

Christopher Cabaldon, CA State Senate District 3

Legislator Background:

- **Name:** Christopher Cabaldon
- **District:** California State Senate District 3
- **Party Affiliation:** Democrat
- **Age:** 59
- **Gender:** Male
- **Race:** White
- **Ethnicity:** Filipino
- **Martial Status:** Undetermined
- **Education:** BS in Environmental Economics at UC Berkeley, Master's in Public Policy at CSU Sacramento.

Non-Political: Originally from the Los Angeles area. His mother died when Christopher was just 12 years old in a tragic car accident. Did not come from money or fame, and had family issues arise at a young age after his mother's death.

Political: Cabaldon attended the first-ever magnet school in Los Angeles, which helped him enrich his political engagement, a passion his mother had instilled in him early on. After graduating from UC Berkeley, he moved to Sacramento and quickly began his political career with his rise in the state capitol as a staffer. After a few years, he was appointed the chief consultant of the Assembly's Higher Education. From 1997 to 2003, Cabaldon was vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges System. He then took over as chief executive officer of "Edvoice".

Additionally, his passion for education led him to serve as president of the Linked Learning Alliance and co-director of the California Legislative Staff Education Institute. Christopher Cabaldon has held significant roles in higher education and public policy. Appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as California's representative on the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (2011, 2014, 2018), he chaired its policy and research committee and helped review the California Master Plan for Higher Education in 2019. That same year, he became the Hazel Cramer Endowed Chair and Professor of Public Policy at CSU Sacramento. He has also led Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education, served on several education boards, and was appointed by President Obama in 2015 to the National Advisory Board for America's College Promise. Cabaldon joined the West Sacramento City Council in 1996 and was appointed mayor in 1998, later becoming the city's first directly elected mayor in 2004. He was re-elected multiple times, often unopposed, before narrowly losing his final race in 2020. Beyond local office, he ran for the State Assembly in 2008, co-chaired Pete Buttigieg's 2020 presidential campaign in California, and in 2024 won election to the State Senate after defeating Vallejo Councilwoman Rozzana Verder-Aliga in the primary and Dixon Mayor Thomas Bogue in the general election.

Current/Recent Legislative Commissions and Senate Committees

- Chair, **Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**
- Member, **Senate Committee on Education**
- Member, **Senate Committee on Appropriations**
- Member, **Senate Committee on Housing**
- Member, **Senate Local Government Committee**
- Member, **Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review**
- Chair, **Select Committee on California's Wine Industry**
- Member, **Select Committee on Ports and Goods Movement**
- Member, **Select Committee on Older LGBTQ+ Californians**
- Member, **Select Committee on Bay Area Public Transit**

Non-Legislative Committees

- Career Pathways and Education Committee
- Little Hoover Commission
- Delta Conservancy
- Green Empowerment Zone

Number of years in current role

- 1 year

% of Vote received in the last general election

- Received 62.6% of the vote

Issues best known for

- Christopher Cabaldon is best known for his work on education, housing, and government accountability. Throughout his career, he has made expanding access to education a top priority, championing universal preschool, college savings accounts, and automatic admission to California State University for qualifying high school seniors, while also advocating for the reduction of barriers to online learning. He has been a strong advocate for affordable housing and homelessness solutions, authoring legislation such as a proposed \$10 billion housing bond to fund the construction and preservation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. In higher education, Cabaldon has fought to preserve funding for under-enrolled universities and to protect the UC and CSU systems from cuts, emphasizing the importance of strengthening public education institutions. Additionally, as chair of the budget and oversight committees, he has focused on government performance, accountability, and ensuring that state and local agencies deliver efficient and measurable results. Overall, Cabaldon's work consistently emphasizes equity, innovation, and practical solutions to California's most pressing challenges.

Major Donors

- California Correctional Peace Officers Association PAC
- California Dental Association PAC (CDA PAC)
- Association of California School Administrators PAC
- Raise the Wage California / SEIU (Service Employees International Union) affiliated PACs
- Katie Villegas Campaign
- LGBT Caucus Leadership Fund
- Pechanga Band of Indians
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- California Business Properties Association PAC
- Faculty for Our University's Future (a committee sponsored by the California Faculty Association)

Part 2: Constituents

Economics:

- Median household income: around \$103,000, higher than the California average.
- Per capita income: about \$48,000.
- Poverty rate: roughly 10–11% of individuals live below the poverty line.

Demographics:

Total population: about 1,038,000 residents.

Median age: about 38 years.

Race / Ethnicity breakdown:

- White (non-Latino): largest share of the population
- Latino/Hispanic: significant portion
- Asian: moderate portion
- Black, Native American, and other groups: smaller but present portions

Urban/ Housing Living

- The district is primarily suburban with some urban centers.
- Median home value: about \$647,000.
- Average household size: about 2.8 persons.

Politics

- The Democratic Party holds a strong plurality of registered voters.
- Republicans represent a significant minority, with smaller shares for independents and third parties.
- Voting behavior tends to lean Democratic, with the party consistently outperforming Republicans in recent statewide and national elections.

Issues at hand

- Economic stability and housing affordability
- Education funding and access

- Environmental protection and climate resilience
- Healthcare access
- Gun safety and public safety measures