

Poli 109

9/17/2025

Role Profile for Senator Steven Choi, District 37

Part 1: Legislator Profile

Name: Steven Choi

District: District 37

Party: Republican

Age: 81

Gender: Male

Race: Asian

Ethnicity: Korean

Marital Status: Married to Janie Choi - Kumon Franchise Owner

Education:

- BA in English from Kyung Hee University
- MA in Library Science From Louisiana State University
- PhD in Library and Information Science from University of Pittsburgh

Career Background:

- Non-Political:

While getting his bachelors, Choi enrolled in ROTC, and joined the South Korean military as an Artillery Lieutenant after graduating. When he was discharged, he joined the US Peace Corps as a language instructor. Then he moved to Louisiana to pursue his masters degree in Library Science. He worked as a librarian for 3 years before moving on to get his doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh. Once he got his PhD, he became an Assistant Professor at the USC Graduate School of Library & Information Management, before moving to Orange County and, eventually, teaching Korean at University of California, Irvine. While living in Irvine, he started his own tutoring business, Dr. Choi's Academy.

- Political:

- Irvine Unified School District Board of Education Trustee, *1998-2004*
- Irvine City Council Member *2004-2012*
- Mayor of Irvine, *2012 - 2016*
- California State Assembly Member, District 68, *2016-2022*
- California State Senator, District 37, *2024-present*

Length in Role: Choi has been in his position since December 2nd, 2024.

Vote Percent: Choi won by 50.7% to incumbent Josh Newman's 49.3%, in an upset

Main Issues:

- Korean Representation
 - Choi has introduced several bills to establish state holidays to honor significant concepts from Korean culture
- Election Reform
 - Choi has authored many bills that amend current election and voter laws, such as mail-in voting and voter ID
- Tax Law: Property, Income, and Business
 - Many of Choi's introduced bills propose tax breaks and credits for businesses and individuals, especially relating to education and income

Donors: The majority of Choi's funding for his 2024 campaign came from the California Republican Party. Other major donors across his political career include the California Real Estate PAC, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association PAC, and the California New Car Dealers Association PAC.

Ideology:

- Economic
 - Choi has a conservative take on fiscal policy, opposing state expenditures and introducing bills to lower taxes. Choi has a 92% approval rating with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, an anti-tax lobbyist group. The California Chamber of Commerce has given him a 75% rating. Meanwhile, Choi has only a 13% approval rating from the California Labor Federation.
- Social
 - Choi was endorsed by the NRA during his 2024 campaign, with a 92% approval rating. He also boasts high ratings from the California ProLife Council (100%), Gun Owners of California (92%), and the American Conservative Union (89%).
- Environmental
 - Choi has a history of voting against many climate crisis related bills. With a 12% approval rating from California Environmental Voters, and a 0% rating from Sierra Club California, Choi has little focus on environmental issues

Part 2: Constituent Profile

Economics: District 37 is heavily suburban. Many of the local businesses cater to the suburban clientele, with many family-oriented businesses, shopping complexes, and domestic services. Other prominent industries include education, such as University of California, Irvine and transportation, like the John Wayne Airport.

- Median Household Income: \$125,408
- Poverty Rate: 9%
- Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Demographics: District 37 has a population of 1,013,359 as of 2023 ACS. This population is:

- 44.1% White
- 24.8% Asian
- 23.1% Latino
- 5.3% Multiracial
- 1.7% Black
- 0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific
Islander
- 0.1% Native
American
- 0.6% other
- 20.8% under 18
- 63.9% 18-64
- 15.3% 65+
- 50.7% female
- 49.3% male

Politics:

- 593,152 registered voters
 - 36.94% Democrat
 - 33.25% Republican
 - 29.81% Other
- 2020 election
 - 51.1% Democrat
 - 48.9% Republican
- 2016 election
 - 57% Republican
 - 43% Democrat
- 2012 election
 - 57% Republican
 - 43% Democrat

Top Issues: Housing, Education, and Law Enforcement

General Positions: This district is very divided, with nearly even amounts of Democrats and Republicans. While the district has a republican history, recent elections have narrower margins, and there's a high degree of polarity.