

Basic Information

- ★ **Name:** Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
- ★ **District:** California State Senate District 28
- ★ **Party Affiliation:** Democrat
- ★ **Age:** Early 50s (exact birthdate not widely published)
- ★ **Gender:** Female
- ★ **Race/Ethnicity:** African American
- ★ **Marital/Family Status:** Married, two children, lives in View Park, South Los Angeles
- ★ **Education:** B.A. in Communications, California State University, Hayward (now CSU East Bay)

Career Background

❖ **Non-Political Experience:**

- Journalist at the Oakland Tribune, Long Beach Press-Telegram, and Chicago Tribune.
- Organizer with SEIU Local 1877.
- Co-founder of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center.
- Co-founder of the Center for the Advancement of Racial Equity at Work, UCLA.

❖ **Political Career:**

- Elected to the California State Senate in November 2022.
- Assumed office December 5, 2022, succeeding Sydney Kamlager-Dove.
- Chairs the Senate Labor, Public Employment & Retirement Committee.
- Member of Budget & Fiscal Review; Business, Professions & Economic Development; Governmental Organization Committees.

Tenure and Elections

- Years in Current Role: Since 2022 (approx. 3 years by 2025)
- % of Vote Received: 59.9% in the 2022 general election

Policy Priorities

1. Workers' rights, including wage theft prevention and pay equity.
2. Affordable housing and development of community land trusts.
3. Green jobs, environmental justice, and just transition policies.
4. Expanding social safety nets for working families.

5. Creating apprenticeship opportunities for historically excluded groups.

Key Legislation Authored

SB 75: Apprenticeship programs for formerly incarcerated women.

SB 238: Workplace surveillance disclosures.

SB 303: Anti-bias protections for public employees.

SB 442: Rules and penalties for self-service checkout in large stores.

Support & Donors

- Strong support from organized labor, including SEIU, UFCW, and the California Labor Federation.
- Endorsed by the Working Families Party and progressive Democratic groups.

Ideology Overview

- Economic: Strongly pro-labor, pro-union, advocates wage fairness.
- Social: Progressive; supports reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and racial justice.
- Environmental: Focus on green jobs, clean energy, and environmental justice.

Geographic Area

District 28 covers South Los Angeles, Downtown LA, Mid City, Culver City, West Los Angeles, and Century City. The area is densely urban, with diverse communities ranging from affluent neighborhoods to working-class areas.

Economic Conditions

- Prominent Industries: Entertainment, service, and healthcare.
- Cost of Living: Among the highest in the state, especially housing.
- Labor Market: Mix of high-income professionals and low-wage service workers.
- Challenges: Wage theft, unemployment pockets, underemployment, and displacement due to gentrification.

Demographics

- Population: Over 900,000 (estimated).
- Racial/Ethnic Makeup: Significant Black and Latino populations, alongside Asian American and White residents.
- Population Density: Primarily urban and highly diverse.
- Age: Broadly distributed, but many working-age adults.

Voting Behavior

- ★ Strong Democratic majority.
- ★ 2022 Election: Smallwood-Cuevas won with nearly 60% of the vote.
- ★ Historical Trend: District consistently votes Democratic, with a progressive lean.

Residents ' Top Issues

1. Affordable housing and homelessness solutions.
2. Workers' rights and stronger wage protections.
3. Environmental justice and community health.
4. Job creation, especially union and green jobs.
5. Access to healthcare and social services.

General Ideological Leanings

- ❖ Constituents generally align with Democratic and progressive values.
- ❖ Support pro-labor, pro-equity, and pro-environmental positions.
- ❖ Strong backing for policies addressing social justice and community resilience.