

## Role Profile for María Elena Durazo; CA State Senate District 26

- **Background**

- Name: María Elena Durazo
- District: California State Senate District 26
- Party: Democrat
- Age: 72 years old
- Gender: Female
- Race/Ethnicity: Latina
- Education:
  - I. Attended St. Mary's College in Moraga, California and Graduated in 1975
  - II. Pursued law at People's College of Law in Downtown Los Angeles and received her degree in 1985

- **Career**

- Years served as Senator: 7 years. Assumed office in December 2018. Represented District 24 from 2018-2022 and now represents District 26 since 2022
- Became an organizer for the Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Employees(UNITE) while in college
- Elected Executive Vice President of UNITE-HERE International in 2004
- Served as the Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee and National Co-Chair of the Obama Presidential Campaign in 2008
- Was the Secretary-Treasurer of the LA County Federation of Labor from 2006 to 2014
- Received 69.8% of the vote (63,719 votes) in the 2018 Primary Election and 66.9% of the vote (139,473 votes) in the General Election in the same year
- Best known for:
  - I. Workers rights and labor protections: Such as in 2021 where 4 bills Senator Durazo introduced, SB 62, 321, 639, and 674. Were passed that sought to improve conditions for workers in factories
  - II. Immigrant Rights: Supported SB 635 and 580 which sought to protect immigrant workers and expand protections for undocumented immigrants
  - III. Housing Policy: In her 2025 legislative package, she's made housing one of her key issues in seeking to expand tenant rights and bring about more affordable housing

- **Constituents**

- Economics: Top industries in the district include social services(18.5%), arts and entertainment(14.6%), and
- Unemployment rate: 5.0% or 39,834
- Income: Median household income is about \$67,285, while the mean household incomes is about \$101,758
- Poverty: 22.7% or about 203,000
- Politics:
- Population: 943,462
  - ↳ By race

White: 255,680  
Black: 35,790  
American Indian and Alaskan Native: 17,717  
Asian: 161,692  
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander: 1,117