



## INSPIRING WOMEN

# "HANDS ON" + "ALL HANDS" MEET COVID CHALLENGE

We know that women leaders govern effectively in times of crisis.

Women often initiate a compassionate, personal response to the needs of the most vulnerable on the ground, while simultaneously working the levers of government for new resources and larger systemic change.

Today we end our special coverage of California's women legislators' response to the COVID crisis with words from our Senate President, whose leadership exemplifies this talent for comprehensive problem solving.



*Pro Tem Atkins puts on a master class in crisis management (above)*

**SD-39 SAN DIEGO**

## **MADAME PRESIDENT PRO TEM: TONI ATKINS**

“A fundamental aspect of doing the people’s work is bringing state resources to the community. It’s a responsibility that I take very seriously and one that has been put into sharp focus in light of COVID-19.

This responsibility means responding to every question about unemployment benefits, food assistance, and senior services. It means providing updates at virtual community meetings, board meetings, and townhalls. And, given the need for everyone to stay home, it has meant shifting communications online, connecting with people through social media, email, my website, and on video calls.

Working in the district has given me the opportunity to provide on the ground assistance at a time when it’s needed most. I’ve worked alongside local officials to create a safe shelter for people without homes at the San Diego Convention Center. I delivered food to essential workers at Sharp Memorial Hospital and the San Diego branch of the California Employment Development Department, expressing my deepest gratitude for their endless dedication. And I, along with members of my staff, responded to the severe blood shortage by donating blood at local blood banks in need.

Despite the unprecedented change brought by COVID-19, the work of the California Legislature has continued, because it must continue. Before returning to our districts to help flatten the curve, the Senate provided up to \$1 billion for lifesaving care and COVID-19 related resources. While working from San Diego, I established two Senate committees charged with providing critical legislative oversight of the state’s response to the epidemic, and have been in constant collaboration with my fellow Senators, Speaker Rendon, and Governor Newsom.

Managing COVID-19 has been one of the biggest challenges to face our state in modern times, but I have been consistently impressed by the way California’s leaders and people have risen to the moment together, while physically apart.”

“During this moment of uncertainty, fear, and confusion, it is important for California’s leaders to serve with clarity and calm. I consider it a great responsibility to provide constituents with the solutions and support they need to make it through this moment.”

- Senate President Pro Tem Atkins



## EVENT

# INSPIRATION? COMING RIGHT UP. REGISTER TODAY!

Now more than ever, we need forward-thinking leaders like Senate President Pro Tem Atkins at the state level, to navigate boldly through this time of unprecedented difficulty.

Please support CTGCA’s work to recruit California’s next generation of progressive women legislators by joining us for a **one-time-only event May 28th at 7pm**, with some very special guests!



CLOSE THE GAP  
CALIFORNIA

PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL SPRING EVENT VIRTUALLY

# Leadership Starts at Home

*a celebration of women's power & resilience*

Thursday, May 28th at 7:00pm (PST)

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



**U.S. SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI)**  
**CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN UNDERWOOD (D-IL)**  
**CA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELENI KOUNALAKIS**



HOSTED BY:

Elaine & Dudley Andersen, Betsy Cotton, Lisa Nash, Susie Richardson,  
Gretchen Sisson, Kavita Tankha, Allison Abner & Gene Sperling

**Let's have some fun!** No one wants another video conference call. We have designed a dynamic, entertaining program built around outstanding guests, engaging content, and actionable substance.

Invite your friends and join us virtually **Thursday, May 28 at 7:00pm** as we celebrate women's leadership and unite to overcome the obstacles ahead.

*Join CTGCA on May 28th!*

**Our mailing address is:**

Close the Gap California  
555 Bryant St. #241  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-1704



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