

## **Role Profile for Senator Lena Gonzalez, CA State Senate District 33**

### *Legislator Background*

- Name: Lena Gonzalez
- District: California State Senate District 33 (Long Beach, Southeast Los Angeles, and parts of the Harbor area)
- Party Affiliation: Democrat
- Age: 43 years old, she was born January 26, 1981
- Gender: Female
- Race/Ethnicity: Latina (Mexican-American heritage)
- Marital Status: Married to Adam Carrillo; they have three children.
- Education: Bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach; MBA from Loyola Marymount University.

### *Career Breakdown*

#### Non-Political

- Worked in the technology sector, including Microsoft, where she focused on civic engagement and social responsibility.
- Involved in community service and advocacy for equity in technology, digital access, and environmental justice.

#### Political

- Elected to the Long Beach City Council in 2014, representing the First District.
- On the Council, prioritized infrastructure, affordable housing, clean air, and economic opportunity.
- Elected to the California State Senate in 2019 via special election and re-elected in subsequent terms.
- Committee Work (current and past highlights):
  - Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.
  - Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.
  - Member of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee.
  - Involved in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Health.

### *Number of Years in Current Role*

- Serving as Senator since 2019 (about 6 years).

### *Percentage of Vote Received in Last General Election*

- In the November 2022 general election, Gonzalez received approximately 70% of the vote, securing a strong mandate in her district.

#### *Issues the Senator is Best Known For*

- Digital Equity: Leading efforts to expand broadband access across California, especially in underserved and low-income communities.
- Workers' Rights: Strong pro-labor stance, supporting union protections, paid sick leave, and workplace safety measures.
- Environmental Justice: Advocates for clean air and water in heavily industrialized communities near freeways, refineries, and ports.
- Equity and Justice: Promotes immigrant rights, LGBTQ+ protections, affordable housing, and access to healthcare.

#### *Prominent Donors to Gonzalez*

- Labor unions and advocacy groups are major donors and endorsers. Some of the notable supporters include:
  - California Labor Federation
  - SEIU California State Council
  - United Farm Workers
  - California Teachers Association
  - Teamsters Joint Council 42
- Also supported by environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and organizations advocating for consumer and digital equity protections.

#### *Ideology*

- Economic: Strongly pro-labor, supportive of unionization, workplace protections, and raising standards for working families.
- Social: Progressive on LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive freedom, and immigrant protections. Supports equity in education, healthcare, and housing.
- Environmental: Committed to environmental justice; fights against pollution in low-income neighborhoods, supports renewable energy, and pushes climate action policies.

#### *Economics*

- Prominent Industries:
  - The Port of Long Beach (one of the largest in the world, generating trade and shipping jobs).
  - Oil refineries and heavy industry along the harbor area.
  - Healthcare and education (Long Beach Unified School District, California State University Long Beach, and local hospitals are major employers).
  - Tourism and hospitality, tied to the Queen Mary, aquarium, and coastal attractions.
- Unemployment Rate: Around 4.4% in 2023, close to the state average.

- Income Levels:
  - Median household income: approx \$72,000 (lower than the California median).
  - Significant income inequality exists between wealthier coastal neighborhoods and low-income inland and industrial areas.
- Poverty Rate: About 16% of individuals live below the poverty line, higher than the state average.

### *Demographics*

- Population: Roughly 935,000 people (2020 Census).
- Population Breakdown by Race (approximate):
  - Hispanic/Latino: 65%
  - White (non-Hispanic): 15%
  - Black/African American: 11%
  - Asian American & Pacific Islander: 8%
  - Other/Multiracial: 1%
- Ethnic Breakdown:
  - Large Mexican-American and Central American communities.
  - Growing Cambodian and Filipino populations in Long Beach.
  - Significant African American population with historic roots in South LA and Compton areas.
- Age:
  - Median age: 33 years old (younger than the state average).
  - District skews young, with a large proportion under 35.
  - About 12% are seniors (65+).
- Urban/Rural Breakdown:
  - The district is overwhelmingly urban.
  - Includes dense working-class neighborhoods, port and industrial zones, and suburban-style areas further inland.

### *Politics*

- Partisan Voter Registration:
  - Democrats: ~58%
  - Republicans: ~15%
  - No Party Preference/Other: ~27%
  - Strong Democratic advantage, though turnout varies.
- Recent Election Results (2020 Presidential):
  - Biden: ~72%
  - Trump: ~26%
- General Political Climate:
  - Heavily Democratic, progressive-leaning, with strong labor union influence.
  - District tends to support social justice, immigrant rights, and environmental protection, while also being highly concerned about job security and cost of living.

### *3 Specific Issues Constituents Cared about*

1. Environmental Justice & Public Health
  - Communities near refineries, freeways, and ports face high rates of asthma and other health problems from pollution.
  - Voters demand clean air, safe water, and corporate accountability.
2. Workers' Rights & Job Security
  - As a port and industrial district, many constituents are unionized workers.
  - Protecting jobs, improving wages, and ensuring safe conditions are top concerns.
3. Affordable Housing & Cost of Living
  - Rent prices and home ownership costs are rising rapidly in Long Beach and Southeast LA.
  - Voters want stronger renter protections and affordable housing initiatives.

### *Constituents' General Positions*

- Constituents lean progressive, supportive of Gonzalez's pro-labor, pro-environment, and equity-focused policies.
- Strong union influence reinforces her credibility on worker protections.
- Latino and immigrant communities in her district care deeply about social justice, healthcare access, education, and pathways to economic opportunity.
- Overall, the district expects Gonzalez to be a bold advocate for working families while also delivering practical solutions to housing, climate, and economic challenges.

### *Resources*

"Biography | Senator Lena A. Gonzalez." *California State Senate – District 33*, State of California, [sd33.senate.ca.gov/biography](https://sd33.senate.ca.gov/biography).

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