

California Women Elected to the State Senate

It was not until 1976 - 126 years after California became a state - that Rose Ann Vuich became the first woman elected to the 40 - member State Senate. In all, 50 women have won election to the Senate.

1976 Election/Odd-numbered Senate Districts (1977 - 78 Legislative Session)

Rose Ann Vuich (Dem/Tulare County)

1978 Election/Even-numbered Senate Districts (1979 - 80 Legislative Session)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Watson was the first black woman elected to the Senate.

1980 Election/Odd-numbered Senate Districts (1981 - 82 Legislative Session)

Rose Ann Vuich (Dem/Tulare County)

1982 Election/Even-numbered Senate Districts (1983 - 84 Legislative Session)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1984 Election/Odd-numbered Senate Districts (1985 - 86 Legislative Session)

Marian Bergeson (Rep/Orange County)

Rebecca Morgan (Rep/Santa Clara County)

Rose Ann Vuich (Dem/Tulare County)

1986 Election/Even numbered Senate Districts (1987 - 88 Legislative Session)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles)

1988 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (1989 - 1990 Legislative Session)

Marian Bergeson (Rep/Orange County)

Lucy Killea (Dem/San Diego County)

Lucy Killea won a special Senate election on December 5, 1989 to succeed Senator Dave Stirling, who resigned.

Rebecca Morgan (Rep/Santa Clara County)

Rose Ann Vuich (Dem/Tulare County)

1990 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (1991 - 1992 Legislative Session)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1992 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (1993 - 1994 Senate Session)

Marian Bergeson (Rep/Orange County)

Marian Bergeson resigned her Senate seat in early 1995, midway through her term, after winning election to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. She was replaced by Ross Johnson.

Teresa Hughes (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Lucy Killea (Ind/Los Angeles County)

Rebecca Morgan (Rep/Santa Clara County)

Rebecca Morgan resigned on August 17, 1993 and was replaced by Tom Campbell.

Cathie Wright (Rep/Los Angeles County)

1994 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (1995 - 1996 Senate Session)

Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Diane Watson (Dem/Los Angeles County)

1996 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (1997 - 1998 Senate Session)

Dede Alpert (Dem/San Diego County)

Teresa Hughes (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Betty Karnette (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Barbara Lee (Dem/Alameda County)

Barbara Lee won a special election to Congress on April 7, 1998, to replace Ron Dellums, who resigned.

She was succeeded in the Senate by Don Perata.

Cathie Wright (Rep/Los Angeles County)

1998 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (1999 - 2000 Senate Session)

Debra Bowen (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Martha Escutia (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Liz Figueroa (Dem/Alameda County)
Deborah Ortiz (Dem/Sacramento County)
Hilda Solis (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Nell Soto (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Nell Soto was elected in a special election to the state Senate on March 6, 2000, succeeding Joe Baca, who was elected to Congress.

Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

2000 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (2001 - 02 Senate Session)

Dede Alpert (Dem/San Diego County)
Betty Karnette (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Sheila Kuehl (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Gloria Romero (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Gloria Romero was elected in a special election to the Senate on March 6, 2001 to succeed Hilda Solis, who was elected to Congress.

2002 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (2003 - 04 Senate Session)

Debra Bowen (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Denise Moreno Ducheny (Dem/San Diego County)
Martha Escutia (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Liz Figueroa (Dem/Alameda County)
Deborah Ortiz (Dem/Sacramento County)
Gloria Romero (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Nell Soto (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Jackie Speier (Dem/San Mateo County)

2004 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (2005 - 2006 Senate Session)

Elaine Alquist (Dem/Santa Clara County)
Christine Kehoe (Dem/San Diego County)
Sheila Kuehl (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Carole Migden (Dem/San Francisco County)

2006 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (2007 - 2008 Senate Session)

Ellen Corbett (Dem/Alameda County)

Denise Moreno Ducheny (Dem/San Diego County)
Gloria Negrete McLeod (Dem/San Bernardino County)
Jenny Oropeza (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Gloria Romero (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Pat Wiggins (Dem/Sonoma County)

2008 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (2009 - 2010 Senate Session)

Elaine Alquist (Dem/Santa Clara County)
Loni Hancock (Dem/Alameda County)
Christine Kehoe (Dem/San Diego County)
Carol Liu (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Fran Pavley/Dem Los Angeles County)
Mimi Walters (Rep/Orange County)
Lois Wolk (Dem/Yolo County)

2010 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (2011 - 2012 Senate Session)

Ellen Corbett (Dem/Alameda County)
Noreen Evans (Dem/Sonoma County)
Jean Fuller (Rep/Kern County)
Gloria Negrete McLeod (Dem/San Bernardino County)
Jerry Oropeza (Dem/Los Angeles County)

While Jenny Oropeza actually won re-election to the Senate in 2010, she had passed away one month before the election. On February 15, 2011, Ted Lieu succeeded her in the State Senate.

Sharon Runner (Rep/Los Angeles County)

Sharon Runner was elected to the State Senate in a special election on February 15, 2011 to replace her husband George Runner, who was elected to the Board of Equalization.

2012 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (2013 - 2014 Senate Session)

Cathleen Galgiani (Dem/San Joaquin County)

Loni Hancock (Dem/Alameda County)

Hannah-Beth Jackson (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Carol Liu (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Holly Mitchell (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Holly Mitchell was elected in a special election on September 17, 2013 to succeed Curran Price, Jr. in the State Senate.

Fran Pavley (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Norma Torres (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Norma Torres was elected in a special election on May 13, 2013 to replace Gloria Negrete McLeod, who won a seat in Congress in 2012.

Mimi Walters Rep/Orange County)

Mimi Walters was elected to Congress on November 4, 2014.

She was succeeded in the State Senate by John Moorlach.

Lois Wolk (Dem/Yolo County)

2014 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (2015 - 2016 Senate Session)

Pat Bates (Rep/Orange County)

Jean Fuller Rep/Kern County)

Connie Leyva (Dem/San Bernardino County)

Holly Mitchell (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Janet Nguyen (Rep/Orange County)

Sharon Runner (Rep/Los Angeles County)

Sharon Runner won a special State Senate election on March 17, 2015 to succeed Steve Knight, who was elected to Congress.

2016 Election/Odd Numbered Senate Districts (2017 - 2018 Senate Session)

Toni Atkins (Dem/San Diego County)

Toni Atkins was elected Senate Pro Tempore of the State Senate on March 21, 2018.

She is the first woman elected to the top position in the Senate.

Ling Ling Chang (Rep/Los Angeles County)

On June 5, 2018 Ling Ling Chang was elected to the State Senate to succeed Josh Newman, who was recalled from office.

Cathleen Galgiani (Dem/San Joaquin County)

Hannah-Beth Jackson (Dem/Santa Barbara County)

Nancy Skinner (Dem/Alameda County)

Vanessa Delgado (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Vanessa Delgado was elected to the State Senate on August 7, 2018 to win the remainder of the senate term of Tony Mendoza, who resigned.

2018 Election/Even Numbered Senate Districts (2019 - 2020 Senate Session)

Pat Bates (Rep/Orange County)

Anna Caballero (Dem/Monterey County)
Maria Elena Durazo (Dem/Los Angeles)
Shannon Grove (Rep/Kern County)
Melissa Hurtado (Dem/Fresno County)
Connie Leyva (Dem/San Bernardino County)
Holly Mitchell (Dem/Los Angeles County)
Susan Rubio (Dem/Los Angeles County)

Four female Senate members were elected in 2016, with an additional woman elected in a special election in 2018. All will serve in the 2019 - 2020 Senate session, bringing the total number of women Senators to 13 and tying a record set in 2009 - 2010.