

  
Poli 109

9/17/2024

## Role Profile for Akilah Weber Pierson, CA Senate District 39

### Part 1 ... Individual/Organization Profile

#### - Legislator background

- Name: Akilah Weber Pierson
- District: California State Senate District 39
- Party Affiliation: Democrat
- Age: 47 years old
- Gender: Female
- Race: African American
- Marital Status: Married to Andrew Paul Pierson (m. 2024)
- Education: Bachelors of Science, degree in biology from Xavier University of Louisiana, and Doctor of Medicine at University of Rochester Medical Center

#### - Career Breakdown

##### - Non-political

→ After graduating from medical school, Weber completed her medical residency at the John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County. She later finished a pediatric and adolescent gynecology fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She founded and serves as the director of the Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Division at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. She is one of only two physicians in Southern California with her specific training to treat children with reproductive birth defects.

##### - Political

→ Weber's political career began on the La Mesa City Council ( 2018-2021). She was then elected to the Assembly in a special election on April 6, 2021 to fill the vacancy of her mother, Shirley Weber, who resigned, representing the 79th district. In December 2024, she became a member of the California State Senate for the 39th district.

#### -Number of years in current role

- As California State Senator for less than one year, she was elected in December 2024.

#### - % of vote received in the last general election

- She received 63.0% votes (266,830) in the November 5th, 2024 election.

#### - Issues the Senator is best known:

- Healthcare and equality
- Reproductive care

- Support for victims of domestic and sexual violence
- Criminal justice reform.
- Prominent donors to your politician's campaigns
  - The biggest donor for Senator Akilah Weber Pierson is Raise the Wage California, sponsored by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
  - Other prominent donors include:
    - California Teachers Association (teachers' union)
    - SEIU Local 1000 (state workers' union)
    - United Domestic Workers of America (caregivers' union)
    - California Association of Realtors (real estate PAC)
    - California Medical Association (CalPAC, doctors' PAC)
    - California Dental Association (dentists' PAC)
- Ideology on
  - Economic: She supports expanding access to healthcare and lowering costs, investment in public service and infrastructure that promote health, supports preserving customer service jobs, and progressive taxation and regulation in order to fund social services.
  - Social: She supports reproductive rights, access to contraceptives, domestic violence victims protections, and is concerned with social determinants of health. As well as education.
  - Environmental issues: She views environmental health intertwined with public health- pollution, toxic chemicals, not just environmental issues but health issues. She sponsors to regulate harmful chemicals, holds polluters accountable, supports investment in clean energy and measures to reduce wildfires.

## Part 2: Constituent Profile

### Economics

- Prominent industries: The region's economy is fueled by a diverse range of industries, including tourism, defense, healthcare, and technology. The city San Diego and surrounding areas attract a high volume of visitors annually, also a major hub for the US military, particularly Navy and Marine Corps, the region is also robust in the healthcare sector including research institutions, and bio tech companies.
- Unemployment rate: 5.2% for San Diego, California as of 2025
- Income levels: Median household income is \$91,400
- Poverty rate: 12.7% of residents live below poverty line

### -Demographics

- Population: 1,042,688
- Population breakdowns by race
  - White ... 44.6% 464,547
  - Black ... 7.7% 80,627

- American Indian and Alaskan Native ... 0.2% 2,170
- Asian ... 11% 111,347
- Hawaiian and Pacific islander ... 0.6% 5,933

Population breakdown by ethnicity:

- Hispanic/ Latino ... 30% 317,626
- Age
  - The median age of an individual in this district is 36.1
  - The majority of the population is between the ages 18 to 64, 66%
  - There are 689,870 being 18 and over, and 151, 835 being 65 and over.
- Income: Median household income is \$91,400
- Urban/rural breakdown: The district is considered a diverse, urban area

-Politics

- Partisan voter registration:
  - Total registered 590, 310 as of 2023
  - Analytic by party
  - Republicans: 133,689
  - Democrats: 271,070
- % voted Democrat/Republican in 2020, 2016, 2012
- 2020 analytics by party
  - Democrats 44.43% | Republicans 22.94%
- 2016 analytics by party
  - Democrats 39.75% | Republicans 27.94%
- 2012 analytics by party
  - Democrats 37.77% | Republicans 24.91%
- 3 specific issues that are important to your constituents:
  1. Healthcare
  2. Housing
  3. Environmental protection
- Constituents' general positions
- Economic: Cost of living is top concern, Homelessness, Jobs and Wages
- Social: Public Safety/Crime, Poverty, Hunger, and Health and Mental health
- Environmental issues: Water/ Drought Awareness, Pollution and Air/ Water quality, Growth and Development impacts.