

THE CONSTITUENTS'

GUIDE TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

VOLUME 2 SPRING 2018

con·stit·u·en·cy \kən-'stich-wən(t)-sē, -'sti-chə-\ *n, pl -cies* (1831) **1 a** : a body of citizens entitled to elect a representative (as to a legislative or executive position) **b** : the residents in an electoral district **c** : an electoral district **2 a** : a group or body that patronizes, supports, or offers representation (creating . . . a grass-roots ~ for continuing the project —Fred Reed) **b** : the people involved in or served by an organization (as a business or institution) (regards its corporate customers as its prime ~ —Andrew Hacker)

1 con·stit·u·ent \-wənt\ *n* [F *constituant*, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *constituer* to constitute, fr. L *constituere*] (1622) **1** : one who authorizes another to act as agent : PRINCIPAL **2** : a member of a constituency **3** : an essential part : COMPONENT, ELEMENT **4** : a structural unit of a definable syntactic, semantic, or phonological category that consists of one or more linguistic elements (as words, morphemes, or features) and that can occur as a component of a larger construction **syn** see ELEMENT

2 constituent *adj* [L *constituent-*, *constituens*, prp. of *constituere*] (1660) **1** : serving to form, compose, or make up a unit or whole : COMPONENT **2** : having the power to create a government or frame or amend a constitution (a ~ assembly) — **con·stit·u·ent·ly** *adv*

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IN THIS GUIDE YOU WILL FIND OUT HOW TO:

- > Register to vote
- > Check your registration status
- > Find your elected representatives
- > Get in touch with your elected officials and let them know what's important to you
- > Connect with organizations, resources and volunteer opportunities to make political change

ALSO INCLUDED:

- > Original interviews with elected officials and other civic leaders in our community
- > District maps and contact info. for Los Angeles City Council, CA State Legislature, U.S. Congress
- > Explanations of our elected offices and what they do
- > Resources to get more involved in civic life and be more politically engaged on a regular basis

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VOLUME 2 SPRING 2018

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*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed., Merriam-Webster, 1997, p. 248



ALERT! PRIMARY JUNE 5!



THE CONSTITUENTS' MANIFESTO

WE BELIEVE that democracy works when we do.

WE BELIEVE that the time is now for concerned citizens to raise their voices and organize to create positive change.

WE KNOW that American democracy has always been shaped by its citizens, and that participation in civic life year-round is an act of patriotism and love of country.

WE CARE about the future of our nation. We believe in civil rights, human rights, and equal rights for all.

WE BELIEVE in the freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly. We believe in lifting the less fortunate, and that America is stronger when we help each other.

WE IMAGINE a country where civic participation is a regular way of life, and where that collective participation leads to a more thriving, inclusive democracy.

This is a critical time in America's history.

We believe taking action has never been more important.

Make sure you're registered by May 21st to vote in the primary. Learn how to register on pages 7-8 of this guide.

On June 5, voters will cast their ballot to decide the candidates who will compete in November's general elections. In California, the two candidates with the most votes will be on the ballot in November, no matter their party. This means the top two candidates could be from the same party.

10 ELECTIONS TO WATCH

Democrats are competing in these 10 congressional districts, hoping to flip them in November.

<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-california-congressional-race-rankings/>

1. **39th District - Open seat (incumbent Ed Royce, retiring)**
Northeast Orange County, eastern LA County, part of San Bernardino County
2. **25th District - Steve Knight**
Northern LA County and Simi Valley
3. **49th District - Open seat (incumbent Darrell Issa, retiring)**
Southern Orange County and Northern San Diego
4. **48th District - Dana Rohrabacher**
Coastal Orange County
5. **45th District - Mimi Walters**
Inland Orange County including Irvine
6. **10th District - Jeff Denham**
Central Valley including Modesto
7. **21st District - David Valadao**
Central Valley, part of Bakersfield
8. **50th District - Duncan Hunter**
Inland San Diego County
9. **22nd District - Devin Nunes**
Fresno and Tulare counties
10. **4th District - Tom McClintock**
East Sacramento suburbs, central Sierra mountains

We can help flip these districts:

Join Swing Left (swingleft.org) to get paired with a campaign near you and learn more.

Some ways volunteers help on campaigns:

- 1) Phone bank - call voters to promote candidates and get out the vote.
- 2) Knock doors - promote candidates, remind folks to vote
- 3) Donate - give \$\$ to the campaign. No amount is too small
- 4) Fundraise - Throw a house party and send \$\$ to your candidate
- 5) Amplify the Signal - boost your candidates on your social media; follow their pages

Official Voter Guide:

<http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>

Q & A

Jimmy Gomez, US Representative, 34th District

Jimmy Gomez won a special election to become a congressman in the House of Representatives in 2017.

Previously, Representative Gomez served as a California State Assemblymember for four and a half years.

Gomez has been supportive of progressive values within California, and hopes to take that experience to the federal level.

He graduated from UCLA before earning his Master's degree in Public Policy at Harvard. He lives in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of LA and is an avid Dodgers fan.

We recently interviewed him about his new job and the ideas he's bringing to Congress.

*Why was there a special election in District 34? Former District 34 Representative Xavier Becerra was appointed to California Attorney General in 2017. Becerra replaced Kamala Harris who won the open US Senate seat when Senator Barbara Boxer retired after serving California for 24 years.

Q: What's the number one lesson you've learned since getting to Washington, and what do you hope to bring to your new position as a U.S. Representative?

Gomez: One the biggest lessons I've learned in Washington is that we live in a very diverse country and that there are a lot of diverse Representatives. I represent one of the most progressive districts in the nation, and I want others to see what we've done here for working families, immigrants, and the environment. I want to see how it can be done in the rest of the country. It's going to take some creativity to try to get people to not shut down, but I want to push for what we believe in Los Angeles, here in Washington D.C.

Q: What did you learn as a California Assembly member that you are carrying with you to the national legislature?

Gomez: In the national legislature, it's all about learning the unspoken rules of the legislative body. It's about trying to push the envelope and having bold ideas, and trying to do things different through policy and politics. The work I did in the Assembly regarding paid family leave, the environment, and workers' rights are all at the forefront of my agenda. I plan to bring the work I've done in these areas to the federal level.

I encourage all of my constituents to
to organize, stay loud and engaged,
and mobilize at the grassroots level
for issues that are important to them.

Q: Which committees are you on or do you hope to join? How do you plan to focus your energy this year? What are your top priorities for your constituency?

Gomez: I am proud to serve on the powerful House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. As a member of the Oversight Committee, the main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, I will use all measures available to investigate misconduct, conflicts of interest, and corruption across the Trump administration. I have introduced the Bribe Act, which fights corruption and foreign influence over our government. I've also been an outspoken advocate for an accurate and complete 2020 Census. Too much is at stake for California to sit on the sidelines.

As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, I am committed to fighting

for our shared environmental values. Californians know all too well the risks that offshore drilling poses to our economy, public health, and marine life. I will also use my role to support my multi-year efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River. We are at a critical moment where we can sustainably transform the river from a concrete canal back into a place of community and ecological restoration.

Q: Is there a bill you wish more of your constituents knew about?

Gomez: Generations of valiant men and women have put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of our nation and to defend the rights and freedoms that define what it means to be American. While we may never be able to truly repay the debt owed to these courageous warriors, we must continue to ensure that, upon their return, our veterans are given the care they deserve and are successfully transitioned back into civilian life. My bill, the Wage Adjustment for Veterans Enrolled in School (WAVES) Act, would provide student veterans in Los Angeles and across the nation the opportunity to earn an education and put money in their pockets to meet the needs of their families. It's our responsibility as Members of Congress, regardless of party lines, to unite around legislation that reflects our duty to help veterans.

We cannot forget that we live in a land where the son of a bracero and a nursing home laundry attendant can grow up to be a Member of Congress.

Q: The nation is so deeply divided right now — both across our communities, and in our government — how do you hope to address that in the House of Representatives? Do you have strategies to find common ground?

Gomez: In order to address that deep divide, we need to focus on the problem, how that problem impacts all communities, and how that problem can be solved for everyone. I know it might come to as a surprise to see a working-class progressive from Los Angeles and a conservative member from North Carolina work together to introduce bipartisan legislation, but I sincerely hope that the rest of Congress can work as well as I have with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx. That's how we're going to solve the problems facing working families across the country. Last year we introduced the Great Act, a simple bill that makes the federal grant reporting process more easily available, accessible, and transparent. The bill was reported out of committee and is now awaiting consideration on the House floor.

Q: What do you wish your constituents would do to get more involved? What are some effective ways your constituents can communicate their concerns to you?

Gomez: I encourage all of my constituents to organize, stay loud and engaged, and mobilize at the grassroots level for issues that are important to them. I am proud of our student leaders fighting for more gun control, they are a great example of what we should all aspire to be. To make your voice heard on the issues you care about, I encourage you to call my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-6235. If you would like to receive periodic updates from me, follow us on Facebook at /RepJimmyGomez as well as Twitter @RepJimmyGomez, and sign up for my e-alert on my website!

Q: In terms of issues facing the nation, what concerns you most?

Gomez: America has always been and will continue to be the land of opportunity. For everyone. Unfortunately, too many working families in Los Angeles and across our nation are living paycheck to paycheck, don't have access to quality healthcare, and lack affordable housing. And between the reckless GOP tax bill and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it's no surprise that the American people's frustrations with Congress are at an all-time high.

We cannot lose sight of the American Dream. We cannot forget that we live in a land where the son of a bracero and a nursing home laundry attendant can grow up to be a Member of Congress. We must continue to fight for equal opportunity for all.



passive-

->active

--> The first step to becoming an active constituent is to make sure you are registered to vote if you are eligible <--

Check your voter status here:
<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>

REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

To register to vote you must be:

- > A United States citizen and a resident of California
- > 18 years old or older on Election Day
- > Not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- > Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

DID YOU KNOW

that you can pre-register to vote before you're 18?

To pre-register to vote in California, you must:

- > Be 16 or 17 years old, and
- > Meet all of the other eligibility requirements to vote
- > Once you have pre-registered you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday

Once you register, you may vote in all state and local elections. You will not need to register to vote again unless you change your name or change your political party preference.

More info about voting in LA County: www.lavote.net

There are two ways to register:

--> by mail and online.

REGISTER BY MAIL

You can pick up a paper voter registration application at

- > Your county elections office - 12400 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk, CA 90650 // Hours M-F 8-5pm
- > Local public libraries
- > Any Department of Motor Vehicles office
- > Any U.S. post office
- > Request an application be mailed to you by calling the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)

OR:

REGISTER ONLINE:

<http://registertovote.ca.gov/>

To register online you will need:

- > Your California driver license or California identification card number
- > The last four digits of your Social Security Number
- > Your date of birth

If you move, you can update your California residence address

by re-registering online or by submitting a paper voter registration application. Changing your address with the DMV will also update your voter registration, but it's always a good idea to double-check: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>

Why it's important to update your address:

If you are registered in a different precinct from where you live, you may not be on the voter rolls at your local polling place. If that happens, don't panic! You have the right to cast a provisional ballot and your information will be updated for the next election.

THE BASICS :

United States Congress

- > U.S. Senate - 2 Senators per state, 100 total Senators
- > U.S. House of Representatives - 53 districts in CA, 1 Rep. per district, 435 total Representatives in the House

County Board of Supervisors

- > 5 Supervisor Districts per County, 58 Counties in CA
- > 5 Supervisors in L.A. County

CA State Legislature

- > CA State Senate - 40 total state districts
- > CA State Assembly - 80 total state districts

Los Angeles City Council

- > 15 City Districts

Find your Reps and fill them in below
 -----> neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org

Each of us in L.A. County is represented by:

2 U.S. Senators:

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN 202-224-3841
SEN. KAMALA HARRIS 202-224-3553

1 U.S. Representative:

1 CA Senator:

1 County Supervisor:

1 CA Assemblymember:

1 City Councilmember:



U.S. SENATE

The United States Senate is one of two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal federal (nationwide) legislation. Each state is represented by two US Senators; there are 100 Senators total. They serve six-year terms and elections are staggered, so that approximately one third of the seats are up for election every two years.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

D.C. Office: 331 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510 // (202) 224-3841
 Los Angeles Office: 11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
 Los Angeles, CA 90025 // (310) 914-7300

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris

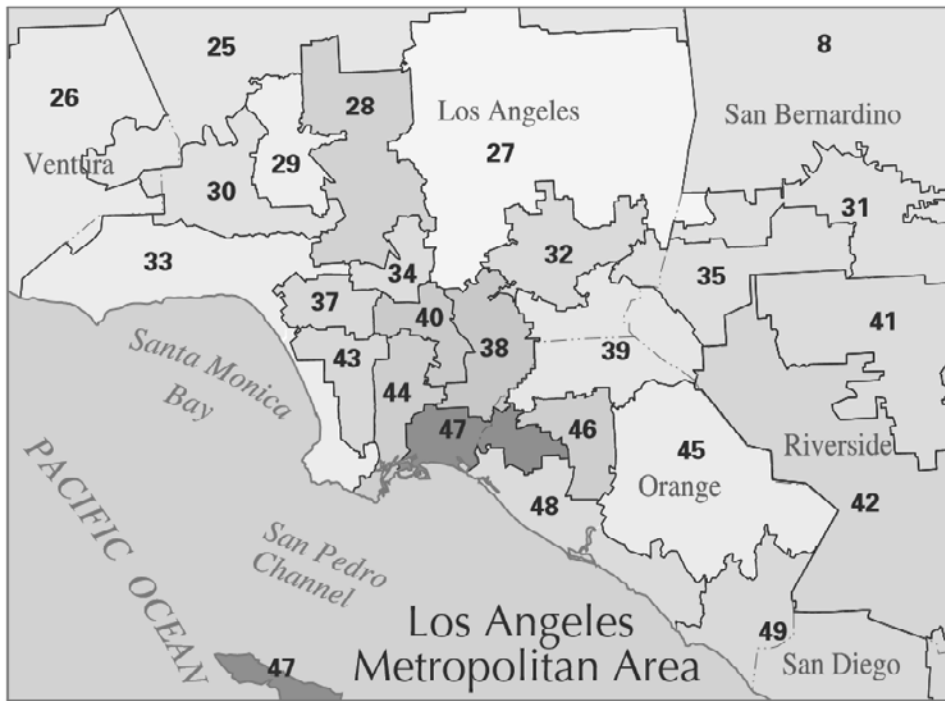
D.C. Office: 112 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510 // (202) 224-3553
 Los Angeles Office: 312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748
 Los Angeles, CA 90012 // (213) 894 - 5000

Talk to your Senator about: *the environment, energy policy, immigration, trade policy, labor, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, drug policy, campaign finance reform, social security, veteran's affairs, health care, disaster response, gun safety, banking, agriculture, education, student loans, infrastructure, foreign affairs, diplomacy.*

Find out about legislation currently before the U.S. Senate and let your Senator know what you think: www.congress.gov

Your U.S. Senator works for you. You are their constituent.

U.S. SENATE



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The United States House of Representatives is one of two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal federal (nationwide) legislation, along with the U.S. Senate. Each state is represented by a number of U.S. Representatives based on the population of that state. There are 435 total Representatives, with 53 of them coming from California. They serve two-year terms and elections are held in all districts every two years.

U.S. Rep. Judy Chu – 27th District
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-5464

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff – 28th District
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-4176

U.S. Rep. Tony Cárdenas – 29th District
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-6131

U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman – 30th District
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-5911

U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano – 32nd District
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-5256

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu – 33rd District
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-3976

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez – 34th District
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-6235

U.S. Rep. Norma Torres – 35th District
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-6161

US Rep. Karen Bass – 37th District
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-7084

U.S. Rep. Ed Royce – 39th District
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-4111

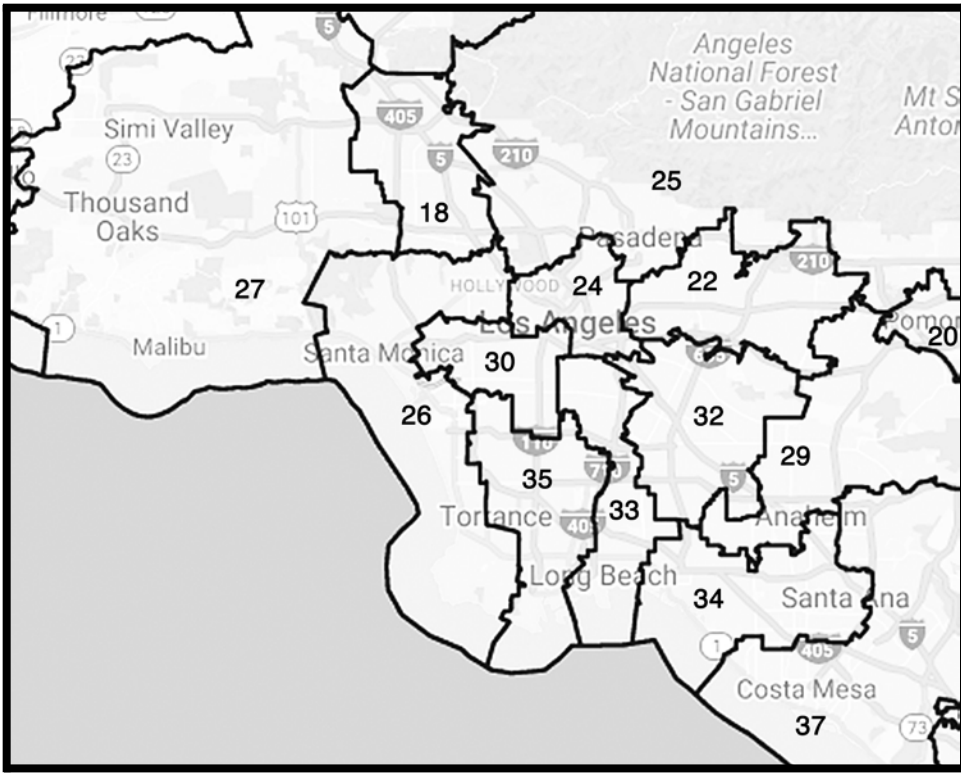
U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard – 40th District
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-1766

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters – 43th District
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-2201

U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragán – 44th District
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // 202-225-8220

Talk to your Rep about: *the environment, energy policy, immigration, trade policy, labor, social security, veteran’s affairs, health care, women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, drug policy, campaign finance reform, disaster response, gun safety, banking, agriculture, education, student loans, infrastructure, foreign affairs, diplomacy.*

Find out about legislation currently before the House and let your Rep know what you think: www.congress.gov



CA STATE SENATE

The State Senate is one of the two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal statewide legislation, along with the California State Assembly.

There are 40 state senators who each represent a district in the state. The Senate meets in the California State Capitol, in Sacramento. State Senators serve four-year terms, and elections are held every two years, with one third up for re-election per election cycle.

Sen. Robert Hertzberg – 18th District
 State Capitol, Room 4038
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4018

Sen. Kevin de León – 24th District
 State Capitol, Room 205
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4024

Sen. Anthony Portantino – 25th District
 State Capitol, Room 3086
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4025

Sen. Ben Allen – 26th District
 State Capitol, Room 5072
 Sacramento, CA 95814-4900 // (916) 651-4026

Sen. Henry I. Stern – 27th District
 State Capitol, Room 3070
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4027

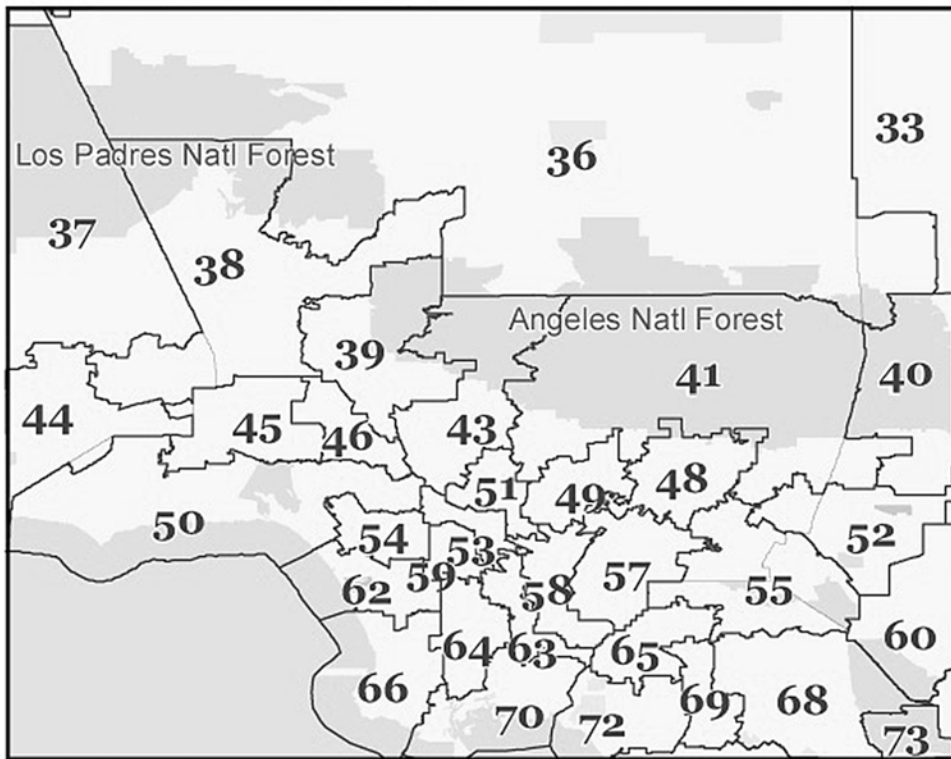
Sen. Holly Mitchell – 30th District
 State Capitol, Room 5080
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4030

Sen. Ricardo Lara – 33rd District
 State Capitol, Room 5050
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4033

Sen. Steven Bradford – 35th District
 State Capitol, Room 2062
 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4035

Talk to your State Senator about: *state laws, the use of state funds, state parks, coasts, highways, state cooperation with federal policy, immigration policy, state-run schools, combating climate change, environmental protections, health care policy, gun control.*

Find out about bills currently before the CA State Senate and let your Senator know what you think: www.openstates.org



CA STATE ASSEMBLY

The California State Assembly is one of two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal statewide legislation along with the CA State Senate. It consists of 80 Assemblymembers who each represent a district in the state. Assemblymembers serve two-year terms, so elections for this position are held every two years.

39th District - VACANT - **Special Election June 5, 2018****

P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0039 // (916) 319-2039

Assemblymember Chris Holden - 41st District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0041 // (916) 319-2041

Assemblymember Laura Friedman - 43rd District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0043 // (916) 319-2043

45th District - VACANT - **Special Election June 5, 2018**

P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0045 // (916) 319-2045

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian - 46th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0046 // (916) 319-2046

Assemblymember Richard Bloom - 50th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0050 // (916) 319-2050

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo - 51st District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0051 // (916) 319-2051

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago - 53rd District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0053 // (916) 319-2053

Assemblymember Sydney K. Kamlager-Dove - 54th District *
 P.O. Box 942849 *Sworn in April 2018
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0054 // (916) 319-2054

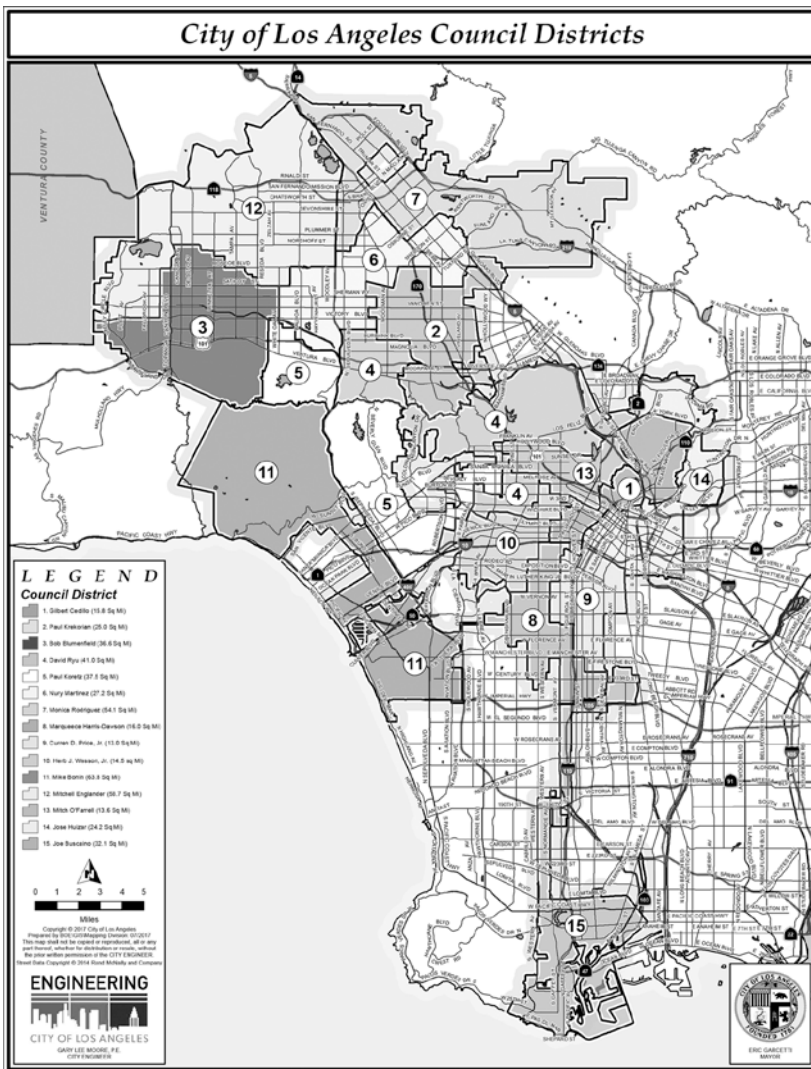
Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr. - 59th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0059 // (916) 319-2059

Assemblymember Autumn Burke - 62nd District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0062 // (916) 319-2062

Assemblymember Mike Gipson - 64th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0064 // (916) 319-2064

Talk to your Assemblymember about: *state laws, the use of state funds, state parks, coasts, highways, state cooperation with federal policy, immigration policy, state-run schools, combating climate change, environmental protections, health care policy, gun control.*

Find out about bills currently before the Assembly and let your Assemblymember know what you think: www.openstates.org



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

The Los Angeles City Council is the governing body that passes and repeals laws that apply to Los Angeles. Councilmembers also order elections, taxes and infrastructure, and create the budget for the city. It is made up of 15 elected members who each serve four-year terms. If you live in a city other than Los Angeles, look up your city council directory to find your representative.

Talk to your councilmember about: city development plans, public transportation, roads, bike lanes, affordable housing, homeless services and initiatives, policing, city jails, parks, community centers, traffic, parking, schools, small business support. City Council meets regularly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 340, City Hall at 10:00am. Meetings are open to the public. Listen live: (213) 621-CITY

Councilmember Gil Cedillo - District 1
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460
Los Angeles, CA 90012 // (213)473-7001*
* see note about address format -->

Councilmember Paul Krekorian - District 2
Room 435 // (818) 755-7676

Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld - District 3
Room 415 // (213) 473-7003

Councilmember David Ryu - District 4
Room 425 // (323) 957-6415

Councilmember Paul Koretz - District 5
Room 440 // (213) 473-7005

Councilmember Nury Martinez - District 6
Room 470 // (213) 473-7006

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez - District 7
Room 455 // (213) 473-7007

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson - District 8
Room 450 // (213) 473-7008

Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr. - District 9
Room 420 // (213) 473-7009

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr. - District 10
City Council President
Room 430 // (213) 473-7010

Councilmember Mike Bonin - District 11
Room 475 // (213)-473-7011

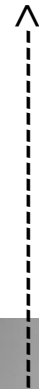
Councilmember Mitchell Englander - District 12
Room 405 // (213) 473-7012

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell - District 13
Room 480 // (213) 473-7013

Councilmember José Huizar - District 14
Room 465 // (213) 473-7014

Councilmember Joe Buscaino - District 15
Room 410 // (213)-473-7015

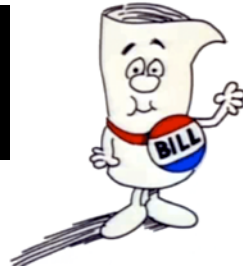
* All Councilmembers' mailing addresses are at 200 N. Spring and follow the format 200 N. Spring St. Room # _____ Los Angeles, CA 90012



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

The Legislative Process

--> How a Bill Becomes a Law



Federal Law

For a bill to become a federal law, it must pass the US Senate and the House of Representatives and be signed into law by the President of the United States.

Any member of Congress (the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate) can propose a bill. It is given a number and referred to the relevant policy committees, debated, and eventually may be voted on. If it passes the chamber (House or Senate) where it originated, it repeats the same process in the other chamber. If it passes both chambers, it is sent to the President, who signs it, lets it pass without signature, or vetoes it (refuses to approve it). Congress may override the veto with two-thirds support in both houses.

State Law

For a bill to become a California state law, it must pass the California Senate, California State Assembly, and be signed into law by the Governor of California.

New laws are proposed by individuals or groups of people and authored by a member of either the CA Senate or the CA Assembly. Once the language of the bill is written by the the Legislative Counsel, it is given a number and then sent to relevant policy committees for review. If it passes in both houses - the CA Senate and the CA Assembly - it is then signed, passed without signing, or vetoed by the Governor. A two-thirds majority in the Assembly and the Senate overrides a veto. A bill is labeled AB or SB based on which house it originated in. Bills are numbered in the order they are introduced during that two-year legislative session.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CURRENT BILLS IN FRONT OF
THE STATE LEGISLATURE: OPENSTATES.ORG**

MORE ELECTED OFFICIALS:

The Governor is the highest elected official in the state. Like the President at the national level, the Governor either signs or vetoes the bills that pass both houses of the State Legislature (i.e. the State Senate and State Assembly). The Governor is commander-in-chief of the CA National Guard and CA State Military Reserve, submits the state budget and is responsible for ensuring that state laws are followed. Governors serve four-year terms, with a maximum of two terms.

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 9581 // (916) 445-2841

The Lieutenant Governor is elected by popular vote independently of the Governor, not as a running mate. Technically, when the Governor is out of the state, he or she has the right to perform all of the Governor's duties, including signing bills into law. Normally, though, they stick with an informal agreement to simply perform basic duties while the Governor is away. The Lieutenant Governor is also the President of the State Senate. 26 of the last 31 years in California, the Lieutenant has been of a different party than the Governor.

Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Suite 1114 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 445-8994

The Mayor of the City of Los Angeles is the official head and chief executive officer of Los Angeles, California. The mayor is elected for a four-year term and limited to serving no more than two terms. Under the California Constitution, all judicial, school, county, and city offices, including those of chartered cities, are nonpartisan.

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 // (213) 978-0600

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passes and repeals laws that apply to Los Angeles County. Each County in California has five districts, with one Supervisor per district. Supervisors serve four-year terms. To listen to live Board meetings by phone, call (877) 873-8017. Learn more and livestream meetings visit: <http://bos.lacounty.gov/>

District 1 - Supervisor Hilda Solis // (213) 974-4111
District 2 - Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas // (213) 974-2222
District 3 - Supervisor Sheila Kuehl // (213) 974-3333
District 4 - Supervisor Janice Hahn // (213) 974-4444
District 5 - Supervisor Kathryn Barger // (213) 974-5555

The Los Angeles Unified School District is governed by a seven-member Board of Education, which appoints a superintendent, who runs the daily operations of the district. Members of the board are elected directly by voters from separate districts that encompass communities that the LAUSD serves. The district's current superintendent is Michelle King. Find your Board Member: <http://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org/>

BOARD OF EDUCATION
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 // 213-241-6389

Q & A

Wendy Carrillo, California Assemblymember, 51st District

Wendy Carrillo won a special election to become California State Assemblymember in 2017.

She's a Democrat, a former labor organizer, and passionate about public service.

She feels strongly about civil rights, especially for immigrants, since she is an immigrant herself.

Hailing from Latin America, the Assemblywoman once said: "As an immigrant from El Salvador, it's my duty to shine light on President Trump's misguided decision to end TPS (the Temporary Protected Status designation for El Salvador)."

We recently interviewed Carrillo about her new post and her vision for California.

*Why was there a special election in District 51? Former District 51 Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez won the US Congressional seat for District 34, vacated by Xavier Becerra. Becerra was appointed CA Attorney General after Kamala Harris vacated that post when she was elected US Senator.

Q: What are the top policy priorities you'll be focusing on as an Assemblymember? What do you hope to accomplish in your first year?

Carrillo: In the Assembly, I have made it my priority to focus on healthcare, women's rights, education, job creation, immigration and affordable housing.

In the last eight weeks in office, I have introduced legislation to help local small businesses win public contracts, help local cities and counties deal with the homelessness crisis, and will continue to push for more affordable housing.

As a member of the Assembly Health Committee and the Mental Health Services Oversight Commission, I am working for universal healthcare and ways for people to get the mental health services they need.

In addition to the Health Committee, I also sit on the following committees: Appropriations, Public Safety, Rules and Water Parks & Wildlife. I will be honing in on these issue areas to be the most effective representative of the 51st Assembly District community.

As a former journalist, I would say that verified, responsible journalism is the ultimate service to constituents. Legitimate, validated information is power, especially news informing readers about legislation that may affect them.

Q: What is the most effective way for constituents to communicate with you and let you know how they feel about issues?

Carrillo: My team and I welcome constituents to our offices both in the district and capitol. We're always happy to have conversations regarding your concerns or direct you to the specific agencies that can help mitigate issues.

You can reach us in person in both our district and capitol offices, by phone, mail, email, or our website. For constituent issues, we have a direct contact form on our website. Our information is below.

Capitol Office: State Capitol, Room 2160 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0051
Tel: (916) 319-2051 Fax: (916) 319-2151 District Office: 1910 West Sunset Boulevard Suite 810 Los Angeles, CA 90026-3350 Tel: (213) 483-5151 Fax: (213) 483-5166

Q: Is there a bill that you believe is important in the CA State legislature that isn't getting enough attention?

Carrillo: There are many bills before the legislature that are being considered that deserve a lot of attention, but perhaps it would be better to discuss specific issues that we should highlight. Issues of particular importance to our district are universal healthcare and a mechanism for its funding along with bail reform, both issues that disproportionately impact communities of color, like in AD 51.

School funding is another critical issue. Access to a quality education is a great equalizer and can create pathways for upward mobility. However, unequal access to education is real and pervasive, and marginalized communities are unfairly impacted. California was once a beacon of education innovation and since the passing of Prop. 13 in the late '70s, we have dramatically decreased our investment in public education. California is now 46th in the nation in per pupil spending. This is not acceptable. We need to reform Prop. 13 to tax corporations and commercial properties their fair share and use those funds to invest in public education from K-12, community colleges, and in our California State University and University of California system. I'm looking forward to working with United Teachers Los Angeles and other education advocates to increase funding for public schools and invest in our students and teachers.

Q: How can constituents stay engaged in and learn more about the legislative process? Are there resources you recommend for folks to better understand how the state legislative process works?

Carrillo: As a former journalist, I would say that verified, responsible journalism is the ultimate service to constituents. Legitimate, validated information is power, especially news informing readers about legislation that may affect them. Supporting journalism — from zines like this to national publications — can be your entryway to the legislative process.

Signing up for our e-alerts and newsletters is another way to stay informed as well as checking our website frequently. In addition, throughout the year we will be holding coffee and conversation events around the district. Please stay tuned for the dates and locations. Visit our website www.assembly.ca.gov/Carrillo, and make sure to sign up for updates!

My staff is happy to help you understand where a specific bill is in the process, but for a general understanding I recommend visiting bit.ly/BillCycle.



Q: One thing about being in a large and powerful state like California is that the state legislature has the chance to set legal precedent for the rest of the nation. What kinds of examples do you hope California sets for the rest of the country?

Carrillo: California has been and will continue to lead on humanitarian issues, including protecting immigrants. As the Trump administration continues to assault our communities, California is pushing back. Furthermore, California is certainly leading on the environmental front and is going to great lengths to ensure the steps we have taken to combat climate change and clean air are not rolled back. California is the laboratory of the nation and whatever the federal government is doing, we will lead the fight against the scourge of climate change and explore innovative alternative energy solutions. Senate Pro Tem Kevin De Leon's landmark legislation, SB 100 is an excellent example of these efforts.

It will put California on track to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. If we are to preserve our planet for future generations, we must lead by example through bold approaches like this one.

I hope that if you're reading this,
you'll join me.
This country belongs to all of us,
not just a few.

Q: As a formerly undocumented immigrant, and now an elected official, you have a unique perspective on immigration policy. What message would you like to give fellow policymakers as they work for legislative solutions, at the state and national levels?

Carrillo: I have the deepest sympathies for the duress and fear many Dreamers, DACA recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, undocumented and mixed-status families currently face across our nation. I have been very honest about my own story as a formerly undocumented young person and unrecognized refugee because I believe in speaking truth to power. The United States is a country founded by immigrants with an egregious history of slavery and Native American abuses.

I believe that we need to work toward creating opportunity, equity and justice for everyone who calls California home and on the national level, we must work toward understanding the reason why people immigrate, our direct influence across the world, and how we are good stewards of Democracy. Many elected officials on both sides of the aisle say they believe "In God We Trust" — the God I know would not condone the separation of families, building walls and ignoring human rights abuses. The immigration discussion is far more encompassing than policy — we are discussing the morality of our nation and seeking to save the very soul of who we are as Americans.

Our country's future will be far better than its past. Building that future for all of us, regardless of where you come from, what you look like, whom you choose to love or your

legal status, is a future for which I will continue to fight. I hope that if you're reading this, you'll join me. This country belongs to all of us, not just a few.

Q: And, what message do you have for constituents who are concerned about immigration policy?

Carrillo: If you are concerned, know that there are many legislators and advocates across our state and on the federal level working toward real solutions to change our immigration policies.

If you are undocumented or know someone who is, it's important that you know your rights.

Everyone living in the United States is afforded basic rights, including:

- The right to remain silent when an immigration officer asks you questions.
- You don't have to open your door when an immigration officer does not have a warrant.
- You don't have to answer or sign anything.
- Making sure the warrant has your name on it.
- The right to speak to a lawyer.

For a fact sheet on everyone's protected rights, visit the National Immigration Law Center at bit.ly/NILCFactSheet.

In addition, during my short time in the Assembly, I have authored and the Assembly has adopted House Resolution 69 urging the President to rescind his misguided decision to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS), as well as Assembly Bill 1862 which would provide services to Salvadorans impacted by the decision. California is home to the largest Salvadoran population outside of El Salvador, and we will continue to fight for ALL immigrants.

Lastly, I will say, do not give up hope, and do not give into fear. You are loved and you are worthy of all of life's gifts. If you are feeling depressed, scared or in solitude, know that you are not alone and there are many people who continue to fight and many more that are willing to help. For free and confidential support if you are feeling alone or thinking of harming yourself, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.



10 ways to stay engaged (besides voting):

1. Find the campaign headquarters for any candidate running for office who shares your values, show up and tell them you're there to volunteer.
2. Find an organization focused on an issue you care about and volunteer, donate money or other goods, fundraise.
3. Visit www.indivisible.org and download the Indivisible Guide. Join or start a small group to help hold our elected officials accountable on the issues we care about.
4. Develop and hone your organizing skills by watching the training videos at www.resistanceschool.com
5. Show up at your representatives' Town Hall meetings and get them on the record answering your questions. Visit www.townhallproject.com to find events in your area.
6. Help flip local congressional districts blue with Swing Left - find your local group and how to get involved: www.swingleft.org
7. Find your local Sister District team and volunteer on state-level races around the country www.sisterdistrict.com
8. Go to your local neighborhood council meeting - find yours at www.empowerla.org
9. Encourage your friends and family to register to vote.
10. Become a poll worker - anyone work their local polling place: www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections/pollworker-information/

STUFF WE'RE INTO RN

PODCASTS IN THE QUEUE

- 1) Pod Save America - former Obama staffers sharing news, analysis, jokes
- 2) Call Your Girlfriend - two long-distance besties talk pop culture and politics
- 3) Intercepted - reporting on national security, civil liberties, foreign policy
- 4) The Ezra Klein Show - extended conversation, the opposite of the soundbite
- 5) Congressional Dish - a woman on a mission to understand policymaking
- 6) Deep State Radio - insider perspective on national security and foreign policy
- 7) Displaced - conversations on displacement and refugees around the world.
- 8) 2 Dope Queens - comedy hosted by kickass women, cuz we gotta laugh

ON THE FICTION SHELF

- 1) The Female Persuasion by Meg Wolitzer
- 2) Kindred by Octavia Butler
- 3) The Female Man by Joanna Russ
- 4) The Power by Naomi Alderman
- 5) Made for Love by Alissa Nutting
- 6) The Sellout by Paul Beatty

ON THE NON-FICTION SHELF

- 1) Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest by Zeynep Tufekci
- 2) Bad Feminist by Roxane Gay
- 3) The Domsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner by Daniel Ellsberg
- 4) Radical Candor: Be a Kickass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity by Kim Scott
- 5) Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

--> Do you have questions <--

about our local, state or federal institutions and how they work?

Email us! theconstituentsla@gmail.com

We are looking for ideas and topics to address in our the next issue.

**Learn more about us,
our projects and how to get involved:
www.theconstituentsla.com**

ABOUT US

We are a group of concerned women who met and came together after the November 2016 U.S. presidential election.

We felt that it was a critical time to take action. Beyond voting, we wanted to be involved in civic life and politics year-round. So, we formed our group, The Constituents, and started to create civic-minded projects that are meant to be accessible and helpful to residents of Los Angeles.

We realize that democracy is a living, breathing thing. It depends on each of us participating to make it work and to create change.

Lori Kozlowski is a writer, editor, producer, and media exec. She produced Project Empathy, a virtual reality series, backed by Google, about human rights issues in the United States. She co-founded Smashd, a publication about music, technology, and startups, and was previously an editor and columnist at Forbes, and also served as a senior editor at the Los Angeles Times. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Meghann McCrory, originally from New Mexico, is an artist based in Los Angeles. She received her MFA from The School of Art at CalArts and her BA from Wellesley College. She works across multiple media including photography, sculpture, performance and installation.

Frances Yasmeeen Motiwalla is a Chicago native and ex-New Yorker living in Los Angeles. She is a full-time organizer with Peace Action, the nation's oldest, largest grassroots advocacy organization devoted to creating a more peaceful foreign policy. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking with her sous chef (and wife) May, spending time with their parrot, Ginseng LaBeija, traveling, listening to podcasts and watching documentary films.

Gabriella Ricketts is a Colombian-American artist born and raised in Los Angeles, California. After graduating from Bard College with a BA in Languages and Literature, she moved back to LA where she works in documentary film.