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POLI 109

Professor Monroe

12 September 2025

***Role Profile: Senator Caroline Menjivar***

- 1) **Name:** Caroline Menjivar
- 2) **District:** California State Senate District 20 – San Fernando Valley (Since 2022)
- 3) **Party Affiliation:** Democrat
- 4) **Age:** 32
- 5) **Gender:** Female
- 6) **Race/Ethnicity:** Hispanic/Latina, born to Salvadorian Immigrants
- 7) **Marital Status:** Married to wife, Samantha, for 15 years. They have two dogs together
- 8) **Education:**
  - After high school, she pursued a degree in Fire Technology and a Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license
  - Received a BA in Sociology from CSU Northridge in 2015
  - Received a Master of Social Work (MSW) in community organization and advocacy from UCLA in 2018
- 9) **Non-Political Work:**
  - Served in the Marine Corps from 2009-2016
  - Worked as a director for the non-profit, Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND), a large poverty agency in the San Fernando Valley. The organization specifically provides food, clothing, and other services for people in need.

**10) Political Work (Before running for State Senator):**

- Received the David Bohnett Fellowship that allowed her the opportunity to work at the Los Angeles Mayor's Gender Equity Office
- Worked as an EMT, a communications manager from Ambulife ambulance for the Los Angeles Mayors office
- Served as a City Field deputy for the LA Mayor
- East Valley Representative for the LA Mayor
- Additionally, Caroline hosted conference calls to update people about political happenings around the city. She also organized socially distanced community events, including a LGBTQ+ Pride Car Parade and a Veterans Day drive-thru.

**11) Number of years in current role:** Caroline has served in the California State Senate since 2022 (Around 3 years)

**12) % of votes received in the last general election:** 58.46% of the general vote

**13) Three issue positions for which Caroline Menjivar is best known:**

- **Veterans' Affairs**
  - Served in the U.S. Marine Corps; advocates for stronger veteran services, benefits access, and support programs.
- **Human Services & Social Safety Net**
  - Background as a social worker; emphasizes improving services for families, children, and the elderly.
- **Public Health & Mental Health**
  - Focus on increasing access to affordable mental health services, crisis response, and health equity.

**14) Prominent Donors to Menjivar's campaigns:**

- American Beverage Association California PAC (\$5,900)
- AMR Holdco INC (\$5,900)
- Blue Shield of California (\$5,900)
- California State Council of Laborers PAC (\$5,900)
- Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust (\$5,900)
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Committee (\$5,900)

**15) Ideology on economic, social, and environmental issues:**

- “Zip code, race, gender, or sexual identity shouldn’t determine one’s destiny”
- Focuses on supporting working families, immigrants, and historically underserved communities
- Wants to create accessible and affordable housing
- Concerned about homelessness and how it links with mental health. Menjivar advocates for more services for those in need
- Has a 100% score in an environmental scorecard from California Environmental Voters regarding her votes with environmental issues
- Also has a 100% scorecard from the ACLU
- Openly LGBTQ+ legislator and member of the LGBTQ+ Caucus; strong supporter of equality and nondiscrimination protections.
- Supports holding polluters accountable, investing in renewable energy, and expanding green infrastructure (e.g., SB 1497 – Polluters Pay Act).

## ***Constituent Profile: District 20 (San Fernando Valley)***

### **1) Economics**

- **Prominent Industries:**
  - 1) Organized Labor (of various industries)
    - Service workers
    - Teachers
    - Writers Guild
    - Trade Unions
  - 2) Small Businesses
  - 3) Entertainment and Media
- **Unemployment Rate:** ~ 5.8% to 6.4%
- **Income Levels:**
  - Median Household Income: ~ \$77,767
  - Per capita income: ~ \$33,454
- **Poverty Rate:** 15.5% Persons live below the poverty line

### **2) Demographics**

- **Population:** ~ 924,728 people
  - **By Race/Ethnicity:**
    - **23%** White
    - **3%** Black
    - **0%** Native
    - **10%** Asian
    - **0%** Islander

- 1% Other
- 2% Two+
- 60% Hispanic
- **By Age:** Median Age is 37.2 years old, 65% are 18-54 years old
  - 11% are 0-9 years old
  - 13% are 10-19 years old
  - 14% are 20-29 years old
  - 15% are 30-39 years old
  - 14% are 40-49 years old
  - 13% are 50-59 years old
  - 11% are 60-69 years old
  - 6% are 70-79 years old
  - 3% are 80 years old and over
- **By Income:** \$33,454 Per capita income, \$77,767 Median household income
  - 33% are under \$50k
  - 28% make \$50k-\$100k
  - 28% make \$100k-\$200k
  - 12% make over \$200k
- **Urban/Rural Breakdown**
  - District 20 is 222 square miles large, there are around 4,165.1 people per square mile
  - Densely populated area, nearly 100% of the district is urban

### 3) Politics

- **Partisan Voter Registration:** Around 441,629 Registered Voters
- **% voted Democrat:**
  - **2012:** ~ 68.2%
  - **2016:** ~ 67.9%
  - **2020:** ~ 65.2%
- **% voted Republican:**
  - **2012:** ~ 29.8%
  - **2016:** ~ 26.8%
  - **2020:** ~ 32.5%
- **Three Specific Issues that are Important to District 20**
  - 1) **Housing Affordability**
    - Expanding affordable housing options, rent stabilization, and supportive housing are pressing concerns for constituents
  - 2) **Transit and Traffic**
    - improving public transit options (Metro lines, bus rapid transit), reducing commute times, and investing in sustainable infrastructure
  - 3) **Public Health**
    - Access to quality health care and mental health services
- **Constituents' General positions on economic, social, and environmental issues:**
  - In terms of economic issues, there is strong support for policies that support the working class and low-income households through minimum wage increases, job protections, and affordable housing

- For social issues, the district is concerned about protecting civil rights, immigration rights, and pro-immigrant policies
- Lastly, constituents in CA-20 are concerned about environmental justice with pollution in neighborhoods, clean air and water, and focusing on creating more green spaces. There is also a lot of support for clean energy, including renewable power and other measures to reduce pollution, especially in disadvantaged areas