 felony and 18 misdemeanor charges](#). Part of those charges included putting up a fake Democratic candidate in order to win his state assembly seat. These were later reduced to civil penalties in a plea agreement where he [admitted in 1999](#) to committing nine California Political Reform Act violations and paid a \$47,000 fine. Baugh served in the assembly from 1995 to 2000.

Additionally, while he was Chair of the OC Republican Party (2005-2015), 600 OC residents had their voter registration changed to Republican without their consent. The [scandal](#) led to 12 arrests.

His role in the OC Fairgrounds sale scandal of 2009, in which a bid to sell the fairgrounds for \$100 million less than fair market value was eventually stopped by the courts, was called a ["laundered" arrangement](#) by the Fair Sale Review Commission's final report.

More recently, he personally [benefited from pandemic aid](#) when organizations he was associated with, including three that were dissolved, took nearly \$2 million in federal pandemic relief.

Scott Baugh would be another [MAGA](#) Republican in Congress.

- Supports [repealing](#) the Affordable Care Act
- Supports using [school vouchers](#) to use public education funds for private and religious schools
- Opposes codifying federal abortion protection. “[I do not support abortion in any form.](#)” and “[I believe life begins at conception.](#)”
- [Opposes legislation](#) to codify federal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages. “Fundamentally, I believe marriage is between a man and a woman.”
- [Would not vote to ban assault weapons](#)
- Wouldn't say how he would have voted on [January 6, 2020](#) on counting electoral votes
- [Declined to answer](#) question on acknowledging Joe Biden as the winner of the 2020 election
- Founding Chairman of the Institute for Fair Elections, an organization that [pushes disinformation and election fraud claims](#) in the face of contradicting evidence.
- Believes “[wokism](#)” to be the greatest threat to our country. “We survived civil wars, World War II, World War I, a lot of wars, 9/11. None of those were that threatening to our country compared to the war we're fighting now. That war is about wokism and the lack of common sense.”

MAGA Republicans support Scott Baugh

Baugh has raised over \$1.5 million and has received [donations from far right-wing donors and PACs](#) associated with:

- Ed Royce
- Kevin McCarthy
- Lucky Palmer
- Tom Emmer
- Michelle Steel
- Ken Calvert
- Pete Sessions
- Mike Garcia
- Elise Stefanik
- Andy Barr
- Darrell Issa
- Steve Scalise
- Howard Ahmanson, Jr.