

# Cristina FOR CONGRESS GARCIA

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VIEW ASSEMBLY-  
WOMAN GARCIA'S  
'A SEAT AT THE  
TABLE.'

## Dynamic Leadership.

Democratic Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia is one of Sacramento's most effective and progressive legislators. Cristina's landmark legislative victories span the reformist spectrum, from environmental justice (EJ) to ethics and best practices in government to the issues that affect the lives of women and families. Cristina's roots as an activist legislator were sown as a community organizer battling corruption amid the City of Bell scandal in 2010—one of the worst instances of small-city malfeasance in American history. In 2012, running on an ethics in government platform, Cristina was elected to the State Assembly by defeating one of southeast Los Angeles County's most long-standing and powerful political dynasties.

## Environmental justice for frontline communities.

Once elected, Cristina quickly realized that the state legislative process often ignored frontline communities like the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) neighborhoods where she was raised. As she saw it, a variety of factors led to the proliferation of environmental injustice, including systemic racism and even sheer neglect by the very elected officials who historically represented SELA communities. Cristina vowed to be different, and she has been. As a legislator, she has had several key EJ bills pass into law. AB-617, a first-in-the-nation public policy mandated the lowering of polluting air emissions in vulnerable frontline communities. AB-1132, set in motion the ability for air districts to immediately shut down toxic polluters who are posing an imminent danger to public health. She was also instrumental in creating a funding stream to clean up man-made environmental disasters like Exide. Most recently, she helped secure almost \$500 million to finish cleaning up homes affected by Exide contamination and another half a billion dollars to clean up other contaminated sites across the state, while also reforming the Department of Toxic Substances to prevent another Exide-like environmental disaster.

## A champion for women, equity, and justice.

As the chair of the California Legislative Women's Caucus, Cristina is widely considered one of the legislative champions of the "period equity movement." Cristina authored several laws to address that historically dismissed and often stigmatized issue. Those bills include the landmark AB 367, which Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law earlier this year, requiring all community colleges, public universities, high schools, and middle schools to provide free menstrual products in school bathrooms. Cristina also introduced the first bill in the nation to eliminate the tax on menstrual products (it's now permanently eliminated in California.) Cristina is responsible for the first legislation on planet Earth outlawing "stealthing" or the act of removing a condom during intercourse without the partner's consent. She corrected a historical injustice by passing the "Spousal Rape" Act. The law modified the act of a spouse raping their married partner by making that act a felony like any other rape. In response to the national reckoning on criminal justice, after the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing civil rights protests, Cristina joined restorative justice reformers in reimagining criminal justice. In her first year as chair of Budget Sub 5 on Public Safety, Cristina secured over \$170 million for victim services, which included direct funds for the victims of human trafficking.

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## Restoring public trust in government.

Assemblywoman Garcia has also held true to her activist roots and distinguished herself as a good government reformer in the state capital. Among her accomplishment are the landmark Political Conduct, Ethics and Public Trust Acts of 2014. These laws demand increased accountability and promote transparency and trust in state and local government. Cristina has also authored anti-corruption and good-government laws that eliminate influence peddling by lobbyists, increase the penalties for politicians who take bribes, and expand transparency in what state or local government agency must publicly disclose concerning government salaries, benefits & per diems.

## Service from Sacramento to Bell Gardens.

An active member of the state legislature, Cristina serves on the following committees: Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance; Chair of the Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety, Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Budget Process, Oversight, and Program Evaluation; Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials; Natural Resources; Utilities and Energy, Water, Parks, and Wildlife. In addition, she co-chairs the Select Committee on Corporate Board and California Workforce Diversity, and is a member of the Select Committee on Reintegration and Rehabilitation for Justice-Involved Californians and the Select Committee on Technology and the Future of California's Agricultural Workforce.

Cristina was born and raised in the urban bedroom community of Bell Gardens, ten miles southeast of Los Angeles. After graduating from Bell Gardens High School, Cristina went on to earn her bachelor's degree in math from the prestigious Pomona College, her master's degree in math education from Claremont University, and a secondary-math teaching credential from Claremont University. After college, Cristina spent time traveling the globe before returning home to fulfill her commitment to becoming a mathematics teacher for 13 years at Huntington Park High School and at Los Angeles Community College. When her mother had a heart attack, she returned home to care for her. Once home, she became a community activist and then ran for public office. She lives less than a mile from her childhood home and spends her scarce free time riding her bike, playing sudoku, and texting cute pictures of her dogs: Tissue, Kota, and Pinto.

## The new 42nd congressional district.

The new 42nd Congressional District stretches from the communities of southeast Los Angeles (SELA) in the north through portions of Long Beach in the south. Abutting the 710 Freeway, the district is considered one of our state's most pollution-affected frontline regions according California's Air Resources Board's Cal Enviro Screener. That means, according to AB 617 indicators, the area contains levels of air pollution and toxic contamination that endanger public health. In spite of fierce opposition from the polluters, AB 617 was signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in September 2018. The landmark AB 617 was authored by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, inspired by her roots as a lifelong SELA community member.

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