

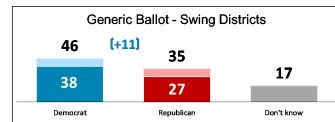
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Honorable Toni Atkins Takes Leadership of CA Senate



[CTGCA Partners in LA Times](#)



[Lake Research Partners: Long Congressional Coattails...](#)

Close the gap CA sends hearty Congratulations to Senator Toni Atkins (San Diego), who this week assumes the key leadership role of California Senate President Pro Tempore. As the highest-ranking member of the CA Senate, Atkins will chair the powerful Senate Rules Committee, lead the Senate Democratic Caucus, and represent the Caucus in budget negotiations with the Governor, as part of the "[Big Five](#)." The CA Senate elects a new "Pro Tem" every two years—Atkins was sworn in yesterday.

Donate

Invest in close the gap CA's work to recruit future Madame Presidents Pro Tem by giving \$30 today.

We know we're in good hands.

Atkins is not only [the first woman and first openly LGBTQ Senate President Pro Tem in California history](#).

- Atkins is also **only the third person in history** to lead both the CA Assembly as Speaker, and the CA Senate as Pro Tem.
- Atkins has served (briefly!) as both Acting Mayor of San Diego, and Acting Governor of California.
- As Pro Tem, Atkins will prioritize addressing instances of sexual harassment at the Capitol.
- Highlight: in 2013, Atkins authored historic AB 154 (Early Access to Abortion). Based on a 5-year pilot project with UCSF, Kaiser Permanente and Planned Parenthood that demonstrated resoundingly positive outcomes, AB 154 allowed advanced practice clinicians (more commonly women than physicians) to offer early abortion services, within the scope of their licenses.

This landmark bill contributed to California's status as the gold standard for reproductive health care, and was the only expansion of reproductive health care access in a year when other states passed a wave of restrictions.



[Hear More From Pro Tem Atkins](#)

Ann Balin won the drawing for 2 tickets to Literature, Leadership and Lunch. There are a few seats left.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

State Controller Betty Yee will join us!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

LITERATURE, LEADERSHIP & LUNCH

WITH

State Controller Betty Yee and



Maggie Shen King author of
An Excess Male, Under the one child policy, everyone plotted to have one son. Now 30 million of them can't find wives.



Allyson Hobbs author of
A Chosen Exile, A History of Racial Passing in American Life.

Literature, Leadership and Lunch celebrating women writers, leaders and thinkers.

Friday, March 23, 2018

Silicon Valley

close the gap CA is a statewide campaign to find talented, progressive women to run for open seats in the California legislature in 2018 and 2020. With focus and a targeted strategy, we can 'close the gap' and not just the gender gap. When we elect progressive women, we take steps to close the school funding gap, the access gap to affordable health and reproductive care, and the growing gap between the wealthy and those in poverty.



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