

Role profile for Monique Limon, CA State Senate District 21

Part 1: Individual/Organization Profile

Legislator Background

- **Name:** Sonya Monique Limón
- **District:** Senate District 21 (2024-)(Santa Barbara County and parts of Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties)
- **Party affiliation:** Democratic Party
- **Age:** 45 (Oct. 30, 1979)
- **Gender:** Female
- **Race/Ethnicity:** Latina (Daughter of mexican immigrants)
- **Marital status:** *Married:* Michael Medel
- **Education level:** Master of Arts from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of California, Berkeley

Career Background

- **Non Political**
 - Monique Limón has over 14 years of experience in higher education, working at UC Santa Barbara as assistant director of the McNair Scholars Program and at Santa Barbara City College as an advisor and mentor to local students. She also served six years on the Santa Barbara Unified School Board and was a member of the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women. Later, as a California State Assemblymember, she authored legislation requiring salary ranges in job postings to support pay equity.
- **Political**
 - Monique Limón has served in the state legislature since 2016, beginning in Assembly District 37 before moving to Senate District 19 in 2020 and later to Senate District 21 in 2024. She has held key leadership roles, including Assistant Majority Whip from 2016 to 2018 and currently serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair since 2022. Throughout her tenure, Limón has been recognized for her commitment to education, economic equity, and environmental sustainability.
 - **Committees**
 - Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus
 - Vice Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus
 - Vice Chair of the Central Coast Caucus
 - Chair - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
 - Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee
 - Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
 - Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
 - Senate Health Committee

- Senate Human Services Committee
- Senate Transportation Committee
- **Number of years in current role:** 1yr (2024-)
- **% of vote received in the last general election:** 63.3% (260,656)
- **3 issue positions Monique Limon is best known for:** Senator Monique Limón is especially recognized for her leadership on environmental justice and oil & gas regulation. She authored major legislation like the statewide setback law for new oil and gas wells (SB 1137), among others that limit expansion of offshore drilling and require transparency around oil and gas operations. She is also well known for pay equity, championing pay-transparency bills, protecting people from medical debt harming credit reports, and aligning closely with union-backed labor interests. She stands out in healthcare access and women's/family issues, from lowering out-of-pocket costs for medications, ensuring protections for new mothers (e.g. breastfeeding accommodations), to expanding access to genetic testing and cognitive health services.
- **Prominent donors:** Includes: UNITED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA / UNION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS and HAAS, GENE OXNARD.
- **Ideology on economic, social, and environmental issues:**
 - **Economic:**
 - Supports pay equity: introduced SB 642 in 2025 to bolster California's Fair Pay Act by expanding pay transparency (job postings with pay ranges), clarifying what counts as "wages," and improving worker access to recover lost pay.
 - Advocates for worker protections like paid family leave: she co-authored or supported AB 406 (2019), which strengthens access to paid family leave.
 - Supports consumer protections and shielding consumers from predatory practices, e.g. AB 539 (2019) against predatory lending.
 - **Social:**
 - Strong advocate for women's rights and reproductive health.
 - Expands voter access / supports policies to help working families & immigrant communities.
 - Protects working families via legislation about childcare, early care and education workforce stability, and expanding access to health care.
 - **Environmental:**
 - High priority on regulating oil and gas
 - Focus on climate resilience and clean environments.
 - Supports limiting expansion of offshore drilling and fossil fuel infrastructure;

Part 2: Constituent Profile

Economics

- **Prominent Industries:**
 - **Agriculture and Food Production:** The 21st District is a major agricultural hub, with fertile valleys supporting crops like strawberries, lettuce, wine grapes, broccoli, and dairy products. Santa Maria and Oxnard are particularly known for high-volume vegetable and berry farming, and local food-processing facilities provide additional employment, linking agriculture to manufacturing and distribution networks.

- **Tourism, Hospitality, and Services:** Coastal cities such as Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Solvang drive a strong tourism economy, including hotels, restaurants, wineries, and recreational services. Education and healthcare are also significant sectors, with institutions like UCSB and regional hospitals providing employment and contributing to the district's service-oriented economy.
- **Unemployment rate:** (Not available)
- **Income level:** Median household income~\$96,334
- **Poverty rate: 11.8%**

Demographics

- **Population:** 1,019,893.
 - **Race and ethnicity**
 - Hispanic/Latino: 51.5%
 - Non-Hispanic White: 24.9%
 - Asian: 12.2%
 - African American/Black: 5.3%
 - Multiracial: 3.9%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.8%
 - American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.3%
- **Age:** Median age: 36.8 years.
 - **Breakdown**
 - 0–9 years: 12%
 - 10–19 years: 14%
 - 20–29 years: 15%
 - 30–39 years: 13%
 - 40–49 years: 12%
 - 50–59 years: 12%
 - 60–69 years: 11%
 - 70–79 years: 7%
 - 80+ years: 4%
- **Income**
 - \$47,977 (Median)
- **Urban/rural breakdown**
 - **Urban Areas**
 - Santa Barbara – coastal city, cultural hub
 - Goleta – university town (UCSB)
 - Ventura – historic downtown, active harbor
 - **Rural / Agricultural Areas**
 - Santa Maria – agriculture (strawberries, wine grapes)
 - Santa Clara Valley – towns like Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru
 - Santa Barbara County – rural communities, farmland
- **Classification:** Mixed urban and rural district

Politics

- **Partisan voter registration:** 571,184
 - % voted Democrat/Republican in 2020, 2016, 2012
 - **2012**
 - **Democratic:** 36.12%
 - **Republican:** 39.27%
 - **Independent/No Party Preference (NPP):** 24.61%
 - **2016**
 - **Democratic:** 38.31%
 - **Republican:** 35.57%
 - **Independent/No Party Preference (NPP):** 26.12%
 - **2020**
 - **Democratic:** 38.63%
 - **Republican:** 31.04%
 - **Independent/No Party Preference (NPP):** 30.33%
 - 3 specific issues that are important to your constituents
 - Affordable Housing
 - Climate Resilience
 - Economic Development
 - Constituents in Senate District 21 lean Democratic on economic, social, and environmental issues.