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POLI 109

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### **Role Profile: Megan Dahle, CA State Senate District 1**

**Name:** Megan Dahle

**District:** California State Senate District 1

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Age:** 50 years old

**Gender:** Female

**Race:** White

**Ethnicity:** Non-Hispanic

**Marital status:** Married to her husband, Brian Dahle, for 20+ years (former CA representative)

**Education level:** Associate's Degree, Shasta College (Redding, CA)

**Career background (political and/or non-political):**

**- Political:**

- Megan started her political career in 2019 when her husband, Brian Dahle, who was a member of the State Assembly, won a special election for State Senate, leaving his Assembly seat vacant. Megan won the special election to fill the empty seat, and served as a member of the California State Assembly for 5 years between 2019 and 2024, being re-elected twice in 2020 and 2022. She ran for the State Senate in 2024 when her husband termed out, and she won that election and has been serving as a state senator since. She currently serves on 5 Senate committees, while also being a part of 3 joint legislative committees. Furthermore, she serves as the Senate representative for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, as well.

**- Committees:**

- Appropriations
- Energy, Utilities and Communications
- Environmental Quality
- Governmental Organization
- Transportation
- Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification
- Joint Legislative Audit Committee
- Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management

**- Non-political:**

- Megan and her husband, Brian, run a dry land wheat farming small business. They grow wheat that is processed for seed, which they then sell. They also have

a trucking division as part of this business to transport the seed across the state of California. Megan also co-owned a nursery called Big Valley Nursery in the small town of Bieber, CA, which she ended up improving before selling it to one of her employees. In her free time, she served as President of the Big Valley Joint Unified School Board for one term, where she advocated for an increase in AP and honors classes in rural communities.

**Number of years in current role:** 9 months as Senator

**% of vote received in the last general election:** 75.7% (274,894 individuals)

**3 issue positions for which your politician is best known:**

- 1) Rural Education
- 2) Wildfire/Forest Protection Funding
- 3) Protecting Native American students' rights

**Prominent donors to your politician's campaigns:**

- 1) Association of California School Administrators (\$21,800)
- 2) California Real Estate PAC - California Association of Realtors (\$21,800)
- 3) Blue Shield of California (\$11,000)

**Ideology on economic, social, and environmental issues:**

- **Economic:** She wants to reduce the cost of living in California, as she believes her district cannot afford rising taxes, gas prices, healthcare costs, and a lack of homeowners insurance availability. She also seeks to make the cost less for farms and manufacturers to get food to the market, so that consumers pay less for groceries and utility rates.
- **Social:** For education, she seeks to make sure all rural areas have access to internet and receive similar funding to urban areas. She aims to toughen penalties for human trafficking and robberies. She also seeks to make it easier to prosecute drug dealers who deal fentanyl, and to get rid of laws that allow dangerous felons to leave jail early. Dahle wants to hold homeless people accountable for crimes they commit, but also make sure they have the social/psychological resources to get back on their feet.
- **Environmental:** She seeks to increase resources for forestry management to fire safe her communities. She also wants to increase above-ground water storage in Northern California to allow farmers to grow more food, and store more water in new reservoirs.

**Economics:**

- **Prominent industries:** Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas Extraction, Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism/Outdoor Recreation, Retail Trade, Utilities
- **Unemployment rate:** ~9.8%
- **Income levels:** \$70,838 (Median Household Income)
- **Poverty rate:** 14.6%

**Demographics:**

- **Population:** 940,576 individuals
- **Population breakdowns:**
  - **Race:**

- **White:** 65%
- **Asian or Pacific Islander:** 5%
- **Black or African American:** 2%
- **American Indian or Alaska Native:** 1%
- **Other:** 27%
- **Ethnicity**
  - **Hispanic:** 21%
  - **Non-Hispanic:** 79%
- **Age:**
  - **Median Age:** 40.2
  - **Under 18:** 22%
  - **18 to 64:** 58%
  - **65 and over:** 20%
- **Gender:**
  - **Male:** 50%
  - **Female:** 50%
- **Income:**
  - **Median Household Income:** \$70,838
  - **Per Capita Income:** \$37,552
  - **Number of Households:** 356,420
  - **Under \$50k:** 36%
  - **\$50k-\$100k:** 29%
  - **\$100k-\$200k:** 25%
  - **Over \$200k:** 10%
- **Urban/rural breakdown:**
  - The district is considered to be classified as a rural area, with much of it being underdeveloped.
- **Veteran Status:** 8.1% (nearly double the CA rate)
- **Educational Attainment:**
  - **High School Grad or Higher:** 88.5%
  - **Bachelor's Degree or Higher:** 24.9%

#### **Politics:**

- **Partisan voter registration:**
  - As of February 10th, 2025, the number of voting registration in this district is 574,960 individuals.
  - **Democrat:** 28.13% (161,731)
  - **Republican:** 43.90% (252,406)
  - **Other:** 10.1% (58,076)
  - **No Party Preference:** 17.87% (102,747)
- **% voted Democrat/Republican in 2020, 2016, 2012**

- **2020:**
  - **Democrats:** 59.7%
  - **Republicans:** 40.3%
- **2016:**
  - **Democrats:** 64.02%
  - **Republicans:** 35.98%
- **2012:**
  - **Democrats:** 63.7%
  - **Republicans:** 36.3%
- **3 specific issues that are important to your constituents**
  - 3 specific issues important to this district's constituents are wildfires/forest management, affordability & cost of living, and crime/homelessness, according to interviews from past and present candidates seeking election.
- **Constituents' general positions on economic, social, and environmental issues**
  - **Economic:** Constituents care about lower taxes and regulation, opposing increases in gas, property, sales, and business taxes. They also believe the cost of living is too high and hope that there need to be ways to help local businesses and farmers more. These interests align more with the Republican Party, as seen through voting history.
  - **Social:** Constituents care about more tough approaches on crime, and believe in accountability for criminals and the homeless. They believe that rural education is underfunded and want children to receive equitable access to good education. The approach to crime aligns more with a conservative view, but the position on education is nonpartisan.
  - **Environmental:** Constituents care about increased management with wildfires and environmental protections for forests, with affordable fire insurance. They also believe there should be more water storage and reservoirs built to help farmers grow food locally. These interests are more focused on providing locally more than anything else.

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