

Woman of the Year

2021



Monday, March 15, 2021



March 15, 2021

Dear Woman of the Year Honoree,

Congratulations for being honored as Woman of the Year, a significant recognition which speaks to your unique contributions to your community and the State of California. Since 1987, the California Legislature has set aside a day in March, Women's History Month, to recognize women who are making an extraordinary difference in their communities.

In a state of nearly 40 million people, you are one of just 120 exceptional women being recognized for this honor this year. But you join a growing sorority of honorees who have received this recognition since the Legislature first set aside a day in March more than three decades ago.

There has never been a more important time for leadership than during this COVID-19 pandemic. In ways big and small, noticed and unnoticed, leaders like you have inspired and changed our communities for the better and kept us going during an extraordinarily challenging time. It is for this reason that we decided we must continue this recognition this year, although our celebration will look different than in years past.

On these pages are the stories of your peers who are also making a difference in their communities. We who serve you here in the State Capitol are honored that you have accepted our commendation.

We hope that you will take personal satisfaction in this recognition, knowing that your leadership has brought positive change to your community and blazed a trail for other women.

Sincerely,

Cristina Garcia, Chair
Assemblywoman, 58th District

Nancy Skinner, Vice Chair
State Senator, 9th District



CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE
.....
WOMEN'S
CAUCUS



ELENI KOUNALAKIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. Daisy Gonzales

California Community College's Deputy Chancellor Dr. Daisy Gonzales, a former foster youth who was among the first in her family to attend college, is a role model for the next generation of California's higher education professionals, and Latina leaders in particular.

Her primary duties involve implementing and tracking the commitments and goals outlined in California Community Colleges' Vision for Success that seeks to demolish achievement gaps, boost transfers to University of California and California State University campuses and provide Californians with the necessary job skills to find good-paying careers.

Gonzales developed her reverence for education after being inspired by her K-12 teachers. After earning a bachelor's degree in public policy from Mills College, she decided to pass that passion on by taking a job as a third-grade teacher. Later, a conversation with a homeless student during her time as a lecturer at UC Santa Barbara helped her realize her true calling of promoting access and support for underserved students.

Prior to joining the Chancellor's Office, Gonzales was the principal consultant for the Assembly Appropriations Committee. In that role, she was responsible for subject matter expertise, analysis and political strategy in the areas of higher education, K-12 education and jobs and economic development.

Other previous posts include serving as a budget consultant for the California State Assembly Budget Committee, where she was responsible for overseeing \$11.2 billion in state and federal funds and negotiating the state Assembly's funding priorities for 45 state departments, boards and commissions.

In addition to her bachelor's degree in public policy from Mills College, Gonzales has a master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology from UC Santa Barbara.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eleni Kounalakis".

Eleni Kounalakis
Lt. Governor, State of California
President of the Senate

California State Senate

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BRIAN DAHLE
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



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PROTECTION, ENERGY AND
TRANSPORTATION
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Judy Flores

Judy Flores is in her 35th year in education, always a teacher and learner no matter what title she has held. She is currently in her 4th year as the Shasta County Superintendent of Schools. During these past four years, she has guided schools through the Carr Fire, power shut off events and weather closures, as well as COVID-19. Each of these events have provided the opportunity to work closely with county agencies and community partners in support of the 25 school districts and 15 charter schools in Shasta County. Due to an amazing partnership with Shasta County Public Health, schools in Shasta County have been open for in-person learning throughout the 2020-21 school year.

For 10 years, Judy was the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services for the Shasta County Office of Education. Over that decade, she was able to write grants and bring on high caliber staff so that the Instructional Services Division could better support the work of teachers, counselors, and administrators throughout Shasta County and Region 2. Judy spent 17 years in the Enterprise Elementary School District, working closely with students, teachers, and administrators to put systems in place that brought about great success for students and schools, with a variety of awards given to the schools during that time period. She began her teaching in Hayward Unified, where she had the opportunity to get involved in a math project at the Lawrence Hall of Science and experienced the tremendous impact of professional learning on her own practice.

Brian Dahle

Brian Dahle
State Senator, 1st District

California State Senate

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



2021 Woman of the Year

Mary Jane Burke

Mary Jane Burke began her career in education in Marin County. She held a wide variety of positions including Instructional Assistant in Special Education, Teacher, Principal, Special Education Director, Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. In 1994, Mary Jane was elected to serve as the Marin County Superintendent of Schools.

Mary Jane believes in the importance of providing equitable educational opportunities for ALL children from birth to adulthood. She believes that doing so requires strong partnerships with businesses, local government, law enforcement and community organizations. Mary Jane is proud of her work developing community partnerships that improve programs and services related to safety, wellness, special education, early childhood education, college and career readiness and developing our teacher workforce. She leads with a laser focus on what is best for students.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mike McGuire".

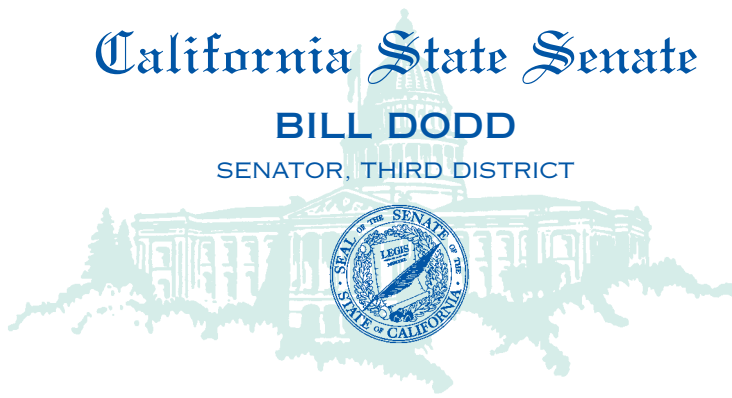
Mike McGuire
State Senator, 2nd District

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California State Senate

BILL DODD

SENATOR, THIRD DISTRICT



2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. Karen Relucio

Dr. Karen Relucio, Napa County's public health officer, has been the leader of the county's response to the coronavirus pandemic. She and her department coordinate testing, perform case and outbreak investigations and contact tracing, analyze and publish COVID-19 data, provide supportive housing for cases and contacts in congregate settings, plan for medical surge and mass vaccinations, and field questions from various sectors as each figure out how to safely reopen. These responsibilities come in addition to running a division with 17 programs spanning communicable disease control and prevention, chronic disease prevention, emergency preparedness, and initiatives to serve families and children.

She has little downtime to partake in the local hikes she so enjoys. Dr. Relucio said that it's important to remember that the community and the world will get through this public health crisis. She's hopeful that a vaccine will soon be available to all, helping to change the pandemic's trajectory. Until that time, she advocates the importance of compassion for others and yourself.

Dr. Relucio is board certified in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine and is a certified HIV specialist through the American Academy of HIV Medicine. She received her medical degree at Rush Medical College in Chicago and she completed her fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Stanford University Medical Center. Pre-Covid, Dr. Relucio had experience in public health emergency planning, influenza planning and surveillance, communicable disease control, and immunization programs. She has been involved in Bay Area regional planning for public health emergency preparedness.

Bill Dodd
State Senator, 3rd District

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VICE CHAIR



2021 Woman of the Year

Laurie Tindill Maloney

Laurie Tindill Maloney has dedicated her life to serving the Chico community. From fundraising for the Boys and Girls Club and The Jesus Center, to her most recent work as a Disaster Case Manager helping Camp Fire survivors, she embodies selflessness. She is passionate about helping those in need who want to help themselves. She has helped lead homeless veterans to services they are owed, helped parolees turn their lives around, and helped those with addiction problems fight to get sober.

Along with like-minded women in the community, she developed "The Posse" who led the way to creating a transitional home for women in 2013 known as the House of Hope. Laurie understands that the needs of many people are not met through traditional service providers. She mobilizes the community to help with financial needs, and to provide cribs, bed sheets, towels, etc., to help those transitioning into housing.

In addition to being a "freelance social worker", Laurie works full time for Parkway Real Estate Company and, with her colleagues in the real estate community, mobilized to help Camp Fire survivors secure housing in a tough housing market post-fire. Laurie and The Posse also provided \$250,000 in gift cards for groceries, gas, and basic needs for Camp Fire survivors.

For those who are struggling, living on the streets, battling addiction, or returning from incarceration, and ready to accept a "hand up", Laurie is in their corner, ready to help them get where they want to go.

A handwritten signature of Jim Nielsen in black ink.
Jim Nielsen
State Senator, 4th District

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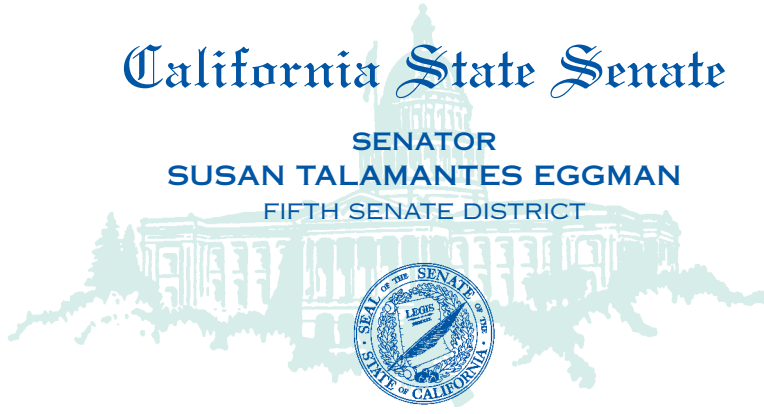
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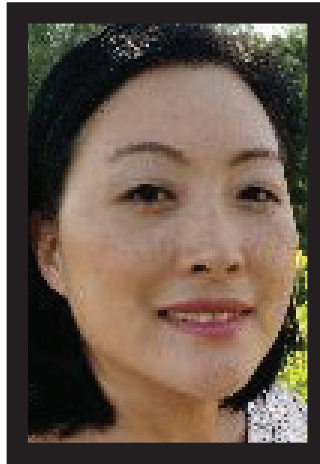
HEALTH

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NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS



2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. Maggie Park

Dr. Maggie Park is a pediatrician and serves as the County Public Health Officer for San Joaquin County. She previously served as the medical consultant to the California Children's Services (CCS) program and oversaw the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, and the Foster Care Program for San Joaquin County Public Health Services. Dr. Park was appointed as the Public Health Officer for San Joaquin County in 2020 and has served the community throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Park was born and raised in Southern California and attended UCLA, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Physiological Sciences. She earned her medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine, then did her pediatric residency at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Park worked as an attending physician for San Joaquin General Hospital, as well as Ventura County Medical Center. Most recently, she practiced pediatrics in Stockton for Community Medical Centers and served as their Pediatric Associate Medical Director.

Dr. Park is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. She has a special interest in childhood obesity, literacy, and oral health. Dr. Park lives in Stockton with her husband and two children.


Susan Talamantes Eggman
State Senator, 5th District

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#3 ON HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES



2021 Woman of the Year

Maeley Tom

During Maeley Tom's 20 year career in the California State Legislature, she was able to break the glass ceiling twice to become the first woman Chief Administrative Officer of the Assembly and subsequently the first ethnic minority woman to become Chief of Staff to the California Senate President pro Tempore. Her access to political influence motivated her to find the means to empower the silent Asian American constituency by creating institutions and historical events to inspire Asian Americans to become engaged in the electoral and political process.

Maeley lives in Sacramento with her husband of 50 years, Ronald Tom. Her daughter Stephanie, and grandson Maxwell are an immense source of pride and joy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Pan".

Dr. Richard Pan
State Senator, 6th District

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



2021 Woman of the Year

Lavonna Martin, MPH, MPA

Lavonna Martin has worked in homeless services for her entire career, beginning at the Homeless Prenatal Program in San Francisco and then, for the past 21 years, at Contra Costa Health Services. She began her work with Contra Costa County as the Deputy Director of Homeless Services, eventually became the Chief and when the Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division was formed in 2016, was named Director.

As Director, Lavonna manages a homeless service delivery system that includes street outreach, respite and emergency shelters, independent living programs for transition-age youth, and permanent supportive housing for adults, youth, and families.

During the last year in response to the COVID-19 crisis, Lavonna and her team procured 5 hotels (633 rooms) to provide non-congregate shelter options to persons experiencing homelessness at highest risk of COVID-19. Nearly 1702 individuals and families have been served in these hotels to date. 54% have had a positive exit to other housing or substance use disorder treatment programs.

Lavonna's division has worked hard to improve the health and hygiene conditions of those living outside during this crisis. Under her leadership, hand-washing stations and porta-potties have been mobilized and stationed to better support persons living outside in the cities of Martinez, Antioch, Concord, Walnut Creek, San Pablo, Pittsburg and Richmond.

To support the basic needs for unsheltered persons, the Division's CORE team has remained operational and has provided food packs, cloth and non-surgical masks, hand sanitizers, and solar battery chargers so that our unsheltered community could charge cell phones during Shelter In Place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven M. Glazer".

Steven M. Glazer
State Senator, 7th District

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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

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HOUSING
PUBLIC SAFETY
TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. Margot Kushel

Margot Kushel, Professor of Medicine at University of California San Francisco, serves as Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations and UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative. Practicing at a public hospital, many of the people Dr. Kushel cares for are homeless.

With insight gained from her patients, many of whom live in Oakland encampments, Dr. Kushel has become a national expert on homelessness, especially as it relates to health and public health. She has published research on the causes and consequences of homelessness and housing instability illuminating the impact that systemic racism has as an underlying cause. Her research has also revealed that more than half of the Bay Area's homeless residents are elderly and most became homeless for the first time at age 50 or older. "The answer to homelessness is not simply warehousing people in shelters where mostly Black, Brown and Indigenous people are out of sight, out of mind, but suffering horribly. To end homelessness we need to be talking about racial justice," Dr. Kushel stated in a recent Twitter post. For those concerned about the barriers of substance abuse or mental health diagnoses on ending homelessness, she explains, "Housing is an inescapable, unavoidable part of the solution. It makes treatment so, so, so difficult - bordering on impossible - if people are living on the street." As California strives to end our homelessness crisis, we're grateful to Dr. Kushel for her research and her determination to help us find successful and humane ways in doing so.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Skinner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line for the "S" in "Skinner".

Nancy Skinner
State Senator, 9th District

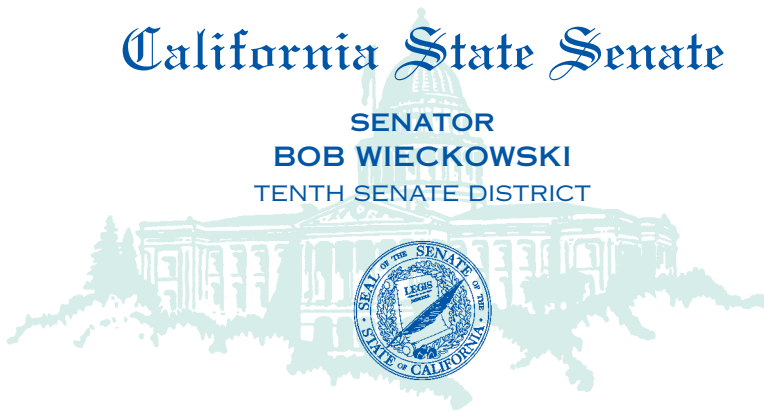
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California State Senate

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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HOUSING
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Sandra Dailey

In 2011, after a successful career in Sales & Marketing in the Biotech Industry, Palo Alto native and Santa Clara resident Sandra “Sandi” Dailey decided to follow her passion for baking and cooking. In a short time, her fruit pie in a cup “Sandi’s Cobbler Cups” was validated through an overwhelming response at Bay Area Famers’ Markets, and the world renowned Monterey & San Jose Jazz Festival.

Sandi brought her catering experience along with her passion for the culinary arts, which included her love of Creole Classics, Southern Comfort Soul Food items like Jambalaya, Gumbo, and Red Beans & Rice. Sandi’s expanding line of food has been a resounding hit with the locals and corporate companies like Google, EBAY, Apple, and INTEL to name a few. And most recently her very own concession stand at the 49ers’ Levi’s Stadium’s “Sandi’s Soul Food.”

Sandi is active with the Silicon Valley Black Chamber, the Black Leadership Kitchen Council, 100 Black Women of Silicon Valley, and serves on the Board of the San Jose African American Community Service Agency.

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of her business and the local economy in early 2020, she immediately stepped up to volunteer with Hunger at Home, which ensured that many in Santa Clara County found food security amidst great economic hardship.

Robert A. Wieckowski

Bob Wieckowski
State Senator, 10th District

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California State Senate

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威善高

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2021 Woman of the Year

Heather Bollinger

Heather Bollinger came to San Francisco in 2004 after enrolling in graduate school at the University of San Francisco, where she earned a Master of Science in Nursing degree in 2006. In 2007, she started her career with the City and County of San Francisco as an emergency department nurse at San Francisco General Hospital, a role she has been in ever since. Heather's favorite part of the job is advocating for the vulnerable patient population she works with at SFGH. She also has a great appreciation for the camaraderie of her colleagues and respect for the extent to which her coworkers will go to care for their patients. Heather believes that public service as a Registered Nurse is a truly rewarding career and she enjoys the opportunity to continually serve the residents of San Francisco.

Scott Wiener

Scott D. Wiener
State Senator, 11th District

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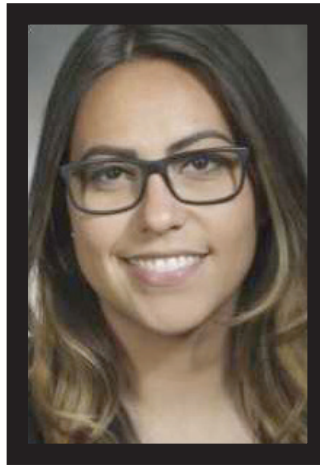


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HOUSING
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER



2021 Woman of the Year


Dr. Carissa Purnell

Dr. Carissa Purnell is an educator who believes in uplifting the voice of the community utilizing learning and critical thought as the catalyst for change and empowerment. Through education she believes in intentionally combatting inequity and injustice to help youth in underrepresented communities find a voice, professional pathway, and a path to higher education. As an advocate for culturally rooted healing practices, she promotes systemic change rooted in the teachings of our past, ethnic identities, and stories.

Dr. Purnell has founded programs focused on improving the quality of life for young people. She is the Director of the Family Resource Center Network for the Alisal Union School District, where she and her team support children and families with wrap-around support including immigration, housing, literacy, mental health, and preventive medical services. Her leadership approach directly recognizes the interpersonal assets of her staff to encourage and build their love to deliver education in a model that is culturally responsive to our community.

She lectures at CSUMB in the Service Learning Department at Hartnell College and the State Prison. She serves on the board for the Alisal Center for the Fine Arts, César Chávez Fútbol Academy, and is an elected official representing California's 30th Assembly District as a Democratic delegate.

She earned her Bachelor's in English from the University of California at Santa Cruz, her Master's in Library Science, Information Architecture and Systems Design from San Jose State University, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at San Francisco State University.

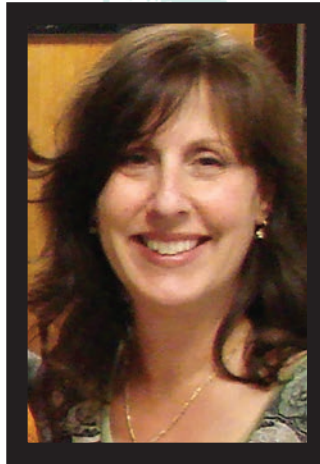

Anna M. Caballero
State Senator, 12th District



California State Senate

SENATOR
JOSH BECKER

THIRTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



2021 Woman of the Year


Rayna Lehman

Rayna Lehman is the Director of the AFL-CIO Community Services Program of the San Mateo Central Labor Council in cooperation with United Way of the Bay Area, and has served in this role since 1982. The Program assists struggling Union members and their families in San Mateo County and provides information and referral services, access to re-employment / re-training, health care assistance, health education, child care assistance, food, community resources and emergency services.

Ms. Lehman is a former County Planning Commissioner and has represented the Labor community on the county's Private Industry Council, Commission on the Status of Women, Children's Health Initiative, Child Care Partnership Council, the San Mateo County School to Career Partnership, The Governor's School to Career Committee on Employer - Labor Involvement, the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board, the San Mateo County Biotech Blue Ribbon Task Force and participated on two county workgroups advising the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Adult Healthcare Coverage Expansion. She is also an inductee of the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Lehman is the mastermind behind the San Mateo County Trades Introduction Program, a state certified pre-apprenticeship program that has graduated over 300 students and placed over 200 of them into union construction apprenticeship programs since its inception in 2014. Since the onset of the pandemic, Ms. Lehman has coordinated, in partnership with Second Harvest Silicon Valley Food Bank, twice monthly food distributions serving an average of 800 families each time.

Currently a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 29, Ms. Lehman's background includes completion of the three year Painter and Decorator Apprenticeship program and a seventeen year membership in Painters Local 15, nine of those years spent as President of the Local. A long time resident of San Mateo County and Mom to two adult sons, she and her husband Bill reside in Menlo Park.


Josh Becker
State Senator, 13th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
MELISSA HURTADO
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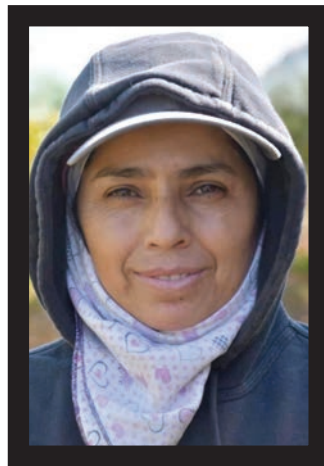
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2021 Woman of the Year

Margarita Ortega

Margarita Ortega embodies the soul of the Central Valley and Senate District 14. A mother of two children, Margarita is native of Mexico who risked everything to immigrate to the United States – settling in McFarland where she lives with her family. A symbol of hope and resilience, she became a citizen last year. Margarita’s husband recently had to have his leg amputated, which has left her as the sole provider for her family. Margarita works in the extreme California heat to pick grapes, and helps feed the nation. She teaches classes on health, wellness and mental health to other farmworkers, and also volunteers to provide resources to those in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Hurtado".

Melissa Hurtado
State Senator, 14th District

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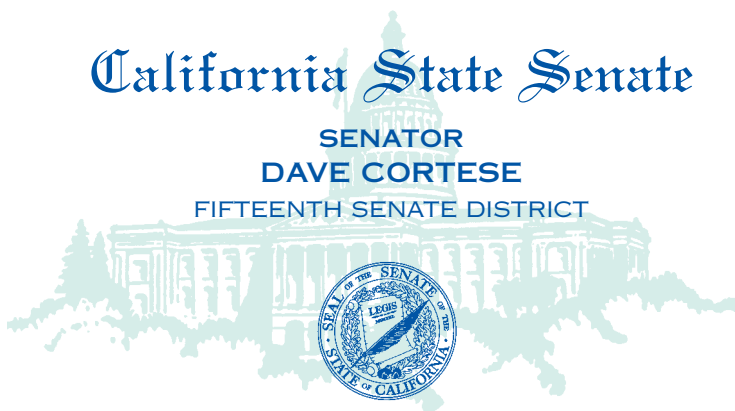
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California State Senate

SENATOR
DAVE CORTESE

FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT
CHAIR

BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW

EDUCATION

HOUSING

HUMAN SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5
ON CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC
SAFETY, JUDICIARY, LABOR &
TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Rhonda Berry

Rhonda Berry is the CEO, Founder, and President of the Non-profit Our City Forest in San José, CA. Rhonda received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work/Race Relations and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from University of Berkeley. After graduating, Rhonda worked simultaneously as an Actress for Good Company Players and a Senior Management Analyst for the County of Fresno. An influential job she held was as a Volunteer in Service to America/AmeriCorps member in Dallas, TX where she organized neighborhood improvement projects. She began her career in Urban Forestry with California ReLeaf from 1989 -1991. In 1991 she left California ReLeaf in pursuit of establishing an Urban Forestry non-profit. In 1994 Our City Forest (OCF) was incorporated and she has been greening Santa Clara County ever since. OCF is an environmental non-profit whose mission is to cultivate a green and healthy Silicon Valley by engaging community members in the appreciation, protection, growth and maintenance of our urban ecosystem. In 2007, OCF joined the AmeriCorps program further enabling OCF to build its service program. In 2010, the City of San Jose leased land to OCF allowing Rhonda to open OCF's Community Nursery and Training Center. In 2015, the County of Santa Clara leased land to OCF at Martial Cottle Park which began the development of OCF's Urban Forestry Education Center. Rhonda currently resides in San José with her cat and parrot, Chickenhead, where she works, birdwatches, plays yahtzee through windows and enjoys time with her daughter, Mariah.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dave Cortese".

Dave Cortese
State Senator, 15th District

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California State Senate

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2021 Woman of the Year

Rachelle Murcia

Rachelle has served as a newscast anchor for local Bakersfield stations since 2011. Raised in Indiana, Rachelle caught the journalism bug at a young age where she quickly excelled in speaking. She went on to graduate from Ball State University with a degree in telecommunications.

Rachelle's career in journalism also started in Indianapolis but brought her around the country to places such as Kennewick Washington, Las Vegas, Seattle, and finally to Bakersfield in 2011 where she worked at KGET for four years before joining the KBAK/KBFX news team. Rachelle has been nominated for numerous Emmy awards, including for her reports on Honor Flight Kern County. And, she won multiple Emmy and Edward R. Morrow awards for her stations.

Rachelle is an active supporter of many local nonprofits, including Honor Flight Kern County, Links for Life, Wounded Heroes Fund, the Bakersfield SPCA, and the Housing and Opportunity Foundation of Kern.

In January 2020, Rachelle announced she was diagnosed with early stage three breast cancer. She shared the news with her viewers who soon became part of her battle and journey. She underwent numerous rounds of chemotherapy, a mastectomy, dozens of rounds of radiations, all while still working from home. In October 2020, Rachelle announced she was cancer free, in remission, and is a survivor.

In her spare time, Rachelle loves to cook, run, and watch the NFL. Her favorite pastime is spending time with her family, including her loving husband, beautiful step-daughter and step-son, dogs Tinkerbell, Rockie and Charo, and cat Gypsy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shannon Grove".

Shannon Grove
State Senator, 16th District

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California State Senate



JOHN LAIRD

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701 OCEAN STREET
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2021 Woman of the Year

Jane Parker

Jane Parker served 12 years representing District 4 on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Most of that time she was the only woman, reinforcing her commitment to ensuring that 30% or more of leadership positions be filled by women: women tend to listen, collaborate to problem solve and have the future in mind when crafting and making decisions.

Parker grew up in Monterey, attended public schools, studied International Economics at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and earned a Grand Diplome de Cuisine from La Varenne Ecole de Cuisine in Paris. She has worked for peace and justice since her childhood thanks to her mother's activist example, and learned from her journalist father the value of listening and the joys of nature. Jane owned a healthy meal delivery service and worked at Planned Parenthood before becoming County Supervisor.

Jane is especially proud that her leadership has resulted in fundamental changes in the way the County does business -- greater public involvement, accountability and focus on prevention: Board and Committee agenda packets posted online; Annual performance evaluations of top executives; Program effectiveness measures for all departments; Alternative Energy and Environment Committee; Creation of Monterey Bay Community Power; Community Alliance for Safety and Peace; Stopping Whispering Oaks and Monterey Downs; Early Childhood Development Initiative; ViaCare; Esperanza Care; Governing for Racial Equity; Funding for blight removal on Fort Ord.

Many of these accomplishments would not have happened but for Supervisor Parker's persistent attention, teamwork and ability to strategically leverage moments of opportunity.

A handwritten signature of John Laird in black ink.

John Laird
State Senator, 17th District

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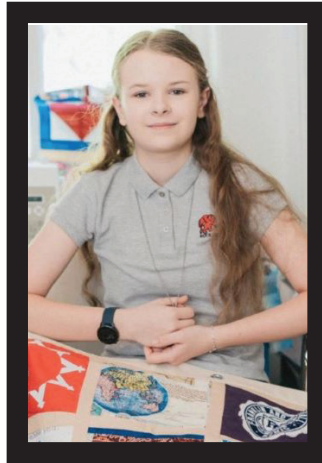
California State Senate

SENATOR ROBERT M. HERTZBERG
MAJORITY LEADER

REPRESENTING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY



COMMITTEES
ELECTIONS
& CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
ENERGY, UTILITIES
& COMMUNICATIONS
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
RULES
JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT COMMITTEE



2021 Woman of the Year

Madeleine Fugate

Madeleine Fugate was born in Los Angeles and is being raised by a single mom. She is 14 years old and an 8th grade honors student at The Buckley School in Sherman Oaks, California.

The Covid Memorial Quilt began in April, 2020 as a 7th grade Community Action Project at The Buckley School in Sherman Oaks, California. The theme was "Young Changemakers in a COVID-19 World." In an emotional moment, Madeleine was watching the evening news and heard the phrase "the numbers" are going up - and she said, "They're not numbers, they're people who died and they deserve to be remembered!" That realization became the mission statement for the Covid Memorial Quilt. After hearing stories from her mother who worked on the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and how healing it was at the time to remember those who had died of HIV/AIDS, Madeleine decided to make a Covid Memorial Quilt to remember those who died from another deadly virus in a new pandemic, COVID-19. Word spread about the Covid Memorial Quilt and it outgrew a school project and has become a global project of healing and remembrance. One panel of the Covid Memorial Quilt will be displayed at the California Science Center in Downtown Los Angeles.

Madeleine's hobbies include building miniature sets, visual art, character design, making clothes, and playing the piano and violin. Her inspiration to do something to help people heal comes from watching other teenage girls use their voice to inspire change - like Greta Thunberg for climate change, Emma Gonzalez for gun safety and Malala for education and women's rights. Madeleine believes we can do something to help better our world - no matter what our age.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert M. Hertzberg".

Robert M. Hertzberg
State Senator, 18th District

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California State Legislature

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2021 Woman of the Year

Regina K. Hatcher-Crawford

Regina K. Hatcher-Crawford is Ventura County Branch NAACP, President, and California – Hawaii State Conference Central Coast Area director. She is a life member of the NAACP.

Hatcher-Crawford's destiny for service was elected Ventura County Youth & College NAACP President. While serving in the capacity of Ventura County Youth & College President, she was then elected as Southern Area Youth & College NAACP President representing NAACP Youth & College units across Southern California, Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Utah. Serving two terms, Hatcher-Crawford was the first female to serve in this position.

Hatcher-Crawford, following under the leadership of her mentor, her father, and Ventura County President Emeritus Mr. John R. Hatcher III (deceased), credits her activism ideology to her parents, John and Jo Anne E. Hatcher (mother). Her parents active in the civil rights movement instilled a strong sense of justice and the importance of standing up for your beliefs and being a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Hatcher-Crawford learned the key to advocacy are the foundation and core values of unity, solidarity, and commitment. Within the core structure of advocacy are the people and communities she serves; this belief reinforces her belief that "nothing is impossible".

Hatcher-Crawford graduated from California Lutheran University (CLU), with an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) and a dual bachelor's degree in Business Organizational Leadership (BS) and Psychology (BA).

Hatcher-Crawford is married to Kerry Crawford Sr. and has three adult children Kerry Jr., Ka'sha M., and Kristian Crawford.


Monique Limón
State Senator, 19th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
CONNIE M. LEYVA

TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
EDUCATION
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
MANUFACTURED HOME
COMMUNITIES

MEMBER

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

HEALTH



2021 Woman of the Year

Jeanette Ellis Royston

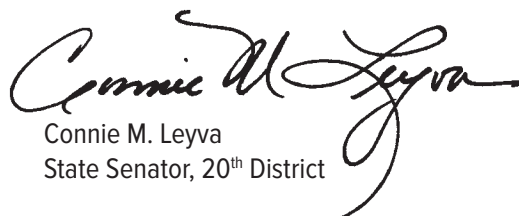
Jeanette Ellis-Royston leads with wisdom, walks with courage, and champions her community with unity and strength. For four decades, she has devoted her heart and energy to social justice issues and the common good. Jeanette's boots-on-the-ground organizing style and modern activism provided the space for community warriors to find their own voice with which to lead.

Jeanette's legacy of activism was born in 1985, with her founding and leading the Pomona Valley National Council of Negro Women, Inc. In a span of 20 years, Jeanette would touch social movements that included the Grandparent Program at the Prototype Women's Center, the campaign for Maxine Waters, the United Way Board of Directors, the Claremont Human Relations Council, and several others in the effort to move her community forward.

The hallmark of Jeanette's activism is seen in her involvement in the NAACP. In 2013, Jeanette reactivated the NAACP Pomona Branch as a tribute to her hero, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Branch had been dormant for 25 years until Jeanette breathed new life into the organization. Today, she serves as the President of the Branch, and surpassed the national goal of 110 members.

Supervisor Hilda Solis additionally appointed Jeanette to serve as a Commissioner on the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations from Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 1.

Jeanette has one daughter, four fabulous grandchildren, and nine foster sons. She graduated from Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Speech and was a teacher in the Pomona Unified School District for 15 years.


Connie M. Leyva
State Senator, 20th District

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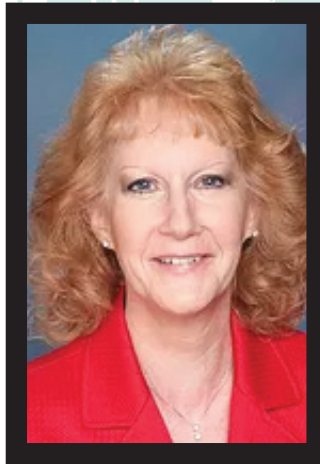
VICTOR VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE
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California State Senate

SENATOR
SCOTT WILK
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Pamela Vose

Pamela Vose is a native of South Dakota and credits her strong work ethic and family values to her Mid-Western roots. She relocated to Torrance, CA in 1982 for employment opportunities and then moved to the Antelope Valley in 1986.

Pamela began her career with organized real estate in 1987 as a part-time membership administrator for the Palmdale Board of REALTORS. As the membership grew, so did her duties and promotions. She became the CEO of the Palmdale Assn. of REALTORS in 1996 and later became the CEO of the Greater Antelope Valley Association of REALTORS (GAVAR) in 1999. (GAVAR is the largest trade association in the Valley currently serving its 2500+ members.)

Pamela earned her certificate in non-profit management from Duke University and holds the designation of RCE (REALTOR Association Certified Executive) and her accomplishments include:

- Starting the *TLC (Tender Loving Care)* program which, to date, has given over 130,000 stuffed animals to traumatized and abused children as well as elderly patients who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The program received national recognition from the National Assn. of REALTORS and has since been adopted by several other REALTOR associations nationwide.
- Became the first organization to participate in the *Be a Santa to a Senior* program in the Antelope Valley which later became the *Be an Elf to the Elderly* – programs which have provided gifts from GAVAR members to over 2500 deserving senior citizens and veterans.
- Actively involved with the *Homes 4 Families* project in Palmdale; Proud member of the *Barnyard Belles*; Past director for the AV Board of Trade
- Served on the Downtown Revitalization Project of Downtown Lancaster Boulevard -*The BLVD*
- Instrumental in the successful merger of the Palmdale Assn. of REALTORS and the Antelope Valley Board of REALTORS (the first of two competing organizations to merge in the Antelope Valley)

Pamela has been married to her husband, Jim, for 15 years. They are the proud parents of one daughter and four sons collectively.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wilk".

Scott Wilk
State Senator, 21st District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
SUSAN RUBIO

TWENTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
INSURANCE, CHAIR
ENERGY, UTILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEES
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS
CALIFORNIA, ARMENIA & ARTSAKH
MUTUAL TRADE, ART & CULTURAL
EXCHANGE
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF
CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING
CALIFORNIA-MEXICO COOPERATION
MENTAL HEALTH
GOVERNOR'S 2019 REPORT:
WILDFIRES & CLIMATE CHANGE -
CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY FUTURE



2021 Woman of the Year

Ray Jan

Born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan, Ray found her true calling in community service after moving to sunny Southern California from Virginia in 2008 and started her non-profit career with Pacific Asian Consortium for Employment in 2013 to help Asian American small businesses achieve their American dreams.

In 2015, Ray was recruited to lead the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce as its Executive Director.

In this role, she works to ensure the success of local businesses and the vitalization of economy in the Greater San Gabriel Valley. Ray believes that a community is at its best when private industries and non-profit organizations come together to work as one.

Ray is a passionate volunteer to various organizations that focus on small business, women's rights and corporate leadership. In 2020, Ray was elected as President of Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Southern California Chapter, a non-profit organization dedicated to promote businesses of and provide networking opportunities for, Chinese-American businesswomen. Ray also serves as the Vice President of STC Foundation, sits on board of Chinese American Construction Professionals, Taiwan Center Foundation of Greater Los Angeles, and acts as a committee member of the Taiwanese American Heritage Week and Miss Taiwanese American.

A handwritten signature of Susan Rubio in black ink.

Susan Rubio
State Senator, 22nd District

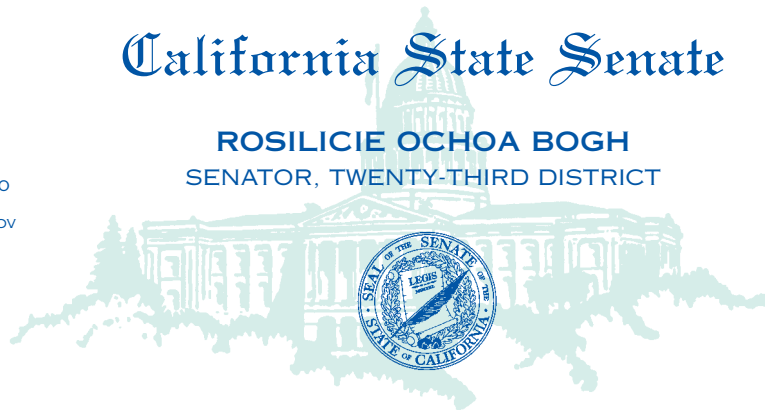
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California State Senate

ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH
SENATOR, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
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VICE CHAIR
BUDGET
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
HOUSING
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT
VICE CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY
VICE CHAIR



2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. Cherina Betters

Cherina Betters is the Chief of Equity and Access for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. A lifelong learner, she has served in the field of K-12 education for 18 years in the capacity of teacher and administrator serving the students, families and communities of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in Southern California. Raised primarily in a single-parent home with severe economic challenges, Dr. Betters has always viewed education as the means to overcome. The first in her family to graduate from college, Dr. Betters has a deep appreciation for education and the educational process. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton. She also earned her Master's Degree in Educational Technology from National University and her Doctorate in the field of Educational Leadership with an emphasis on Social Justice from California State University, San Bernardino. Dr. Betters is committed to advocating for students and educational excellence through equity.

Dr. Betters is the proud parent of 6 children and one grandchild. Dr. Betters firmly believes that the common thread to all of her endeavors is that of giving back and helping to give a voice to those who may otherwise not have one.

Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
State Senator, 23rd District

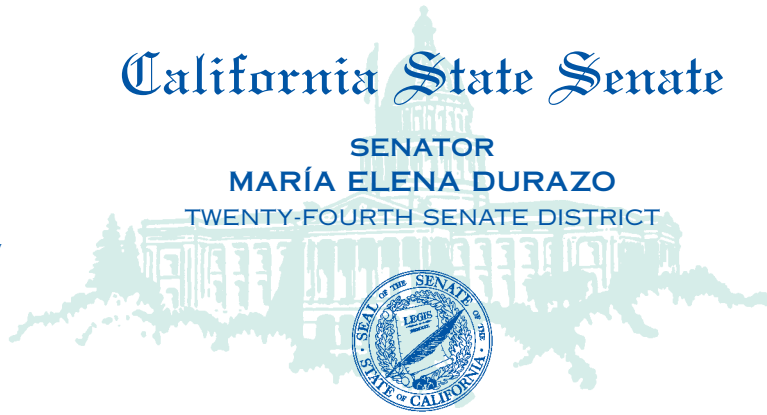
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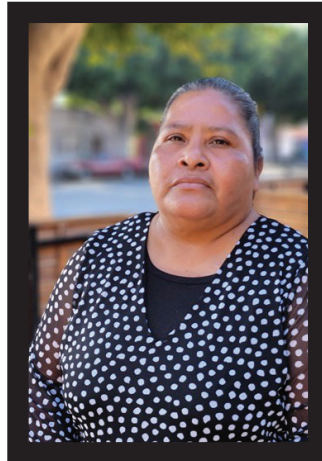
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California State Senate

SENATOR
MARÍA ELENA DURAZO
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR:
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TRANSPORTATION & LABOR
LATINO CAUCUS
MEMBER:
BANKING & FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
JUDICIARY
LABOR, PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT & RETIREMENT



2021 Woman of the Year

Teresa Roman

Teresa Roman is a mother, community leader, and Latina woman activist. She is the founder of Accion Comunitaria, an organized group of women leaders in the Cypress Park community with the goal of elevating the voices of people in the community and issues directly affecting them. Teresa is also a Board Member of the Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council and a member of LA Tenants Union Northeast local. Through Accion Comunitaria, Teresa organizes a weekly distribution of food, pantry goods, and personal items for the elderly, the houseless, and vulnerable families. Teresa is a natural leader who speaks from her own experiences and brings people together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "María Elena Durazo". The signature is stylized and fluid.

María Elena Durazo
State Senator, 24th District

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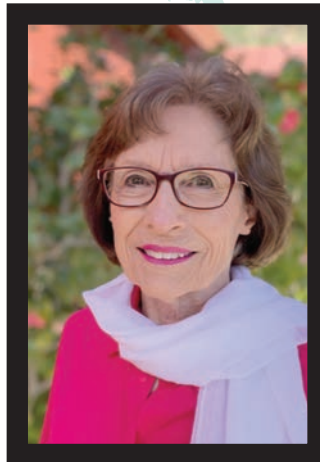
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California State Senate

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
SENATOR
TWENTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

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CHAIR
BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE
SELECT COMMITTEES
CALIFORNIA, ARMENIA & ARTSAKH
MUTUAL TRADE, ART, AND
CULTURAL EXCHANGE
CHAIR



2021 Woman of the Year

Marian Dodge

Marian is past President and current Chairman of the Hillside Federation, an organization of 46 homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. The mission of the Federation is to preserve the quality of life in the hillsides, the natural topography and open space.

She is a founder and past President of Friends of Griffith Park a non-profit that advocates and supports the park through educational activities and volunteer service. FoGP won grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for Fern Dell and from the National Park Service for the Anza National Historic Trail.

Marian is a 25-year board member and past President of LFIA, the advocacy group for her local neighborhood and co-chair of its History Committee. LFIA led the charge to get all of Griffith Park designated a City Historic-Cultural Monument in 2009.

She serves on the board of the Coalition for a Scenic Los Angeles, an affiliate of Scenic America whose mission is to protect and enhance America's visual character.

A native Californian, Marian has lived in Los Feliz with her husband since 1968. She taught English and coordinated the English-as-a-Second Language program at John Marshall High School. She has a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MA from Cal State LA. Marian served in the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa. She was a volunteer hostess at the 1984 Olympics and at the Special Olympics in Los Angeles. She enjoys hiking, cooking, and modern architecture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Portantino".

Anthony J. Portantino
State Senator, 25th District

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California State Senate

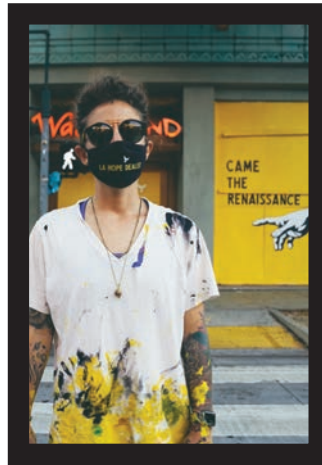
SENATOR
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS, CHAIR
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
TRANSPORTATION

JEWISH CAUCUS
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR



2021 Woman of the Year

Corie Mattie

Corie Mattie is a self-taught street artist also known as the L.A. Hope Dealer. After several years in the sports industry, she left her secure job to pursue dreams of connecting with people through art. She brings humility and personal experiences to her creative imagery and wordplay, often in large public spaces.

Corie looks at societal challenges as opportunities to shed light on community. While she lives in the Hollywood Hills neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles, she has painted more than a dozen striking murals with messages of positivity throughout our diverse county. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, she encouraged physical distancing while promoting human connection. She contributed her captivating artwork to raise money to fight homelessness, help people experiencing food insecurity, and support the Black Lives Matter movement. She is a fierce advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community and a model trailblazer pushing the boundaries of what society has implied women can say or do.

As the L.A. Hope Dealer, Corie has been a bright light in some of the darkest moments of the past year. Knowing that her artwork has inspired millions of people in California and beyond, Corie says, "It reminds me of why I took this leap in the first place."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen".

Benjamin Allen
State Senator, 26th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
HENRY STERN

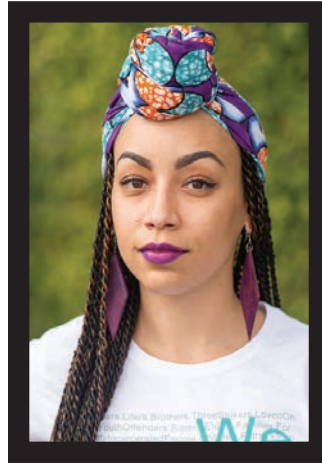
TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MEMBER
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
ENERGY, UTILITIES
& COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
NO. 2 ON RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
& ENERGY



2021 Woman of the Year

Taina Vargas

Taina Vargas co-founded Initiate Justice in September 2016 with the goal of activating the political power of people directly impacted by mass incarceration. Since its inception, Initiate Justice has successfully co-sponsored multiple pieces of legislation aimed at ending mass incarceration and recruited more than 35,000 currently incarcerated people that have helped lead these efforts.

Prior to creating Initiate Justice, she worked in the organizing and policy advocacy field as the Statewide Advocacy Coordinator with Essie Justice Group, State Campaigner with the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, and as a Field Representative for the California State Assembly.

In 2020, she chaired the Yes on Prop 17 ballot measure committee, leading the efforts to restore voting rights to all people who have completed their prison sentences in California. She is also directly impacted by mass incarceration, having supported a loved one who was incarcerated for 7 years.

Henry Stern
State Senator, 27th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
MELISSA A. MELENDEZ
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



VICE CHAIR
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VICE CHAIR
HEALTH
MEMBER

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE

MILITARY & VETERANS
TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Margaret Rich

After graduation from U.C. Berkley in the early 1970's, Margaret Rich came home to her parents' newly purchased ranch in Temecula, CA. Her family moved all of its horses to the new ranch. It was she and her sister's job to get the ranch up and going. Her work became establishing Green Acres Ranch as a viable entity within the horse community.

Margaret gave riding lessons and as Temecula grew, so did the lesson program. She welcomed all children. Those with Special Needs rode around the arena with the other children and had a great time. This approach worked well until she realized that children with severe disabilities were being excluded solely because they required more hands-on attention.

In 2014, Green Acres Interactive Therapy (GAIT), a therapeutic riding program that was set up for children with Special Needs received its non-profit status. Now funds could be raised to help support the horses and staff required to make GAIT functional. Unlike the conventional riding lessons program, GAIT requires about four times the staff and very specialized horses to service our clients' needs. What sets GAIT apart from other therapeutic riding centers is the opportunity for advancement into the other programs offered. As our clients become more skilled at riding and horse management through their lessons at GAIT, they are able to move into the typical lesson program and even get a job on the ranch! There is no end to the opportunities available to all of our students, this was Margaret's goal!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa A. Melendez".

Melissa A. Melendez
State Senator, 28th District

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California State Senate

JOSH NEWMAN

TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
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RESPONSE
CHAIR

BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5 ON
CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY,
JUDICIARY, LABOR &
TRANSPORTATION

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT &
RETIREMENT

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
TRANSPORTATION

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



2021 Woman of the Year

Professor Jodi Balma

Many of us remember a teacher that had an indelible impact on our understanding of the world and the trajectory of our lives. For countless Southern California students, Professor Jodi Balma is that teacher.

Since 2000, Professor Balma has served as the heart of the Political Science Department and the Honors Program at Fullerton College, teaching a variety of courses from California Government to Contemporary Issues in American Government. Through trips to Sacramento and by bringing local, state, and federal elected officials to class, Professor Balma brings politics to life for all of her students.

Professor Balma has been a true champion of education beyond the classroom as well— mentoring students and connecting them to opportunities, internships, and community organizations, staying connected to alumni long after their time at Fullerton College. She also pursues her passion for social justice through volunteer work with the annual “A Walk in Her Shoes” and the Clothesline Project.

As a leader among her fellow educators, Ms. Balma serves as President of the Honors Transfer Council of California. She is also an active member of the League of Women Voters, a trusted source for political journalists in Orange County, and an inveterate advocate for local measures that support and improve our region’s community colleges. Her commitment to serving her students, Fullerton College, and our entire community is truly superlative.

As a direct result of Professor Balma’s dedication to her students and our region, the 29th Senate District is a better place to learn and live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Newman". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the beginning.

Josh Newman
State Senator, 29th District

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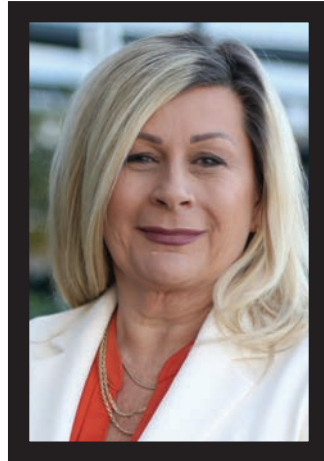
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California State Senate

SENATOR
RICHARD D. ROTH
THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHAIR
HEALTH
INSURANCE
MILITARY & VETERANS
AFFAIRS



2021 Woman of the Year

Michaela Williams

Michaela Williams is a lifelong public servant with over 20 years of advocacy on behalf of her community's most vulnerable members. In her current role as a Sr. Community Program Specialist in the Adult Services Division of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Williams supervises an incredible team that provides support and intervention for adults victimized by fraud. From leading anti-fraud seminars and the Department's annual Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Symposium, to helping create legislation to protect and empower vulnerable adults, Williams has enriched the lives and security of many who are unable to advocate for and protect themselves.

Chief among her contributions to the community is her leadership in the coordination of the Department's Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly, or C.A.R.E. Team. This nationally recognized and award-winning team of specialized medical, behavioral health, social services, law enforcement, and housing authority professionals have made remarkable advances in the region's efforts to bring an end to senior homelessness.

Before joining Riverside County DPSS, Williams worked for other Riverside County departments and taught at Riverside City College. She moved to California from Cambridge, England in 1989 where she grew up and attended school.

Williams is a respected leader, admired colleague, and crucial partner to all who have had the pleasure of working with her.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Roth".

Richard D. Roth
State Senator, 31st District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
BOB ARCHULETA

THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES

MILITARY & VETERANS
AFFAIRS
CHAIR

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION

INSURANCE



2021 Woman of the Year

Stephanie Jones
MSN, RN, CNOR

Stephanie Jones, MSN, RN, CNOR, is currently the Clinical Director of both the Surgery and Sterile Processing departments at the PIH Health Hospital in Downey. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Jones has been instrumental in supporting the District 32 community, developing hospital protocol minimizing both patient and hospital staff exposure to COVID as much as possible. Her 35 years of experience as a nurse and as a leader have been vital during this challenging time.

Over the past year, Ms. Jones has served as the Operations Section Chief on the PIH Health Downey Hospital Command Center team. In this role, she has developed processes for personal protective equipment use, enhanced patient care protocols, collaborated with nursing leaders to open additional COVID-19 units, served on the proning team (process relieving pressure on the lungs) in the Intensive Care Unit, and provided emotional support to staff and patients alike.

In this new leadership role, Ms. Jones adopted an all- hands-on-deck approach to the pandemic and guided employees as they shifted to new roles of patient care to meet the growing staffing needs.

Ms. Jones has shown compassion, with a heightened awareness, for the emotional well-being of patients and team members, and has worked with key stakeholders to provide solutions to staffing, equipment and space challenges.

She has been an inspiration to staff, guiding them as, together, they face the day-to-day challenges of treating patients during this unparalleled public health crisis.

A handwritten signature of Bob Archuleta in black ink.

Bob Archuleta
State Senator, 32nd District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
LENA A. GONZALEZ

THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION
CHAIR

HEALTH

JUDICIARY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

TRANSPORTATION



2021 Woman of the Year

Patsy Nix, RN, CNOR

Patsy Nix, RN, CNOR, is the Manager of Perioperative Services at Community Hospital Long Beach. She manages five departments within the hospital including the Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), Endoscopy Lab, Outpatient Services Department, and the Sterile Processing Department. Her passion for healthcare began as a volunteer “candy striper” and blossomed during her nurses training at Long Beach City College. Community Hospital Long Beach became her first career opportunity with an offer to start in their operating room right out of nursing school.

Through nearly 33 years of dedicated work in surgical services, she has yet to find a challenge she will not attempt. When Community Hospital needed someone to help with returning the hospital to a functioning acute care facility after its closure in July 2018, she did not hesitate. Community Hospital recently reopened in January of this year and although it is has been a long, and sometimes difficult road preparing to once again serve the community, she is finally doing the work she loves at the hospital she loves. Patsy continues to mentor new nurses in surgical services and received an award for Preceptor of the Year in 2018.

When she is not practicing nursing, she is spending time at home in Long Beach with her husband and three children and enjoys cooking for family and friends, book club meetings, and volunteering at her church, St. Luke's Lutheran.

Lena A. Gonzalez
State Senator, 33rd District

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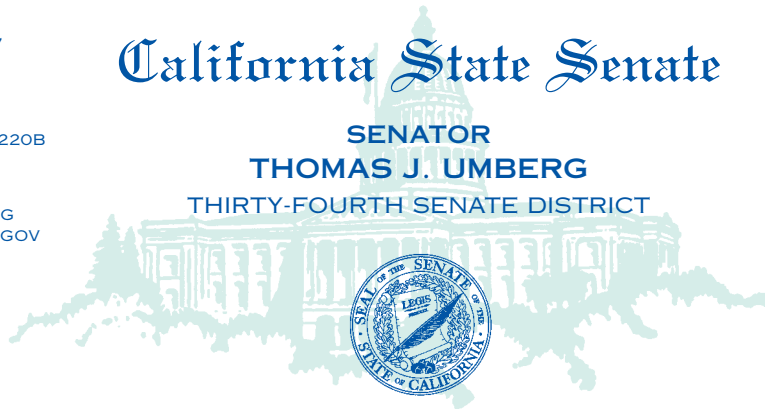
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California State Senate

SENATOR
THOMAS J. UMBERG

THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
CHAIR

HOUSING

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEES

GROWING IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE IN CALIFORNIA
CHAIR

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
THE 2020 US CENSUS
CO-CHAIR

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
CO-CHAIR

AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITIES

JOINT COMMITTEES

RULES




2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. America Bracho

Dr. America Bracho is the CEO of Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention located in Santa Ana, California. This organization was created under her leadership to assist with the multiple health needs of Latinos in Orange County. Latino Health Access facilitates mechanisms of empowerment for the Latino community and uses participatory approaches to community health education. The programs train citizens as community health workers known as promotoras to become leaders of wellness and change. America worked as a physician in her native Venezuela, before coming to the U.S. to obtain a master's degree in Public Health at the University of Michigan. Her public health specialty is Health Education and Health Behavior.

Dr. Bracho is recognized at the local, regional and national levels as an expert in the area of Latino health issues, health education, minority women, cultural competency, community organizing, diabetes education and HIV. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Bracho pushed for the public release of data to illustrate the inequity highlighted by the pandemic, and the disproportionate impact it has had on Latino communities. As a result, The County of Orange launched the Latino Health Equity Initiative in June 2020 after testing data showed higher COVID-19 positivity among Latinos in Orange County, particularly in the cities of Anaheim and Santa Ana.

The initiative is a partnership between OC Health Care Agency, Latino Health Access, Santa Ana and Anaheim Unified School Districts, the Coalition of Community Health Centers, and others. Through this initiative, Latino Health Access offers increased free COVID-19 testing, outreach, education, contact notification support, COVID-19 vaccination sites, and referral services through a promotora or community peer outreach model that addresses the root causes impacting these communities.


Thomas J. Umberg
State Senator, 34th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
STEVEN BRADFORD
THIRTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
PUBLIC SAFETY
CHAIR

APPROPRIATIONS

BANKING & FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS

ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS

GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION



2021 Woman of the Year

*Dr. Wanda M. Brown,
BS, MBA, Ph.D. CCMT, CPTIM, CPT*

Dr. Wanda M. Brown is the elected City Treasurer of the City of Inglewood. She has served as City Treasurer for 32 years. She is the longest serving elected officer in the history of the City. She is among the best professionally qualified Treasurers in the nation. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal-State University Long Beach, MBA from UCLA, and postgraduate studies at UCLA. Additionally, she is a licensed Real Estate Broker, Life & Disability Agent, and is a Registered Representative, licensed to sell mutual funds investments and variable contracts.

Treasurer Brown she has greatly enhanced and renovated the Treasurer Office. She has earned more than \$90,000,000 in Gross Investment Interest Income. She prepared the first comprehensive Investment Policy and Treasurer Investment Oversight committee for the City.

Treasurer Brown established an after school four week City Treasurer Student Intern Program for students enrolled in the 8th through the 12th grades. Students are taught about their local municipal government, how their local official represent the city, tour several city departments, and are taught important financial concepts and strategies. Treasurer Brown also conducts Getting Your House in Financial Order workshops annually for the Inglewood residents, as well as Free Income Tax Preparation service for seniors whose income does not exceed \$50,000. She was given an award by the California Department of Corrections for parole and community service.

Treasurer Wanda Brown was honored for 31 years of excellence at the April 2018 City Council Meeting.

A handwritten signature of Steven Bradford in black ink.

Steven Bradford
State Senator, 35th District

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California State Senate

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PATRICIA C. BATES

THIRTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
VICE CHAIR

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
VICE CHAIR

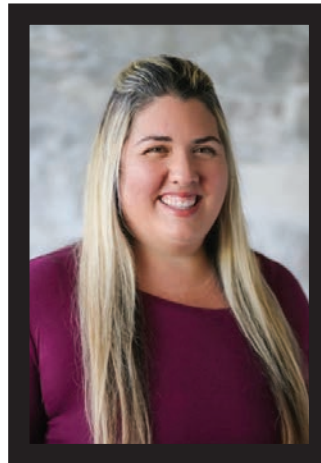
HOUSING
VICE CHAIR

RULES
VICE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION
VICE CHAIR

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INSURANCE



2021 Woman of the Year

Vallie Gilley

Vallie Gilley is a fourth generation Oceanside resident and has been the proud owner and operator of Jitters Coffee pub for 18+ years. She is also CEO and Founder of Feeding the Soul Foundation which is a local nonprofit that raises funding and creates awareness for other local nonprofit causes by putting on concerts/events. Vallie is a chef and produces fresh baked goods and innovative, organic daily menu items for Jitters while keeping to seasonal and local produce, when possible. She also has a successful catering business and frequently hosts cooking classes and workshops.

Ms. Vallie is also the Executive Director and driving force behind O'side Kitchen Collaborative . OKC is a conscience endeavor that works to divert edible food from landfills to nourish and educate the community through catering, preservation and feeding. When restaurants were forced to close during the pandemic, OKC rescued surplus edible food from farms, restaurants and food businesses for local residents in need, including seniors and others vulnerable members of the community. In 2020 they served 400,000+ meals, diverted 350,000+ pounds of food and distributed 45,000 supplemental food boxes. Vallie Gilley, as well as Feeding the Soul Foundation believes that food and music are the common language we all speak and are inextricably linked to a nourished community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia C. Bates".

Patricia C. Bates
State Senator, 36th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
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THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
BANKING & FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS

BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS



2021 Woman of the Year

Joy Anne Lacebal Fumera
RN, MSN, PHN

Born in Manila, Philippines, Joy Anne Lacebal Fumera immigrated to California with her parents Jose and Juliana and younger sister, Gladys. Joy earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing from the Los Angeles County College of Nursing in 2001, learning her craft at the University of Southern California Keck Hospital. Settling in Orange County in 2005, Joy spent the next decade honing her nursing skills and pursuing higher education by obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) at California State University, Fullerton. Joy achieved both advanced degrees while balancing a career in direct patient care for the night shift unit at Kaiser Permanente Orange County.

Joy is active with the Greater Long Beach and Orange County American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), serving as President for multiple terms. The Chapter represents Registered Nurses in progressive care and critical care across local hospitals. Joy also serves as an Affiliate Officer for the United Nurses Associations of California/Union Health Care Professionals.

Last year, Joy was selected to participate in the Orange County COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force and makes recommendations to the Orange County Health Care Agency ensuring vaccine distribution to priority groups and vulnerable populations. From intern to nursing professor, Joy's dynamic career has culminated as a community leader on the frontlines of Kaiser's Covid Unit and as a tireless nurse at the center of the movement to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Joy lives in Rancho Mission Viejo with her husband Christopher Tabayoyong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Min".

Dave Min
State Senator, 37th District

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SENATOR
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2021 Woman of the Year

Julie Reeder

Julie Reeder is the President and Publisher of Reeder Media and Village News, Inc. which publishes the Valley News, the Fallbrook/Bonsall Village News, the Anza Valley Outlook newspapers, as well as annual magazines including the Greater Fallbrook Area Sourcebook, The Greater Southwest Valley Sourcebook, and The Greater Southwest Riverside County Cancer Resource Guide. Combined these garner over 300,000 readers per month.

Julie states that she is blessed with a great family and wonderful competent staff who are committed to their mission statement of being "the hub of communication that informs, connects and strengthens the communities they serve with journalistic integrity."

During past San Diego wildfires, Julie led her staff to keep over 75,000 people a day, who were forced to evacuate, abreast of the news on a minute-by-minute basis with reporters and photographers actually in the field and on the scene day and night with fire personnel reporting which neighborhoods were burning and being saved.

Julie Reeder is passionate about serving her community and was recognized by ARC of San Diego with a "Dove Award" for her support of community and nonprofit organizations. As a business leader she has been recognized by the Temecula, Menifee, Wildomar, Fallbrook and Bonsall Chambers of Commerce.

She and her husband Charles (Chuck) have been married for 39 years, and are proud parents of four children, two in-laws and three grandchildren. They have lived in the Fallbrook/Bonsall community since 1988 and plan to "stay forever!"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Jones".

Brian W. Jones
State Senator, 38th District

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STANDING COMMITTEE
SENATE RULES
CHAIR

SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



2021 Woman of the Year

Dr. Margaret Leinen

Dr. Margaret Leinen, Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, works on the cutting edge of ocean science and global climate and environmental issues. Dr. Leinen, who serves as both Vice Chancellor and Dean of Marine Sciences at the University of California, San Diego, is an internationally recognized paleo-oceanography and paleo-climatology researcher.

Dr. Leinen is an accomplished executive with extensive national and international experience in ocean science, global climate and environmental issues, federal research administration, and non-profit startups. She leads UC San Diego's research and education programs at Scripps Oceanography, the foremost environmental research institution that addresses the most pressing environmental problems facing our planet. Her research to understand what must be done to slow the catastrophic results of global warming will be essential to California's future.

As the first female director of Scripps, Dr. Leinen has prioritized recruiting and retaining women faculty.

Dr. Leinen currently serves on the Executive Planning Group of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and is a member of the distinguished Leadership Council of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society of America, the American Geophysical Union and The Oceanography Society. In 2020, Dr. Leinen was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Leinen received her doctorate in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, her master's degree in geological oceanography from Oregon State University, and her bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toni G. Atkins".

Toni G. Atkins
State Senator, 39th District
President Pro Tempore

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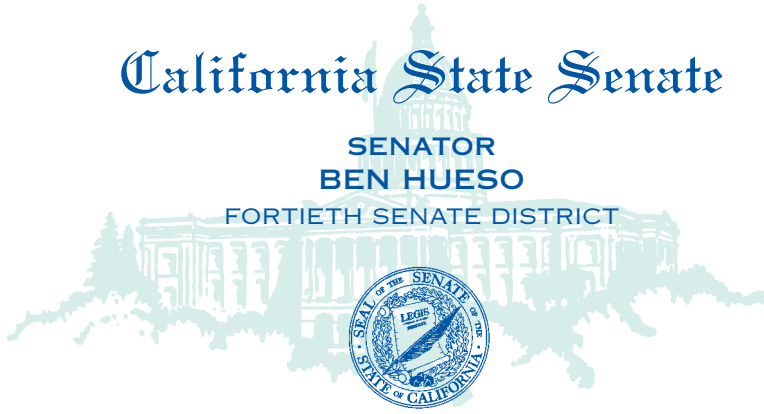
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California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN HUESO

FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
ENERGY, UTILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS
CHAIR

BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
INSURANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

SELECT COMMITTEES
CALIFORNIA-MEXICO COOPERATION
CHAIR

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
MENTAL HEALTH
U.S. CITIZEN YOUTH EXILED IN MEXICO

JOINT COMMITTEE
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE
CAUCUSES
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2021 Woman of the Year

Sylvia Campa


Sylvia Campa selflessly organizes groups for community members to share skills and resources, helping each other in times of adversity. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Ms. Campa founded “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” to assist seniors and persons with disabilities with:

- Alerts for COVID-19 schedules
- Shopping for elderly neighbors
- Prescription medication pick-up
- Delivering fresh produce from food banks
- Delivering day-old bread to those in need
- Landscaping front yards for physically disabled neighbors
- Delivering free pet food
- Organizing “spring clean-up” days
- Distributing free masks

Having a daughter with Autism, Ms. Campa advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. She speaks widely at conferences throughout the country for parents of children with developmental disabilities. She presented on conservatorship at the 2020 Convention for Disability Voices United and has also traveled to Sacramento to meet with Capitol staff, lending her voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.

Ms. Campa founded Liberacion e Independencia de Familias Excepcionales (L.I.F.E) and partnered with Coalition for Elder & Disability Rights (CEDAR) to support SB 1123 (2020) legislation to protect vulnerable adults from forced isolation.

Ms. Campa attended the University of San Diego and studied in Tecate, Mexico. She lives in Eastlake, California, loves nature, and is a landscape designer.


Ben Hueso
State Senator, 40th District

