



2023 Back to Session Memo *December 13, 2022*

Legislative Update

Both the California State Senate and Assembly convened for an organizational session on December 5, 2022, to kick off the 2023-2024 legislation session. At this time, each house also formally elected their leadership. Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins will continue to remain the leader of the Senate. In the Assembly, the Democratic Caucus met following the elections and determined that Assembly Speaker Rendon (termed out in 2024) will continue to serve as Speaker but will relinquish the position to Assembly Member Robert Rivas (Salinas) on June 30th, at the conclusion of the 2023-24 state budget deliberations.

With nearly a fourth of the Legislature being newly elected this year, we will see a number of new committee chairmanships and committee assignments. New members will face a challenging environment with the decline in expected state revenues and likely deficit. Additionally, the Governor has officially called a special session regarding oil and gas prices that started December 5th, but the Legislature will not start its deliberations until the new year.

General Election Update

On November 8th, California held its General Election to vote on all state constitutional offices, all Assembly seats (80), and half (20) of the Senate seats. Although there are two races that may have a recount, it appears that the overall makeup of the Legislature will not significantly change. The Legislature will continue with a Democratic supermajority – **the Senate will include 32 Democrats and 8 Republicans, and the Assembly will include 61 Democrats and 19 Republicans.** The ability of Democrats to hold on to a supermajority, with more than two-thirds of the seats in each house, allows them to determine the Legislature's priorities and positions on an array of the state budget, tax, and policy issues.

Twenty-four (24) new Assemblymembers are preparing to make their way to Sacramento:

- Democrats Stephanie Nguyen (AD-10); Damon Connolly (AD-12); Liz Ortega (AD-20); Diane Papan (AD-21); Esmeralda Soria (AD-27); Gail Pellerin (AD-28); Dawn Addis (AD-30); Dr. Jasmeet Bains (AD-35); Gregg Hart (AD-37); Juan Carrillo (AD-39); Rick Chavez Zbur (AD-51); Corey Jackson (AD-60); Blanca Pacheco (AD-64); Avelino Valencia (AD-68); Josh Lowenthal (AD 69); David Alvarez (AD 80); and Republicans Joe Patterson (AD-5); Josh Hoover (AD-7); Juan Alanis (AD-22); Greg Wallis (AD- 47); Bill Essayli (AD-63); Tri Ta (AD-70); Kate Sanchez (AD-71) and Diane Dixon (AD-72).

The Senate also welcomed 10 newcomers to their ranks:

- Democrats Marie Alvarado-Gil (SD-4), Angelique Ashby (SD-8), Aisha Wahab (SD-10), Steve Padilla (SD-18), Caroline Menjivar (SD-20), Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (SD-28), and Catherine Blakespear (SD-38). Republican Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto (SD-32) is moving from one chamber to the other, and former Republican Assemblymember Janet Nguyen is returning to represent Senate District 36. Similarly, former Assemblymember Roger Niello will be representing SD-9.

County elections officials completed final official results by December 8, 2022. The Secretary of State will certify the results on December 16, 2022. The last two closely contested races included:

- Assembly District 47 (Holstege, D < > Wallis, R): Greg Wallis beat Christy Holstege by 85 votes.
- Senate District 16 (Hurtado, D < > Shepard, R): Incumbent Melissa Hurtado beat David Shepard by 20 votes.

Below, we have included a short bio of all **new** Assemblymembers and Senators and flagged a few priority policy issues of focus in their campaign.

New Legislative Members Elected in November 2022

Senate

District 4 - Maria Alvarado-Gil (D)
District 6 - Roger Niello (R)
District 8 - Angelique Ashby (D)
District 10 - Aisha Wahab (D)
District 18 - Steve Padilla (D)
District 20 - Caroline Menjivar (D)
District 28 - Lola Smallwood Cuevas (D)
District 32- Kelly Seyarto (R)
District 36 – Janet Nguyen (R)
District 38 - Catherine Blakespear (D)

Assembly

District 5 - Joe Patterson (R)
District 7 – Josh Hoover (R)
District 10 - Stephanie Nguyen (D)
District 12 - Damon Connolly (D)
District 20 - Liz Ortega (D)
District 21 - Diane Papan (D)
District 22 - Juan Alanis (R)
District 27 - Esmeralda Soria (D)
District 28 - Gail Pellerin (D)
District 30 - Dawn Addis (D)
District 35 - Jasmeet Bains (D)
District 37 - Gregg Hart (D)
District 39 - Juan Carrillo (D)
District 47 - Greg Wallis (R)
District 51 - Rick Chavez Zbur (D)
District 60 - Corey A. Jackson (D)
District 63 - Bill Essayli (R)
District 64 - Blanca Pacheco (D)
District 68 - Avelino Valencia (D)
District 69 – Josh Lowenthal (D)
District 70 - Tri Ta (R)
District 71 - Kate Sanchez (R)
District 72 - Diane Dixon (R)
AD 80 – David Alvarez (D)

California State Senate

District 4 - Maria Alvarado-Gil (D)

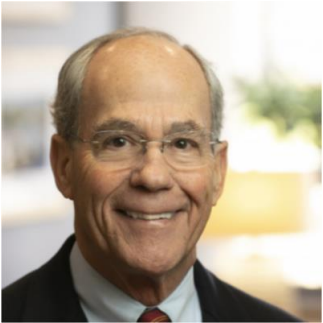


Marie was a public-school administrator and an advocate for education equity and increased funding for public schools. Throughout her career, Marie has impacted the lives of thousands of victims of violent crimes, people with disabilities, the mentally ill, the uninsured, and working-class individuals. She is an ally to the legal community, law enforcement, probation, and Cal Fire. Marie has a bachelor's and master's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco and is a widely recognized and awarded leader in public service. Marie lives in Amador County with her husband Cesar; they are parents of a blended family of six children and one grandbaby.

Top priorities include:

- Opposes tax hikes - campaign promise to never vote to raise taxes.
- Provide more police funding and fire, while introducing legislation to repeal Props 47 and 57.
- Ensure access to safe and affordable housing for working families and seniors.

District 6 - Roger Niello (R)



Roger is a former California Assembly member. From 2004 to 2010 he represented the Assembly District that included Sacramento County and neighboring towns. Niello was born in San Francisco and has lived in Sacramento for nearly all his life with his wife and 5 children. Niello attended the University of California at Berkeley for his undergraduate studies, then completed his graduate studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. Niello worked as a Certified Public Accountant until he joined his family's business at Niello Auto Group in 1974 and spent the next 25 years running retail automobile dealerships with his family partners. In 1995, Niello served as the President of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Capital Area Political Action Committee.

Top priorities include:

- Lead a new approach to treating homelessness by addressing the root causes.
- Work to keep our streets, neighborhoods, and communities safe from crime and drugs.
- Fight for reforms to make California a leading state in creating businesses and jobs.

District 8 - Angelique Ashby (D)



Angelique was most recently a Sacramento City Council Member for District 1 and was the longest-standing member. She served over half of her time in office as the only female representing the City of Sacramento. Ashby obtained her BA in Sociology with an emphasis on Law and Society from the University of California at Davis and her Juris Doctorate from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. She owns a consulting firm she started with her father, the focus of which is to build programs for populations who confront barriers to success. She and her husband, an emergency room nurse, live in Natomas with their two young children.

Top priorities include:

- Budgetary investment in the Sacramento region, including funding for schools and libraries, the digital divide, food access, and employment.
- Affordable housing, including solutions to help those experiencing homelessness that include wraparound services.
- Protecting the environment and achieving climate and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

District 10 - Aisha Wahab (D)



Aisha served on the Hayward City Council in 2018 and made national headlines as the first Afghan American woman elected to public office in the United States. As Mayor Pro Tempore and a City Council Member of Hayward, Aisha has implemented policies that reduce economic inequality, and expand homeownership opportunities. Aisha previously served as the Chair of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission and a Board Member for the nonprofits Afghan Coalition, Abode Services, and Tri-City Volunteers. She has also served as an Alameda County Public Health Commissioner. Aisha has a B.A. from San Jose State University, M.B.A. from CSU East Bay, and a doctoral degree in progress.

Top priorities include:

- Housing at all income levels - addressing the housing affordability crisis.
- Supporting small businesses that create local jobs - tackling income inequality and opportunity inequality.
- Protecting the environment and combating climate change.

District 18 - Steve Padilla (D)



Steve Padilla made history as Chula Vista's first Latino and first LGBTQ Mayor, and previously, when he was elected to the City Council, was the first person of color ever to serve in city office. Steve also serves as Chairman of California's Coastal Commission, the powerful state agency charged with environmental protection and conservation along our coast. He previously served as a commissioner for the Port of San Diego. His first career venture was into law enforcement for 13 years. Steve holds undergraduate degrees in Liberal Arts and Public Administration and studied law at WSU College of Law. He lives in the Otay Ranch neighborhood of Chula Vista and is a single father to his daughter Ashleigh.

Top priorities include:

- Fighting for working families – healthcare, housing, quality schools, and more.
- Combating climate change - the state needs to take bold action.
- Protecting communities – ensure police are well-trained and protect all communities equally.

District 20 - Caroline Menjivar (D)



Growing up in the San Fernando Valley, Caroline watched her parents, immigrants from El Salvador, wake up every morning in their small Tarzana apartment and get ready for work tending to wealthier people's needs. At 18, her and her mom found themselves evicted and housing unstable due to the subprime mortgage crisis. Caroline enlisted in the Marine Corps and served from 2009 – 2016. Caroline returned to work as an EMT and earned her Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Northridge, and a Master of Social Welfare from UCLA. Caroline served as a city field deputy and then as East Valley Representative for the LA Mayor's office. Caroline was a director at a non-profit in Pacoima and is a homeowner in Panorama City where she resides with her wife and two dogs.

Top priorities include:

- Environment: pledged not to take fossil fuel contributions from those harming our communities and to hold them accountable for their actions, bringing public health dollars to our district.
- Education/Jobs: create sustainable, good-paying jobs and ensure that every child has access to quality education.
- Mental Health/Homelessness: increase the access and affordability of mental health services and provide more effective treatment, housing, and services for the unhoused.

District 28 - Lola Smallwood Cuevas (D)



Lola Smallwood Cuevas began her career in journalism; she wrote for the Oakland Tribune Long Beach Press-Telegram and the Chicago Tribune. She obtained a B.S. in Communications from Cal State Hayward. She entered the labor movement and served as the political and community coordinator for SEIU Local 1877 (now SEIU USWW). Lola co-founded the Los Angeles Black Worker Center and served as the treasurer for the LA County Workforce Development Board. Most recently she served as a Project Director at the UCLA Labor Center, where she directed the Center for the Advancement of Racial Equity at Work project. Lola is married with two school-aged children. They have resided in the View-Park neighborhood for over 20 years.

Top priorities include:

- Protecting and expanding the right to collectively bargain.
- Creating good union jobs in the new green economy.
- Expanding access to affordable healthcare.

District 32- Kelly Seyarto (R)



On January 21, 1962, Seyarto was born in La Puente, California. Seyarto grew up in Baldwin Park, California and La Verne. He also earned an associates degree in fire science from Mt. San Antonio College and earned a bachelor of science degree from California State University, Los Angeles. After college, Seyarto joined the La Verne fire department as a paid reserve firefighter. Shortly after, he was elected to the Murrieta city council in 1997 and then was selected to serve as mayor in the years of 2000, 2003, 2006, and 2019. On November 3, 2020, Seyarto won his general election for the California State Assembly as a Republican. Currently, Kelly Seyarto resides in La Verne and is married to his wife Denise and they have 3 children together.

Top priorities include:

- Addressing the runaway cost of living crisis - Suspend the gas tax, end damaging regulations that are crippling businesses, give people their money back through lower taxes, encourage job growth and attainment.
- Keeping our communities safe - safe from criminal activity, safe from wildfires, safe from illicit drugs like Fentanyl, and safe from child predators
- Focus on our infrastructure - fund and build the needed roads in growing communities, fix the state water problem.

District 36- Janet Nguyen (R)



Nguyen was born in Saigon, South Vietnam, on May 1, 1976, roughly one year after the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. Her family joined millions of others in becoming “boat people” when she was five, coming to California in 1981. They first lived in San Bernardino, but settled in Garden Grove in the early 1990s. She attended the University of California, Irvine, at first to become a doctor but later majored in political science after she was inspired by then-Supervisor Bill Steiner. She is married to Tom Bonikowski, Jr., with whom she has two sons, Thomas III and Timothy.

Top priorities include:

- Modernize and improve classrooms
- Combating the cost of living by providing tax credits
- Combat homelessness by building more housing and expanding healthcare

District 38 - Catherine Blakespear (D)



Catherine Blakespear grew up in Del Mar and Cardiff. She attended Northwestern University in Chicago, where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism. She also attended law school at the University of Utah. As an attorney, Catherine clerked at the Utah Court of Appeals before eventually co-founding a woman-owned law firm focusing on estate planning. Catherine was elected to the Encinitas City Council in 2014. She was subsequently elected Mayor in 2016 and re-elected in 2018 and 2020. Catherine and her husband Jeremy live in Cardiff with their two teenage children.

Top priorities include:

- Protecting a woman’s right to choose.
- Supporting small businesses - small businesses create good-paying jobs and are the engine of the state’s economy.
- Housing affordability and homelessness - create more housing opportunities for people at all income levels.

California State Assembly

District 5 - Joe Patterson (R)



Joe graduated with a B.A. in Government from California State University Sacramento and was selected for the post-graduate Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship where he began his career working in the California State Assembly. Joe was recognized by the California State Assembly as being “respected by his peers for his policy acumen, strategic instincts, and political skills.” In November 2016, Joe was elected to the Rocklin City Council as the top-vote getter and served as its mayor in 2019. Re-elected in 2020, he also served for 5 years as the Treasurer of the Rocklin Public Safety Foundation and sits on several local boards and commissions. Joe and his wife have four children.

Top Priorities include:

- Protect quality of life.
- Restore liberty.
- Keep communities safe.

District 7- Josh Hoover (R)



Hoover was born in Folsom, California. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and public policy at the University of California, Los Angeles and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. Hoover had worked as a legislative aide for 11 years.^[2] Prior to being elected to the State Assembly, Hoover was the Chief of Staff for California State Assemblyman Kevin Kiley. He also served in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. Currently, Hoover is married to his wife Nicole and they have 3 children together.

Top Priorities include:

- Bringing down the cost of gas and solve the inflation crisis
- Finding solutions for homelessness
- Combat crime

District 10 - Stephanie Nguyen (D)



Stephanie Nguyen has lived in Sacramento and Elk Grove communities almost all her life. She grew up in Sacramento's Little Saigon district and attended Sacramento schools before graduating from Sacramento State University. For the past 15 years, Nguyen has worked as the Executive Director of Asian Resources, Inc. (ARI). Prior to ARI, Nguyen was the Director of the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber (SACC) Foundation, administering programs that foster leadership skills of young Asian Pacific Islanders (API) and help them recognize their strengths. On February 2, 2017, Nguyen was unanimously appointed to serve as the Council Member for District 4 in the City of Elk Grove, making her the first Asian American woman to serve as a Council Member for the City. She and her husband, an Elk Grove police officer, have lived in Elk Grove for over 18 years along with their two young daughters

Top priorities include:

- Collaborating with law enforcement to ensure that all neighborhoods and communities are safe.
- Address the growing unhoused population that is linked to mental health and substance abuse.
- Ensure that there is a pathway for economic growth and a strong workforce.

District 12 - Damon Connolly (D)



Damon served as a Marin County Supervisor, Vice-Mayor of San Rafael, School Board President, and California Deputy Attorney General. He attended college and law school at UC Berkeley. In addition, he co-founded Marin Clean Energy and helped start Sonoma Clean Power, giving the North Bay reliable green energy. Damon has served as the President of the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay. Most recently, he was a member of the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Marin County Housing Authority, and Marin County Open Space District. Damon also served as Marin County's representative on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Damon has lived in San Rafael for the last 25 years with his wife and their two daughters.

Top priorities include:

- Climate Change
- Wildfire Prevention
- Affordable Housing

District 20 - Liz Ortega (D)



Liz has spent the past 20 years working with labor unions and community organizations to advance economic opportunities, social justice, and immigrants' rights. Most recently, she served as the Statewide Political Director for AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) Local 3299, the University of California system's largest employee union. Liz also served on the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board. Liz, her husband Jason, (a former school board member) and her daughter, Yamara, live in San Leandro, where Yamara attends a local public high school.

Top priorities include:

- Job creation/healthcare - fought successfully for higher East Bay minimum wages, paid sick leave, and support for working families struggling to make ends meet.
- Affordable housing - will champion development that generates local jobs and homeownership opportunities for teachers, firefighters, essential workers, and future generations.
- Great schools - passionate about quality education.

District 21 - Diane Papan (D)



Diane Papan grew up in San Mateo County. She previously served as Chair of Baywood School's Site Council, President of Baywood Neighborhood Association, and Second Vice-President of San Mateo United Homeowners. She engaged her neighbors and the public in improving local schools and the community's services. A graduate of UCLA, Diane also received her law degree from Hastings Law School. Her legal practice specializes in representing small businesses and commercial clients. She is also a Director of John's Closet, a Peninsula nonprofit that has provided new clothes, scholarships, and essential items to over 15,000 school-age children and young adults. She and her husband Dan live in the Baywood neighborhood with their 9-year-old daughter who attends a local public school.

Top priorities include:

- Housing affordability, while maintaining safe neighborhoods, and creating compassionate, effective solutions to homelessness.
- Protecting against the impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels
- Fight for San Mateo County's fair share of state and federal funds to improve the quality of life for this generation and those to come.

District 22 - Juan Alanis (R)



Sergeant Juan Alanis is a Stanislaus County Sheriff's Sergeant who supervises a team of forty-two deputies. He has served as Patrol Watch Commander, acting police chief, and SWAT Team Member. He has also worked as a School Resource Officer and worked closely with the Stanislaus County Board of Education to provide active shooting scenarios and guidance on how to make schools safer. Juan began his career in law enforcement on his 21st birthday and has proudly pinned on a badge for the last 27 years. Juan received a B.A., in Criminal Justice from California State University, Stanislaus. Juan and his wife Barbara have three children.

Top priorities include:

- Lowering gas prices.
- Fight the high cost of housing, food, and other essentials.
- Protect communities from rising crime.

District 27 - Esmeralda Soria (D)



Esmeralda was elected to represent Council District 1 in the City of Fresno on November 4th of 2014. She represents over 72,000 residents in her district. Esmeralda was born and raised in Tulare County by Mexican immigrant farmworkers. She has served on several non-profit boards such as Hands on Central California, Fresno Barrios Unidos, and UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic Council. She is a proud alumna of HOPE Leadership Institute, graduating from the program in 2013. Esmeralda was the only woman on the Fresno City Council, the second Latina to ever serve on the council and the first Latina to serve as Council President. She has been an adjunct professor at Fresno City College for the last 8 years. Esmeralda graduated from UC Berkeley and earned a JD from the UC Davis School of Law.

Top priorities include:

- Creating more affordable housing for middle- and low-income families as well as more paths to homeownership.
- Fighting to ensure the Central Valley gets its fair share of resources.
- Protecting and growing the Central Valley's economy.

District 28 - Gail Pellerin (D)



Gail Pellerin served as the chief elections official in Santa Cruz County from 1993 until her retirement in December 2020. Gail has 35 years of experience in public service, including over seven years working for the Speaker's Office of Majority Services in the State Legislature (1985-1992). In June 2018, Gail was elected to her 4th term as County Clerk. Gail has a BS in Journalism from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Prior to her experience in public service, Gail worked as a campaign assistant to political campaigns, a newspaper reporter and photographer, and a community college instructor. Gail has two adult children Jacob and Emily.

Top priorities include:

- Tackling the housing shortage and homelessness.
- Stimulating jobs, wages, and our economy.
- Addressing environmental impacts and climate change.

District 30 - Dawn Addis (D)



Dawn Addis is a City Councilmember, teacher, and mom, with a 20-year record of leadership in our Central Coast communities. As a Morro Bay Councilmember, Dawn has worked to promote economic development, improve local infrastructure, and protect the things that make the Central Coast such a special place to live. She has worked for the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, the largest Unified School District in the 30th Assembly District, since 2000. Dawn was named the 2017 "Woman of the Year" for the 24th Congressional District, because of her public advocacy efforts. Dawn is also an active member of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. She holds a Master of Arts degree in special education from San Francisco State University. She has teaching credentials in elementary education, secondary education and special

education and is fluent in Spanish. Dawn and her husband, Marcus, are the proud parents of two sons.

Top priorities include:

- Housing - fight to provide dignified, permanent housing for all.
- Universal healthcare.
- Education - as a special education teacher, recognize the importance of getting dollars to classrooms and providing a world-class education to California's students.

District 35 - Jasmeet Bains (D)



Dr. Bains grew up in the Valley to immigrant parents. Dr. Bains is a family doctor providing primary health care to families throughout our Valley and a champion for children, fighting to improve health outcomes for vulnerable communities. Dr. Bains serves as a volunteer with Global Family, an organization dedicated to combating human trafficking and child abuse, on the San Joaquin Valley Air District's Environmental Justice Advisory group she was appointed by then Governor Brown to the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission and was awarded the 2019 Hero of Family Medicine by the California Academy of Family Physicians, and the 2021 Beautiful Bakersfield Award from the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce.

Top priorities include:

- Ensure greater Medi-Cal coverage for underserved and rural communities.
- Help small businesses rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic, create high-wage jobs, and ensure everyone can retire with dignity.
- Ensure our students can safely return to the classroom; invest in our students at every level from pre-K through community college and beyond and make Career Technical Education a top priority.

District 37 - Gregg Hart (D)



Gregg grew up in Santa Barbara, attended local schools, and graduated from Santa Barbara City College and UC Santa Barbara with degrees in Political Science. He began his career as a legislative assistant for State Assemblymember Jack O'Connell. He is a founding manager of the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's (SBCAG) Traffic Solutions program. Gregg was appointed to the Santa Barbara City Planning Commission and elected to four terms on the Santa Barbara City Council. Gregg was appointed to the California Coastal Commission from 2000-2004. In 2018, he was elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. For more than twenty years, Gregg Hart owned and operated Transitions Preschool, a local, family business dedicated to early-childhood education and quality childcare.

Top priorities include:

- Protect air and water quality and the natural environment, advocate for ambitious climate goals.
- Promote policies that improve the quality of life of all Californians. This includes investing in public education, making sure our communities and neighborhoods are protected through traditional law enforcement and prevention programs.
- Address the state's housing and homelessness crises; increase state support for the development of affordable housing and the necessary supportive services that will keep people housed.

District 39 - Juan Carrillo (D)



Juan was born and raised in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico, and immigrated to Los Angeles when he was 15. He earned his Associate Degree in Architecture from College of the Desert, Bachelor Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University Pomona, and Master's in Public Administration from California State University Northridge. Before entering public office, Carrillo served as a city planner for 15 years. Juan serves as a member of the Palmdale City Council. He lives with his wife Vanessa, who works in early childhood education, in east Palmdale. Their four children attended Palmdale public schools.

Top priorities include:

- Address the homelessness crisis.
- Increase green space.
- Support local small businesses.

District 47 - Greg Wallis (R)



Greg Wallis is a third-generation Californian. He grew up in the Silicon Valley and graduated from California Lutheran University, where he studied political science. Before running for public office and for the last 8 years, Greg served as the district director for local Assemblymember Chad Mayes where he advocated for sustainable water, lowering taxes, and renewable energy. In addition, he was also a youth sports coach and a church leader. Greg and his wife Desiree live in Bermuda Dunes with their two dogs.

Top priorities:

- Reducing the cost of living - stop reckless government spending and support significant tax cuts in.
- Education - wants to make it easier for parents to take their children out of public schools and into charter schools.
- Homelessness - cut program spending on homelessness and spend more on mental health and drug addiction prevention.

District 51 - Rick Chavez Zbur (D)



Rick grew up in a rural farming community in the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico, the same area where his mother Erlinda Chavez, and her family lived for generations. Rick ultimately became the first person in his rural community to attend an Ivy League university. After graduating from Yale College and Harvard Law School, Rick moved to Los Angeles in 1985 and joined Latham & Watkins, one of the nation's most respected law firms. In 2014, Rick left his law firm to become the Executive Director of Equality California, the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization. Rick lives in Los Angeles and is the proud co-parent of a 17-year-old daughter and 13-year-old twins, who attend public schools.

Top priorities include:

- Housing and homelessness: develop comprehensive housing strategies that result in building more affordable and workforce housing near transit, while at the same time protecting the integrity, livability, and character of neighborhoods.
- Advance social justice, civil rights, and criminal justice reform.
- Combat climate change: act boldly and with a sense of urgency.

District 60 - Corey A. Jackson (D)



Corey A. Jackson, MSW, was elected to the Riverside County Board of Education in 2020 and represents portions of the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris, and the unincorporated community of Mead Valley. Corey is a local nonprofit and civil rights leader who is one of the leading social justice advocates in the region. He recently served as the founder and Chief Executive Officer of SBX Youth and Family Services whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty and violence through mentoring education, and community organizing. Corey continues to serve his community as the Political Action Chair of the Riverside NAACP. He is also a graduate of California Baptist University where he received his Master of Social Work degree.

Top priorities include:

- Making home ownership more affordable.
- Help the homeless get into healthy and safe homes.
- Increase high-quality education.

District 63 - Bill Essayli (R)



Bill Essayli was a former federal prosecutor and Riverside County Deputy District Attorney. Today, he is a partner at the law firm of Essayli & Brown LLP where he practiced as an experienced trial attorney with a reputation for vigorously defending the interests of his clients. Bill has been a resident of Riverside County for three decades. After graduating from Centennial High School, he was the first in his family to graduate college. Bill received his undergraduate degree from the Kellogg Honors College of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He received his law degree from Chapman University School of Law. He is the proud son of Lebanese American immigrants.

Top priorities include:

- Combat crime: previously worked with the riverside sheriff's office to advocate for crime and safety bills.
- Economy: tackle the high gas prices by suspending the gas tax.
- Energy: ease the pressure on the private sector to allow them to make loan decisions on energy development across the state.

District 64 - Blanca Pacheco (D)



Blanca is the first-ever Latina to serve in the position as the Mayor of the City of Downey. She was first elected to the Downey City Council in 2016 and became Mayor in 2020. Blanca attended UCLA, receiving her bachelor's degree in Political Science and a specialization in Chicano/a Studies in 1996. She went on to Loyola Law School and worked at the Loyola Law School Center for Conflict Resolution where she helped mostly Spanish-speaking community members mediate disputes and resolve conflicts between neighbors and businesses. She later graduated from Loyola and passed the California State Bar Exam in 2003. Blanca has a dog named Mr. Belvedere.

Top priorities include:

- Education: wants to serve on the Assembly Education Committee or Assembly Higher Education Committee to fight for access to good, high-quality education.
- Housing: as the former chair of the League of California Cities' Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy Committee, she is committed to addressing housing insecurity.
- Transportation: modernize the state's transportation system to tackle our climate crisis.

District 68 - Avelino Valencia (D)



Avelino grew up in Orange County, the son of immigrant parents who built a successful small business. Avelino earned an associate degree from Fullerton College and a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University. As a member of the Anaheim City Council, Avelino worked to speed up the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, expand access to mental health resources, develop a new city park, and establish a small business assistance program. Avelino most recently served as the Chief Deputy for State Assemblymember Tom Daly. In this role, he worked to craft state policies and help residents navigate state government. Avelino is married to this high school sweetheart, Dr. Monica Valencia, who is a local elementary school vice principal.

Top priorities include:

- Reduce homelessness and protect public health.
- Restore lost jobs and decrease crime.
- Combat climate change and enhance infrastructure.

District 69- Josh Lowenthal (D)



Lowenthal worked as an entrepreneur and business owner with a long, successful record of accomplishment in tech and telecom startups. Growing up and working in Long Beach, Josh committed himself to improve the community we live in by working to alleviate homelessness, help at-risk children, and create good, 21st-century jobs. Josh Lowenthal grew up in Long Beach, where he attended public schools. He worked as a local teacher, is a local business owner, and has three daughters in public schools.

Top priorities include:

- Making neighborhoods safe
- Helping the unhoused
- Strengthening our economy and creating jobs

District 70 - Tri Ta (R)



Tri Ta is the current Mayor of Westminster and made history and became the first Vietnamese American elected mayor in the United States. Tri Ta's American Dream started when, seeking political freedom, his family immigrated to the United States from Saigon, Vietnam, when he was 19 years old. Within just a couple of years of arriving here, with hard work and determination, Tri graduated from Cal State Los Angeles. From 1998 to 2006, Tri worked as a career consultant and then an employment counselor. He is fiscally conservative and believes that when there is a budget surplus, the government shouldn't simply go on a spending spree, but give part of it back to taxpayers, and put part of it in the reserves for a rainy day.

Top priorities include:

- Public Safety - increase support for law enforcement officers; believes police units are stretched thin due to "Defund the Police" budget cuts.
- Cost of Living - hold Sacramento politicians accountable for their endless spending and pass a tax cut for the middle class.
- Homelessness - find out what works, cut the programs that don't, and get serious about addressing this problem instead of throwing money down the drain.

District 71 - Kate Sanchez (R)



Kate received her undergraduate degree from Salve Regina University with a concentration in Political Science/Law. She is a Marian Bergeson Excellence in Public Service Series graduate, former California Women's Leadership Association Executive Director, and State Finance Director for the California Young Republican Federation. She served California residents as Field Representative for a prominent U.S. Congressman and at the California Policy Center, working to secure a more prosperous future for all Californians. Kate is a mother and vice president of a small business.

Top priorities include:

- Cost of Living – lower the cost of living and help support working-class families and small businesses.
- Public Safety – repeal (Prop 47, Prop 57) and stop (SB 300) pro-criminal laws and make sure D.A.s, law enforcement agencies, and fire have the resources they need to keep our families and communities safe.
- Education - revamp our education system by creating competition and school choice.

District 72 - Diane Dixon (R)



Diane Dixon spent 40 years in the private sector as a business executive before being elected to the Newport Beach City Council in 2014. She was serving her second term as Mayor and has served as Chair of the Water Quality and Tidelands Committee and as Chair of the Finance Committee. Diane was the immediate past President of the Association of California Cities-Orange County. She was a member of the regional council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and a board member of Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG). Diane has three grandsons and has been married for 46 years to Pat Dixon, a career prosecutor who currently serves as Special Counsel to the Orange County District Attorney. Diane and Pat's daughter, Colleen, is a former prosecutor with the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

Top priorities include:

- Make crime illegal again.
- Address the California affordability crisis.
- Tax relief for Californians.