



Role profile for Benjamin Allen, California State Senate District 24

Individual Profile

Legislator background

- Name: Benjamin J. Allen (aka, Ben Allen)
- District: California State District 24
- Party Affiliation: Democrat
- Age: 47
- Gender: Male
- Race: White
- Ethnicity: Jewish
- Marital status: Married to his wife Melanie, who is an attorney
- Education:
 - Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University
 - Masters of Philosophy from University of Cambridge
 - UC Berkeley School of Law (JD)

Career background

- Non-political:
 - Worked in Washington D.C. for the Latin American team of the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs (Non-profit international democracy/advocacy group)
 - Communications Director for U.S. Congressman José Serrano (From New York) (Staff)
 - Summer judicial clerk with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
 - Lecturer at UCLA Law school
 - Private attorney for law firms of Bryan Cave LLP and Richardson & Patel / Non-profit Spark Program
 - Senior Fellow with the international human rights organization Humanity in Action / Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellow / Truman National Security Project Fellow / graduate of Jewish Federation's New Leaders Project
 - Political:
 - Voting student member of the University of California Board of Regents
 - Served as Santa Monica-Malibu Board of education (President of board from 2012-2013)
 - Chaired in the Los Angeles County Committee on School Board Organization
 - Elected in 2014 to represent District 26 then reelected in 2018
 - Ran and won for District 24 in 2022 (District 26 was renumbered and reconfigured into District 24 after the district boundaries were redrawn)
- Committee's:

Senate Standing Committees:

- Budget Subcommittee #2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy (Chair)
- Elections and Constitutional Amendments Energy, Utilities and Communications
- Judiciary
- Natural Resources and Water

Senate Select Committees:

- Senate Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation
- Senate Select Committee on Career Technology and the New Economy
- Senate Select Committee on Hydrogen Energy
- Senate Select Committee on Infrastructure Streamlining and Workforce Equity
- Senate Select Committee on Mental Health and Addiction
- Senate Select Committee on Nonprofit Sector
- Senate Select Committee on the Ports and Goods Movement
- Senate Select Committee on School Climate and Student Safety
- Senate Select Committee on Student Success
- Senate Select Committee on Transitioning to a Zero-Emission Energy Future

Joint Committee:

- Arts (Chair)

Counsel of State Governments West:

- Border Legislative Conference
- Energy and Environment Committee

Caucus Memberships:

- Aviation Caucus
- Environmental Caucus, Co-Chair
- Jewish Caucus, Chair Emeritus
- Mental Health Caucus

National Conference Of State Legislature:

- Committee on Law and Criminal Justice
- Committee on Natural Resource and Infrastructure
- Committee on Redistricting and Elections

Appointed / Oversight positions:

- California Film Commission
- Instructional Quality Commission
- Ocean Protection Council
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Coastal Conservancy
- UC Center Sacramento Advisory Board

Notable (Previous) Committees:

- Chair of Environmental Quality Committee
- Chair of the Elections & Constitutional -> Amendments Committee
- Chair of the Education Committee

Number of years in current role

- Ben has been in his role for 11 years (2014-2025)

% of vote received in the last general election

- Ben got 67.1% of the vote (248,642 individual votes) in the November 8th, 2022 election.

Issues which Ben is best known for:

- Environmental protection:
 - SB 54 ~ Requires plastic producers (not the local government or consumers) to reduce the production of single use plastics, increase efforts to recycle, and cover cleanup costs
 - SB 867 ~ Places a \$10 billion bond on the ballot to fund wildfire prevention, water projects such as increasing water storage and secure safe drinking water, and funding renewable energy development and help restoring wetlands and protecting biodiversity.
 - SB 601 ~ Restores legal protections for California's rivers, streams and wetlands from pollution which was left vulnerable after a supreme court ruling against such protections.
- Elections and Democracy Reform
 - SB 212 (2019) ~ Allows general law cities, counties, and local educational agencies in California to use ranked-choice voting where voters can rank candidates in order of preference rather than just selecting one. Also explained how they ran single, and multiple seat elections which required that any change had to be approved by voters first.
 - SB 450 (2016) ~ Every registered voter gets a mail in ballot 28 days before an election and has extended hours and services over many days including the weekends.
- Arts and Education Advocacy
 - SB 933 (2018) ~ Provides a one-time grant to school districts that don't have the proper funds so every student can get access to visual and performing arts teachings K-12th grade
 - SB 140 (2017) ~ Adds "promise neighborhoods" for priority funding. Meaning that the promised neighborhoods are given extra consideration for receiving grants. Also used to help students be in school and support vulnerable students (those who've been affected by crime or are constantly absent)

Prominent donors to Benjamin's campaign

- The top 5 donators of Benjamin's campaign are:
 - Consumer Attorneys of California (\$5,500) ~ Associations of trial lawyers who advocate for consumer rights.
 - Cruise LLC (\$5,500) ~ Self driving car company based in San Francisco (owned by General Motors)
 - National Enterprises Inc (\$5,500) ~ Corporate donor entity

- Seiu Aaup Nea Cta (\$5,000) ~ Major labor and education unions representing public sectors
- United Food & Commercial Workers International Union / Ufcw (\$5,000) ~ National labor union representing retail, grocery, and food service workers.

Ideologies:

- Economic: Ben supports policies such as expanding affordable housing (seen in SB 588 (2024)) and providing employment specifically for artists (SB 628 (2021)) as well as having a 62% score in 2024 of voting in favor for workers.
- Social: Seen in SB 1194 (2022) Ben has focused on supporting inclusive infrastructure acknowledging the needs of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the support of legislature set ACA 5 to remove remnants of Prop 8 to support LGBTQ+ students. As well as inclusivity, Ben focuses on social disparities, with SB 140 (2017) targeting neighborhoods with socioeconomic challenges to get funds to promote the success of schools in those areas. Similarly, promoting education and the arts is important, as seen in SB 933 (2018) to help schools to fund K-12 visual and performing arts programs.
- Environmental issues: Ben is a constant advocate for environmental issues, such as SB 54 (2022) which makes producers responsible for plastic package waste (making them pay for cleanup) and promotes recycling and reductions for the production of single use plastics. As well as focusing on preparing Californians for climate change impacts such as rising sea levels, and preventing wildfires seen in SB 867 (2024). Protecting environmental habitats such as rivers, streams, and wetlands after the federal rollbacks of (Sackett V. EPA) from Sb 601 (2025).

Constituent Profile

Economics:

- Prominent industries include:
 - Technology ~ Includes parts of Silicon Beach, with tech startups and major tech companies.
 - Real Estate ~ The district includes Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, etc. These high property areas lead to thriving real estate businesses
 - Tourism ~ Famous coastal cities like Santa Monica and Malibu attract tourists which bring in money through hotels, restaurants and hospitality services.
 - Higher Education ~ UCLA is one of the largest employers in LA county, with much research funding and thousands looking for a job or pursuing an education.

- Unemployment rate: 5.8% (In Los Angeles county, there isn't an exact number for district 24)
- Income levels: \$84,790 per capita income. \$120,019 median household income.
- Poverty rate: 9.1%

Demographics:

- Population: 1,005,044
- Population breakdown by race:
 - White: 558,245
 - Black: 38,742
 - Asian: 175,484
 - Islander: 1,116
 - Native: 1,554
 - Two+/Other: 69,247
- Population breakdown by ethnicity
 - Hispanic/Latino 160,656
 - Many non-Hispanic whites include Irish, German, Italian, English, Jewish, and non-Arab middle eastern (Amerinia, Iranian).
- Age: Median age is 40.8 with the majority of the population being 30-59.
- Income: \$84,790 per capita income. \$120,019 median household income.
- Urban/rural breakdown: District is considered urban/suburban

Politics:

- Partisan voter registration: 701,874 registered voters, 350,620 Democrats (45.05%) and 146,289 Republicans (20.84%) with 25,404 American Independent (3.62%) and 3,266 Green (0.47%)
- 2020 analytics by party:
 - Democrats ~ 60.95%
 - Republicans ~ 8.71%
- 2016 analytics by party:
 - Democrats ~ 59.48%
 - Republicans ~ 9.73%
- 2012 analytics by party:
 - Democrats ~ 58.07%
 - Republicans ~ 12.32%

- 3 specific issues that are important to your constituents:

Housing affordability, environmental protections and promotion of education and the arts.

- Constituents' general positions on economic, social, and environmental issues:

Constituents tend to lead with workers rights and union strength, along with investment in public infrastructure and affordable housing. Progressive socially by supporting LGBTQ+ rights and racial equality with strong public education and arts funding. As well as strong environmental support, with climate action, and conservation of coastlines, and mountains.

Sources:

Census Reporter: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/61000US06024-state-senate-district-24-ca/>

California Federation of Labor: <https://calaborfed.org/scorecard/?mode=byid&legID=322>

Ben Allen's Official website: <https://sd24.senate.ca.gov/>

Silicon Beach: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silicon_Beach

Report of Registration 2025:

<https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/ror-odd-year-2025/complete-ror.pdf>

Report of Registration 2020: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/15day-gen-2020/senate.pdf>

Report of Registration 2016: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/15day-presprim-2016/senate.pdf>

Report of Registration 2012:

<https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/ror-pages/60day-general-12/senate1.pdf>