

How we won

First: Thank you to all the volunteers, donors, and campaign team.

We prevailed by a lot.

¹Brad: 36.8%

Thompson (R): 32.7%

Levine: 15.2%

Others: 15.3%

Levine's campaign and Super PAC spent heavily and effectively on a professional digital and mail campaign, albeit false, to convince voters that President Barack Obama had endorsed him. Polls showed that many voters believed him, but they voted for Sherman anyway.

Levine had over \$3.5 million in resources:

Raised by Levine Campaign: \$2,739,028.30²

Raised by New ERA Leadership PAC (exclusively dedicated to helping Levine):
\$779,577.50³

Spending for Levine by the Progress Action Fund: \$100,000⁴

Total: \$3,618,605.80

Levine's fundraising included \$750,000 of his own funds contributed to his campaign and \$550,000 from his parents to New Era Leadership PAC.

Levine was a full-time candidate; he did not earn a paycheck for 16 months. He had all of the classic credentials for a serious candidate. Harvard Law School graduate. Served on White House National Security Council and served as Chief Climate Officer of the DFC, the U.S. government agency that invests tens of billions in lower-income countries.

¹ California Secretary of State, *Statement of Vote — June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election*, United States Representative, at 76–89, accessed July 17, 2026, <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2026-primary/sov/76-us-rep.pdf>.

² Federal Election Commission, Candidate Summary, Jake Levine (H6CA32207), accessed July 17, 2026, <https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H6CA32207/>.

³ Federal Election Commission, Committee Summary, New Era Leadership (C00945824), Independent Expenditure-Only Committee, 2026 Cycle, coverage 04/01/2026–05/31/2026, accessed July 17, 2026, <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00945824/>.

⁴ Politico California Playbook, May 11, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/california-playbook/2026/05/11/antonio-villaraigosa-says-hes-unleashed-00913732>.

The 2026 primary cycle was a unique once-in-a-decade anti-incumbent cycle due in part to the Biden implosion; Democratic voters demanded Youth and Change. Levine and his IE's spent millions behind that message.

Levine had a host of endorsements, including the League of Conservation Voters, California Environmental Voters, luminaries from the Obama and Biden White House, three former local congressmembers, and many Democratic Clubs.

The hosts of Pod Save America and David Letterman both did fundraising for him. He had the support of John Favreau, Tommy Vietor, Ben Rhodes, Samantha Power, and Jake Sullivan.

So why did Sherman beat Levine nearly 2.5 to 1?

30 years of working his district.

30 years of outstanding constituent service.

Seniority and skill that brought home funds for nearly 200 community projects.

A record of championing progressive causes that earned him endorsements (every labor endorsement, the Sierra Club, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and every local elected official who endorsed in the race).

A large war chest (despite no self-funding). In every other seriously contested race Sherman has had, he has put his own money into the campaign, often over half his net worth. See: 1990, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2012. This time, Sherman put in none of his personal money. **Sherman for Congress ended the campaign with nearly \$3 million cash on hand.**

Allies who contributed but were also prepared to do far more if necessary — but it did not prove necessary for Sherman's allies to go all-in.

Sherman had scores of volunteers from every neighborhood and ethnic community in his district.

And Sherman has even more room for improvement. Sherman had never represented the Ventura County portion (Simi Valley) of the post-Prop 50 32nd Congressional District - and this showed in the results. Sherman received only 25.9% of the Ventura County vote. However, soon Simi Valley will see Sherman's legendary community involvement, frequent presence at community functions, outstanding constituent services, and record of using his seniority and legislative prowess to bring back federal dollars for community projects.

Sherman did it before. In 1996, Thousand Oaks was the most Republican city in Ventura County and was included in Sherman's first district. It voted against Sherman by 20+% in his first contested general election (1996). Four years later, Sherman carried Thousand Oaks, a 20-point improvement.

