

# The Tribune

# PUNJAB POLLS 2012

SPECIAL

THE TRIBUNE, BATHINDA, MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012

**NAWANSHAHR**  
Voters: 1.44 lakh, Present MLA: Dead (Jatinder Singh Kariha, SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Satinder Kaur Karha (62)</b> Matriculate SAD Assets: ₹ 2.96 crore Widow of three-time MLA Jatinder Singh Kariha.	<b>Guriqbal Kaur (53)</b> BBA Congress Assets: ₹ 33.15 crore Widow of former MLA Parkash Singh.	<b>Abhey Singh Sandhu (55)</b> B.Com PPP Assets: ₹ 4.79 crore Nephew of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Setting up industrial units; bypass.

**PATIALA RURAL**  
Voters: 1.77 lakh, Present MLA: None (new constituency)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Brahm Mohindra (65)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 6.5 crore Four-time MLA; has been Cabinet Minister.	<b>Kuldeep Kaur Tohra (55)</b> Matriculate SAD Assets: ₹ 5.6 crore SGPC member; foster daughter of late Gurcharan Singh Tohra.	<b>Jodh Singh (35)</b> Matriculate BSP Assets: ₹ 65,500 Party worker since years.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development of residential colonies and semi-urban areas.

**PHILLAUR**  
Voters: 1.8 lakh, Present MLA: Sarwan Singh Phillaur (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Ch Santokh Singh (65)</b> LLB Congress Assets: ₹ 7 crore Was minister in Congress government.	<b>Avinash Chander (47)</b> Graduate SAD Assets: ₹ 2.25 crore Parliamentary Secretary in Badal government.	<b>Baldev Singh (32)</b> BSc BSP Assets: ₹ 2 crore Active party member; ex-member of zila parishad.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Roads, blocked sewers.

**RAJPURA**  
Voters: 1.46 lakh, Present MLA: Raj Khurana (BJP)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Hardyal Kamboj (53)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 12.4 lakh Confidant of MoS for External Affairs Preeti Kaur.	<b>Raj Khurana (56)</b> Undergraduate BJP Assets: NA Congress MLA; then won on BJP ticket in 2007.	<b>Nooru Chaudhary (46)</b> Graduate PPP Assets: ₹ 2.5 lakh Academician
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**KEY ISSUES:** Civic amenities; education infrastructure.

**SAHNEWAL**  
Voters: 1.6 lakh, Present MLA: None (New constituency)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Sharanjit Singh Dhillon (58)</b> LLB SAD Assets: ₹ 9.7 crore Former MP; once president of SAD, Punjab.	<b>Vikram Singh Bajwa (41)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 1 crore Has been secretary, general secretary of the party in state.	<b>Jagdev Singh Garcha (65)</b> Postgraduate CPI (M) Assets: ₹ 2.5 crore Retired as principal from a government school.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Roads, sewerage, water supply.

**SANAU**  
Voters: 1.76 lakh, Present MLA: Lal Singh (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Lal Singh (69)</b> Matriculate Congress Assets: ₹ 1.32 crore Five-time Congress MLA; contesting eighth time. Ex-minister.	<b>Dr T.P. Sandhu (49)</b> LLB, MJMC SAD Assets: ₹ 6.5 crore Son of ex-Akali minister; runs educational institutes.	<b>Ram Sarup (65)</b> Under-matric BSP Assets: ₹ 3.96 lakh A social worker.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Education and health infrastructure in rural areas.

**SHUTRANA (SC)**  
Voters: 1.47 lakh, Present MLA: Nirmal Singh (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Yaninder Kaur Loomba (44)</b> MA SAD Assets: ₹ 1.5 crore Daughter of former SAD MLA Baldev Singh Loomba.	<b>Nirmal Singh (59)</b> Under-matriculation Congress Assets: ₹ 26 lakh Two-time MLA, once of SAD, then Congress.	<b>Major Singh (40)</b> Undergraduate PPP Assets: ₹ 2 lakh A teacher.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Floods are a major concern.

**SUNAM**  
Voters: 1.62 lakh, Present MLA: Parminder Singh Dhindsa (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Parminder S Dhindsa (38)</b> Postgraduate SAD Assets: ₹ 5.42 crore Has been MLA twice; PWD Minister. Son of Rajya Sabha MP.	<b>Aman Arora (37)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 47.26 crore Son of former MLA Bhagwan Das Arora; lost in 2007.	<b>Sukhwinder Singh (49)</b> Class XII PPP Assets: ₹ 3.60 crore
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**KEY ISSUES:** Civic amenities; encroachments; law and order.

**ZIRA**  
Voters: 1.62 lakh, Present MLA: Nareesh Kumar Kataria (Congress)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Nareesh Kumar Kataria (47)</b> Matriculate Congress Assets: ₹ 4.68 crore Accessibility has made him popular in Akali strong-hold.	<b>Hari Singh Zira (71)</b> Under-matriculate SAD Assets: ₹ 5.40 crore Veteran Akali leader; won in Zira.	<b>Harinder Singh (44)</b> BSc PPP Assets: ₹ 2.45 crore Medical practitioner, first time in polls.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Revival of cooperative sugar mill; Dhussi Bundh; flood protection.

**NIHALSINGHWALA**  
Voters: 1.77 lakh, Present MLA: Ajit Singh Shant (Ind)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Ajit Singh Shant (56)</b> MA Congress Assets: ₹ 47 lakh Elected as Independent in 2007; now on Congress ticket.	<b>Rajwinder Kaur (34)</b> 10+2 SAD Assets: ₹ 6.3 lakh New entrant in politics. Father-in-law late Zora Singh was MLA twice.	<b>Mahinder Singh (54)</b> Primary CPI Assets: No property Die-hard Left activist; but joined active politics only now.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Depleting ground water; judicial court; health care.

**PATTI**  
Voters: 1,72,305, Present MLA: Adesh Pratap Singh Kairon (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Harminder Singh Gill (48)</b> Double MA Congress Assets: ₹ 1.52 crore Ex-president of Sikh Student Federation. Contesting for the third time.	<b>Adesh Pratap Kairon (51)</b> B.Tech SAD Assets: ₹ 3.46 crore Son-in-law of Parkash S Badal and son of former CM Partap Singh Kairon.	<b>Devinderjit S Dhillon (57)</b> BA, LLB CPI (M) Assets: ₹ 30 lakh Left leader, joined SAD, returned to CPI (M).
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development, drugs, unemployment.

**QADIAN**  
Voters: 1.39 lakh, Present MLA: L.S. Lodhinganol (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Charanjit Kaur Bajwa (54)</b> Graduation Congress Assets: ₹ 2.29 lakh Wife of MP Partap Bajwa; runs NGO Bajwa Foundation.	<b>S.S. Sekhwan (60)</b> Giani SAD Assets: ₹ 12.48 lakh Education Minister; grooming son Jagrup for politics.	<b>S.S. Chottepur (60)</b> Graduate Independent Assets: ₹ 8.30 lakh Ex-minister; was close to Capt Amarinder Singh, rebelled over ticket.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Upgrade from sub-tehsil to tehsil.

**RAMPURA PHUL**  
Voters: 1.44 lakh, Present MLA: Gurpreet Singh Kangar (Congress)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Sikandar Singh Maluka (62)</b> Matriculate SAD Assets: ₹ 4.5 crore Minister in 2002 SAD-BJP government.	<b>Gurpreet S Kangar (45)</b> BA Congress Assets: ₹ 8.9 crore Won in 2002 as Independent, in 2007 as Congress candidate.	<b>Lakhvir Singh (32)</b> BA, pursuing M Sc (IT) PPP Assets: Nil Earlier was close to SAD leader Sikandar Singh Maluka.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Railway over-bridges; sewerage; drinking water

**SAMANA**  
Voters: 1.52 lakh, Present MLA: Brahm Mohindra (Congress)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Raninder Singh (44)</b> BSc Congress Assets: ₹ 17 crore Son of Capt Amarinder Singh. Lost 2009 LS poll from Bathinda.	<b>Surjit Singh Rakhra (61)</b> Graduate SAD Assets: ₹ 19.24 lakh Former SAD MLA. Close to Parkash Singh Badal	<b>Maghar Singh (64)</b> Matriculate BSP Assets: ₹ 23.4 lakh A pensioner.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Rail link for Samana

**SARDULGARH**  
Voters: 1.46 lakh, Present MLA: Ajitinder Singh Mafar (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Ajitinder Singh Mafar (61)</b> BA-I Congress Assets: ₹ 2.5 crore Two-time MLA; in touch with grassroots workers.	<b>Dilraj Singh (43)</b> BE SAD Assets: ₹ 62 lakh Son of veteran SAD leader Balwinder Singh Bhunder.	<b>Nem Chand (40)</b> Matriculation PPP Assets: ₹ 51 lakh Former supporter of SAD leader Balwinder Singh Bhunder.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Roads; incomplete Sardulgarh bridge.

**SRI HARGOBINDPUR (SC)**  
Voters: 1.11 lakh, Present MLA: Balbir Singh Bath

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Balwinder Laddi (39)</b> Matriculate Congress Assets: ₹ 22.73 lakh Close to MP Partap Bajwa.	<b>Des Raj Dhugga (49)</b> SAD Assets: ₹ 9.26 lakh Chief Parliamentary Secretary in SAD-BJP government.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Co-ed degree college; floods.

**TALWANDI SABO**  
Voters: 1.32 lakh, Present MLA: Jeet Mohinder Singh Sidhu (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Amarjit Singh Sidhu (72)</b> MA SAD Assets: ₹ 1.9 crore Retired IAS officer; lost to Sidhu in 2002.	<b>Jeet Mohinder S Sidhu (48)</b> BSc Congress Assets: ₹ 5.6 crore Two-time MLA - 2002 and 2007.	<b>Sukhdar S Chahal (49)</b> Matriculate PPP Assets: ₹ 5.3 crore Ex-OSD of Congress leader Rajinder Kaur Bhattal. Congress rebel.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Cancer spread; drinking water; higher education.



**PATHANKOT**  
Voters: 1.24, Present MLA: Master Mohan Lal (BJP)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Ashwani Sharma (47)</b> Graduate BJP Assets: ₹ 54.77 lakh Seen as RSS man; state BJP president.	<b>Raman Bhalla (55)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 9.20 crore Was minister in Beant government; backed by Partap Bajwa.	<b>Ashok Sharma (62)</b> LLM Independent Assets: ₹ 27.8 lakh Elected on Congress ticket in 2002.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development; jobs.

**PAYAL**  
Voters: 1.4 lakh, Present MLA: Tej Parkash Singh (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Charanjeet Singh Arwal (74)</b> BA, LLB SAD Assets: ₹ 3.3 crore Was Deputy Speaker of 13th Lok Sabha; ex-Speaker, Punjab Assembly.	<b>Lakhbeer Singh Lakha (36)</b> Postgraduate Congress Assets: ₹ 56.8 lakh Was PA to Tej Parkash Singh Kotli.	<b>Malik Singh (38)</b> Class XI PPP Assets: ₹ 70,000 Sarpanch of Fatehpur village from SAD party.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Health, education and transport facilities.

**RAIKOT (SC)**  
Voters: 1.32 lakh, Present MLA: Harmohinder Singh Pardhan (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Bikramjit Singh Khalsa (42)</b> Graduate SAD Assets: ₹ 5.7 crore Son of renowned politician Basant Singh Khalsa. Won from Khanna in 2007.	<b>Gurcharan Singh Boparai (42)</b> Giani Congress Assets: ₹ 45 lakh Contesting first time from Raikot; links with party high command.	<b>Haqam Singh (57)</b> Graduate PPP Assets: ₹ 53 lakh Recently resigned from Cooperative Society to contest poll.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development; sanitation

**RUPNAGAR**  
Voters: 1.48 lakh, Present MLA: None (New constituency)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Dr Daljeet S Cheema (50)</b> Graduate SAD Assets: ₹ 2 crore In close coterie of CM Prakash Singh Badal.	<b>Ramesh Dutt Sharma (71)</b> Matriculate Congress Assets: ₹ 49.12 lakh Close to Rajinder Kaur Bhattal and Ambika Soni. Ex-BJP MLA.	<b>Amardeep Brar (31)</b> Postgraduate PPP Assets: ₹ 25.76 crore Holds key position in party. Rallyes well attended.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Many development projects hanging fire.

**SAMRALA**  
Voters: 1.45 lakh, Present MLA: Jagjivan Singh Khirmia (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Kirpal Singh Khirmia (76)</b> FA SAD Assets: ₹ 3.5 lakh Father of sitting Samrala MLA Jagjivan Singh Khirmia.	<b>Amrik Singh Dhillon (69)</b> Matriculation Congress Assets: ₹ 15.17 crore Two-time MLA, successful businessman.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Sewerage; park; rail link.

**SHAHKOT**  
Voters: 1.48 lakh, Present MLA: Ajit Singh Kohar

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Ajit Singh Kohar (71)</b> Under-middle SAD Assets: ₹ 2.15 crore Three-time MLA; Revenue Minister.	<b>Dr Navjot S Dahia (42)</b> MBBS, MS PPP Assets: ₹ 2.81 crore Doctor by profession, first time in politics.	<b>Col C. D. S Kamboj (63)</b> BA Congress Assets: ₹ 8.42 crore Lost to Kohar in last poll. Ex-president, BSP, Punjab.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Drugs; illicit liquor; unemployment; roads; sanitation.

**SUJANPUR**  
Voters: 1.49 lakh, Present MLA: Dinesh Babbu (BJP)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Dinesh Babbu (52)</b> Graduate BJP Assets: ₹ 3.67 crore Beat Congress heavy-weight R.S. Puri in 2007 poll.	<b>Vinay Mahajan (48)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 2.43 crore First-time; loyalist of MP Partap Bajwa.	<b>Nareesh Puri (43)</b> BE Independent Assets: ₹ 20.22 crore Son of former minister R.S. Puri; ex-MC chief.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Drinking water; medical college.

**TARN TARAN**  
Voters: 1.55 lakh, Present MLA: Harmit Singh Sandhu (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Harmit Singh Sandhu (42)</b> BA SAD Assets: ₹ 3.78 crore Won in 2002 as Independent, 2007 for SAD.	<b>Dharamveer Agnihotri (65)</b> BIMS Congress Assets: ₹ 2.93 crore Lost last election to SAD's Brahmputra. Close to Rahul Gandhi.	<b>Vijay Pal Chaudhry (56)</b> BA PPP Assets: ₹ 68.86 lakh Local councillor; joined Manpreet Badal.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development; drugs; unemployment.

**PATIALA CITY**  
Voters: 1.4 lakh, Present MLA: Capt Amarinder Singh (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Capt Amarinder Singh (69)</b> Ex-NDA Congress Assets: ₹ 43.5 crore Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister.	<b>Surjit Singh Kohli (61)</b> Graduate SAD Assets: ₹ 2.9 crore Was minister in previous SAD govt.	<b>Joga Singh (40)</b> Matriculate PPP Assets: ₹ 8.78 lakh Agriculturalist
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development sole issue.

**PHAGWARA (SC)**  
Voters: 1.43 lakh, Present MLA: Swarna Ram (BJP)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Balbir Raja Sodhi (45)</b> Matric Congress Assets: ₹ 3 crore Was denied party ticket in 2002; ex-Chairman, Improvement Trust.	<b>Som Parkash (62)</b> BJP Assets: ₹ 2.42 crore Ex-IAS officer; lost Lok Sabha election from Hoshiarpur.	<b>Mulakh Raj (45)</b> Matric PPP Assets: ₹ 91 lakh Retired naib tehsildar; first-timer in politics.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Sewerage; traffic.

**RAJASANSI**  
Voters: 1.43 lakh, Present MLA: Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Sukhbinder S Sarkaria (56)</b> BSc Congress Assets: ₹ 11 cr One of only two Cong candidates in Majha who retained seat in 2007.	<b>Veer Singh Lopoko (63)</b> BA SAD Assets: ₹ 4.6 cr Ex-MLA; close to Badal family.	<b>Amanpreet S Chhina (34)</b> MSc Sanjha Morcha Assets: ₹ 72 lakh From family of freedom fighter and politician Comrade Achhar Singh Chhina.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Unemployment; drugs; and development.

**SAS NAGAR**  
Voters: 1.65 lakh, Present MLA: Balbir Singh Sidhu (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Balbir Singh Sidhu (52)</b> Class XII Congress Assets: ₹ 12 crore Contested thrice from Kharar, once as Independent.	<b>Balwant S Ramoowalia (69)</b> Postgraduate SAD Assets: ₹ 5.5 crore Has been MP thrice and Union Minister once.	<b>Bir Devinder Sarao (62)</b> Postgraduate PPP Assets: ₹ 5 crore Ex-Congress, SAD. Won from Kharar in 2002 (Congress).
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**KEY ISSUES:** Administrative infrastructure; village link roads.

**SANGRUR**  
Voters: 1.55 lakh, Present MLA: Surinder Pal Singh Sibia (Cong)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Surinder Pal S Sibia (57)</b> Graduate Congress Assets: ₹ 8.37 crore Known for clean image.	<b>Parkash Chand Garg (60)</b> Under-matriculate SAD Assets: ₹ 2.69 crore Close associate of MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.	<b>Baldev Singh Mann (70)</b> Class XII PPP Assets: ₹ 2.10 crore Expelled from SAD a couple of years back.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Roads and civic amenities

**SHAM CHAURASI (SC)**  
Voters: 1.46 lakh, Present MLA: Mohinder Kaur Josh (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Chaudhary Ram Lubhaya (72)</b> BA Congress Assets: ₹ 3.27 crore Husband of Hoshiarpur MP Santosh Chaudhary. Won in 2002, lost in 2007.	<b>Mohinder Kaur Josh (64)</b> BA SAD Assets: ₹ 3.38 crore Won the seat twice.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Administrative infrastructure; village link roads.

**SULTANPUR LODHI**  
Voters: 1.17, Present MLA: Dr Upinderjit Kaur (SAD)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Dr Upinderjit Kaur (72)</b> Triple MA, Phd SAD Assets: ₹ 2.37 crore Finance Minister; has won three times.	<b>Navtej Singh Cheema (36)</b> BA Congress Assets: ₹ 1.8 crore Son of former minister Gurmell Singh.	<b>Jaimal Singh</b> PPP Assets: ₹ 59 lakh Former MC chief; was a confidant of Dr Upinderjit Kaur.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Development sole issue.

**URMUR**  
Voters: 1.51 lakh, Present MLA: None (new constituency)

**MAIN CONTESTANTS**

<b>Sangat Singh Gilzian (58)</b> Matriculate Congress Assets: ₹ 1.2 crore Won from Tanda in 2007.	<b>Arbinder Singh (61)</b> BA SAD Assets: ₹ 7.15 crore Senior party leader and social worker.
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**KEY ISSUES:** Sewerage; traffic.