

Candidate Profile

10 THINGS WE SEE IN CURRENT WOMEN LEGISLATORS

1. Teachers, community college professors, social workers and legislative staff are common occupations. Lawyers are less so, but well represented.
2. The majority of women legislators have served on a School Board, City Council, been a Mayor or County Supervisor prior to running for the Assembly, but not all. All of the current Democratic women in the State Senate previously served in the Assembly.
3. Activism in many forms is indicative of women who win: founding a non-profit, leading a community effort for change or being a voice for a point of view. Many women members were associated with an issue – education, mental health, workers rights, civil rights, clean government, open government and protecting children are representative. Some were involved in faith-based or social justice efforts.
4. Being media savvy is a plus – as a journalist, talk show host or as a spokeswoman for a community effort.
5. Executive and entrepreneurial experience is persuasive. Many members started small businesses or non-profits, led community based service clubs or volunteer efforts.
6. Roots matter. Most members have lived, worked and raised families or been part of the fabric of their districts for many years. Farmers, coaches, mentors, counselors and union activists are all descriptions women members give that tie them to their communities.
7. Look for the “karma” effect. Many members helped other elected officials advance, from being active on a Presidential campaign to supporting other women candidates before making the move themselves.
8. All sizes and shapes of family work for legislators. Single, married, partnered, parent, non-parent, grandparent and great-grandparent. All have served.
9. Public presentation and leadership. Speaking skill, personal appearance, media management and leadership skills like organization, delegation and timeliness are embedded in the professional and public experiences of women who win.
10. Like people! Women members tend to be positive, purposeful, optimistic, engaging and motivating. They enjoy interaction with the public and are risk-takers for the right cause.

5 THINGS WE'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF

11. Social entrepreneur. Who is making positive change in the community, especially with regard to health, education and fighting poverty? We need her.
12. A bandleader. Who has the posse to make it happen? Women candidates need to start with a base of support – from an inner circle of experienced supporters to an outer circle of admirers who will volunteer and spread the word.
13. A moneymaker. Women who rise to the top of big companies or women who start successful small businesses have the drive, purposefulness and resilience that successful candidates must have. They understand the bottom line, literally and figuratively.
14. Thought leaders. Women who head non-profits, think tanks, foundations and community colleges manage budgets, balance competing interests and are generally strong policy advocates.
15. Those who understand what it means to serve. It is called public service for a reason. Corporate and non-profit board members, PTA Presidents, Chairs of the annual charity event, leaders of the Library bond campaign. Look for them.

Where are the open seats in 2016 (as of April, 2014)

Assembly

District	Geography	Current Official
AD 6	Folsom, Lincoln, El Dorado Hills	Beth Gaines
AD 12	Modesto, Turlock, Manteca	Kristin Olsen
AD 14	Concord, Pleasant Hill, 77% Pittsburg	Susan Bonilla
AD 24	Menlo Park, Atherton, Palo Alto, Los Altos	Richard Gordon
AD 27	47% San Jose (DT, East, South)	Nora Campos
AD 30	Hollister, Gilroy, Salinas	Luis Alejo
AD 31	41% Fresno, San Joaquin	Henry Perea
AD 33	Big Bear Lake; Victorville; Hesperia	Tim Donnelly
AD 34	1/5 Bakersfield; Oildale	Shannon Grove
AD 35	Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach	Katcho Achadjian
AD 37	Oxnard, Santa Barbara, Ventura	Das Williams
AD 43	Burbank; Glendale	Mike Gatto
AD 48	Glendora; Baldwin Park	Roger Hernandez
AD 68	Orange; Lake Forest	Donald Wagner
AD 71	El Cajon, La Presa, Santee	Brian Jones
AD 74	Irvine; Newport Beach	Allan Mansoor
AD 78	SD (Balboa Park, La Jolla, Ocean Beach)	Toni Atkins

State Senate

District	Geography	Current Official
SD 3	Pleasant Hill, Napa, Sonoma, Petaluma, Davis	Lois Wolk
SD 7	Dublin, Antioch, Moraga, Orinda, Pittsburg	Mark DeSaulnier*
SD 9	Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland, 91.1% San Leandro	Loni Hancock
SD 11	San Francisco, Daly City, Colma	Mark Leno
SD 16	Bakersfield, Visalia, Tulare	Jean Fuller
SD 25	Pasadena, Claremont, Burbank	Carol Liu
SD 27	Malibu, Thousand Oaks, 12.5% LA	Fran Pavley
SD 29	58% Anaheim, Fullerton, Chino Hills	Bob Huff
SD 35	Inglewood, Compton, Hawthorne	Rod Wright
SD 37	Laguna Beach, Orange, Irvine, Newport	Mimi Walters

*Incumbent projected to leave before term limit.