

# Catherine Blakespear



## General Information

- Name: Catherine Blakespear
- California State Senator: Cal. Senate District 38
- Party Affiliation: Democratic Party
- Age: 49 (February 29, 1976)
- Gender: Female
- Race/Ethnicity: White
- Marital Status: Husband - Jeremy Blakespear.
- Children: Oliver and Ava
- Living in: Encinitas, California.
- Education Level: Northwestern University: BS in Journalism (1994), MS in Journalism (1999); University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law: JD (2006)
- Career Background:
  - Senator, California State Senate, District 38 (2022-present)
  - Former Chairperson, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) (2020-2022)
  - Candidate, California State Senate, District 38 (2022)
  - Mayor, The City of Encinitas (2016-2022)
- Number of Years in Congress: Elected in 2022; term ends in 2026
- Current Legislative Committees:
  - Member, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee (2024 - present)
  - Chair, Environmental Quality Committee (2025)
  - Member, Governmental Organization Committee (2023 - 2026)
  - Member, Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies (2022 - present)
  - Member, Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy (2022 - present)
  - Member, Transportation Committee (2025)
  - Chair, Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency (2023 - present)
- Professional Experience:
  - Traffic Commissioner, The City of Encinitas (2011-2014)
  - Associate Attorney, Ray Quinney & Nebeker (2008-2009)
  - Estate Planning Attorney, Wills, Trusts & Probate (2009-Present)
  - Law Clerk, Utah Court of Appeals (2007-2008)
  - News Reporter, Associated Press (2001-2003)
  - Journalist, Los Angeles Times (2000-2003)
- Religious, Civic, and other Memberships
  - Chairperson, Scrumptious Schoolyards, (2010-Present)

## Political Information

- Last General Election (November 8, 2022.): Catherine Blakespear: 52% (190,992) vs Matt Gunderson 47.8% (174,581)
- Nonpartisan primary for California State Senate District 38 (June 7, 2022): Matt Gunderson: 45.9% (106,358) vs Catherine Blakespear: 43.0% (99,583) vs Joe Kerr: 11.2%

## Key Issues Known For

- Environmental protection
- Gun violence prevention
- Housing, and homelessness

## Ideology

- Economic positions
  - **Fiscal prudence:** Emphasizes fiscal responsibility - living within the state's means; expressed concern over California's structural deficit and advocates for a robust "rainy day" fund.
  - **Supports Small Businesses:** Provided emergency financial assistance to businesses during COVID-19.
  - **Investing in infrastructure:** Supports investments in infrastructure like public transit and its operational costs.
  - **Affordable housing:** Supports creating more affordable housing; has introduced legislation to require cities to plan for housing for people experiencing homelessness.
  - **Tax policy:** Critical of federal tax legislation that gives large tax cuts to the rich while cutting vital services for struggling families.
- Social positions
  - **Reproductive rights:** Pro-choice.
  - **Gun control:** Banned ghost guns during term as mayor; implemented safe storage requirements; supported "red flag" laws.
  - **Homelessness:** Believes homelessness is a structural problem.
  - **Immigration:** Denounces what she views as inhumane immigration enforcement tactics by federal agents; supports securing the border however favors creating a path to amnesty for undocumented immigrants who are working and following the law.
- Environmental affairs
  - **Climate change:** Opposes policies that ignore climate science; prioritizes moving toward a more sustainable way of life and protecting natural resources.

- **Plastic reduction:** Authored legislation to ban plastic bags at grocery store checkouts; criticized delays in implementing a law to reduce plastic pollution.
- **Environmental protection:** Led Encinitas to become the first city in San Diego County to use 100% renewable power and passed a strong climate action plan.
- **Emissions tracking:** Sponsored legislation requiring state contractors to report their greenhouse gas emissions and to establish a statewide inventory of emissions to track local government progress.

### **Prominent Campaign Donors (2022 Election)**

- California Democratic Party - \$1,940,781.39
- San Diego County Democratic Party - \$327,000.00
- Tehama County Democratic Central Committee - \$220,000.00
- Napa County Democratic Central Committee - \$205,000.00
- Democratic Party of Orange County - \$175,000.00
- San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee - \$155,700.00
- Fresno County Democratic Central Committee - \$125,000.00
- San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee - \$110,000.00
- Aggregated Unitemized Contributions - \$25,125.14
- American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees - CA People (Afsome CA People) Small Contributor Committee - \$19,400.00

# Southern Orange County, Northern San Diego



## Constituency

- Population: ~961,768 (2023 est.)
  - Not Hispanic or Latino: 74.9%
    - White alone: 56.5%
    - Black or African American alone: 2%
    - American Indian and Alaska Native alone: 0.2%
    - Asian alone: 9.6%
    - Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone: 0.3%
    - Some other race alone: 0.5%
    - Two or more races: 5.8%
      - Two races including Some other race: 0.9%
      - Two races excluding Some other race, and three or ...: 4.9%
  - Hispanic or Latino: 25.1%
    - White alone: 6.9%
    - Black or African American alone: 0.2%
    - American Indian and Alaska Native alone: 0.6%
    - Asian alone: 0.2%
    - Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone: 0%
    - Some other race alone: 6.2%
    - Two or more races: 10.9%
      - Two races including Some other race: 9.6%
      - Two races excluding Some other race, and three or ...: 1.4%
- Urban/Rural: Primarily urban
- Median Household Income: \$123,352
- Median Age: 38.6

## Top Constituents' Issues:

- Homelessness and affordable housing
- Economy and cost of living
- Environmental issues and climate change
- Public safety and gun violence
- Healthcare access
- Transportation and rail service

## Prominent Industries

- Biotechnology: Genentech, Algenis Labs
- Ocean and Earth Science Research: Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Healthcare: BeWell

- Transportation and Infrastructure: District contains a vital section of the LOSSAN rail corridor
- Manufacturing and retail

### **Unemployment rate, income levels, poverty rate, etc.**

- Unemployment Rate:
  - San Diego County: 5.2% (July 2025)
  - Orange County was: 4.8% (July 2025)
- Income Levels: Per Capita Income - \$63,333
- Poverty Rate: 7.2%

### **Partisan voter registration**

- Libertarian - 1.40%
- Peace and Freedom - 0.36%
- Unknown - 0.26%
- Other - 0.36%
- No Party Preference - 23.38%

### **% voted Democrat/Republican in 2018, 2014, 2010 General Election**

- 2018:
  - Republican - Brian Jones (187,345 - 53.0%)
  - Democratic - Jeff Griffith (166,092 - 47.0%)
- 2014:
  - Republican - Joel Anderson (146,510 - 68.9%)
  - Democratic - Fotios "Frank" Tsimboukakis (66,066 - 31.1%)
- 2010:
  - Republican - Mark Wyland (169,769 - 60.2%)
  - Democratic - Gila Jones (96,884 - 34.4%)
  - Libertarian - Kristi Stone (15,185 - 5.4%)

### **Constituents' general positions on economic, social, and environmental issues**

- District lines were redrawn in 2020 making the newest election in 2022. Elections previous to 2022, the California State Senators were Republican and were generally concerned with economic matters like inflation, housing costs, and jobs. More recently, the district now holds a more democratic and progressive position on environmental policy, social rights and economic policy.



## Sources

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