

Role Profile for Dave Cortese, CA State Senate District 15

Part 1 ... Individual/Organization Profile

- Name: Dave Cortese
- District: California State Senate District 15
- Party Affiliation: Democrat
- Age: 69
- Gender: Male
- Race/Ethnicity: White, Italian heritage
- Marital status: Married (spouse: Pattie Cortese, school board trustee)
- Education: B.S. Political Science (UC Davis); J.D. (Lincoln Law, San Jose)

- Career breakdown
 - Non-political
 - Attorney, business owner, experience in finance, ranching, real estate
 - Political
 - Trustee, East Side Union High School District (8 years)
 - San Jose City Council Member and Vice Mayor (8 years)
 - Santa Clara County Supervisor/President (12 years)
 - California State Senator (2020–present)
 - Serves on Transportation, Ethics, Education, Housing, Labor, Agriculture committees

- Number of years in current role
 - Nearly 5 years
- % of Vote received in last general election
 - Over 70% (2020)

- Issues the Senator is best known for
 - Climate change and environmental protection
 - Affordable housing/homelessness
 - Public transit expansion
 - Criminal justice reform
 - Immigrant rights
- Prominent donors to Cortese
 - Public sector unions (top donor group: \$33,900)
 - Building trades unions (\$31,400)
 - Industrial unions (\$29,300)
- Ideology
 - Economic: Pro-union, supports wage equity and affordable housing
 - Social: Progressive, restorative justice, immigrant and gender equity
 - Environmental: Climate/renewable energy advocate

Part 2 ... Constituent Profile

- Economics
 - Prominent industries: Technology (Silicon Valley), professional services, education, finance, agriculture
 - Unemployment rate: ~5%
 - Income levels: Median household \$159,674; mean per capita \$86,715
 - Poverty rate: 6.9%
- Demographics
 - Population: ~1,955,962
 - Race breakdown
 - Asian: 39.5%
 - White: 33.2%
 - Hispanic/Latino: 25%
 - Black: 2.4%
 - Multiracial: 24%
 - Median age: 37.9
 - Urban/rural breakdown: Mostly urban/suburban
- **Politics:**
 - Voter registration shows a strong Democratic majority: approximately 45% registered Democrats, 24% Republicans, rest No Party Preference or minor parties
 - In recent elections, Democrats consistently receive more than 70% of the vote (e.g., Biden 2020, Newsom 2018)
 - Top constituent concerns include:
 - Housing affordability and homelessness

- Traffic congestion and public transit improvements
- Funding and quality of public education
- Constituents generally support progressive economic, social, and environmental policies aligned with the Democratic Party