

Guide to New Legislators



2017 Edition



Contents

Locating Your Senate and Assembly Districts

1. Go to <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/>
2. Look for the Blue Box on the right side of the screen titled “Find My District”
3. Click on Search by Address. (This web page will be updated on December 3, 2012 to reflect new Districts. If you have this tool saved in your web browser it will have a new URL after this date.)
4. Enter your Street, City and Zip into the fields and click Find.

New Senator

Biographies.....	3
District 3, Senator Bill Dodd.....	3
District 9, Senator Nancy Skinner.....	3
District 11, Senator Scott Wiener.....	4
District 21 - Senator Scott Wilk.....	4
District 25, Senator Anthony Portantino.....	5
District 27, Senator Henry Stern.....	5
District 29, Senator Josh Newman.....	5
District 35, Senator Steven Bradford.....	6
District 39, Senator Toni Atkins.....	6
New Assembly member Biographies.....	7
District 4, Assembly member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.....	7
District 6, Assembly member Kevin Kiley.....	7
District 12, Assembly member Heath Flora.....	8
District 14, Assembly member Tim Grayson.....	8
District 24, Assembly member Marc Berman.....	9

District 27, Assembly member Ash Kalra.....9

District 30, Assembly member Anna Caballero.....9

District 34 Assembly member Vince Fong.....10

District 35, Assembly member Jordan Cunningham.....10

District 37, Assembly member S. Monique Limón.....11

District 38, Assembly member Dante Acosta.....11

District 39 - Senator Raul Bocanegra.....11

District 43, Assembly member Laura Friedman.....12

District 47, Assembly member Eloise Gomez Reyes.....12

District 48, Assembly member Blanca Rubio.....13

District 55, Assembly member Philip Chen.....13

District 60, Assembly member Sabrina Cervantes.....14

District 68, Assembly member Steven Choi.....14

District 71, Assembly member Randy Voepel.....14

District 78, Assembly member Todd Gloria.....15

Conducting Meet and Greet Meetings.....**16**

Alliance Fact Sheet.....18

New Senator Biographies

** All photos and bio's in this document are from the official's websites and other materials.

District 3 – Senator Bill Dodd



During his public service Bill has built a reputation for delivering solutions on issues affecting real people. He has led the way on legislation to deal with gender pay equity, worked to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain area as a national monument, co-wrote the law creating an Earned Income Tax Credit in California, and helped secure \$400 million dollars for career technical education throughout the state.

Bill and his wife Mary have five grown children and four grandchildren. His legislative priorities include education, ethics, agriculture, water, seniors and environmental protections.

District 9 – Senator Nancy Skinner



A social justice advocate, energy and climate change trailblazer, and accomplished legislator, Nancy Skinner recently completed three terms in the State Assembly representing the East Bay cities along the I-80 corridor from Hercules to Oakland. Skinner currently teaches public policy at UC Berkeley, focused on policy interventions to address poverty and income inequality. She also serves as a Senior Policy fellow at UC Davis's Energy and Transportation Institutes.

In the Assembly, Skinner served as Chair of three key committees: Budget, Rules and Natural Resources. As Budget Chair she oversaw the largest funding boost to childcare and preschool in over a decade; increased state support to our State University and UC systems, cut the number of juveniles incarcerated in state facilities by half, and established a new dedicated fund to reduce prison recidivism. Nancy lives in Berkeley with her husband and they have one adult daughter. Her legislative priorities include housing and homelessness, universal early education, criminal justice reform, income inequality and environmental protection.

District 11 – Senator Scott Wiener



Scott Wiener is a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and serves on the Board’s Land Use and Economic Development Committee and Budget and Finance Committee. Before being elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2010, Wiener served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, where he represented San Francisco in court (ranging from trial courts to the United States Supreme Court) and supervised a team of trial attorneys.

Wiener received a bachelor’s degree from Duke University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. He spent a year in Chile on a Fulbright Scholarship doing historical research. Wiener has lived in the Castro neighborhood for nearly 20 years. His legislative priorities include housing, transportation, the environment, health and education.

District 21 – Senator Scott Wilk



Currently, Scott serves as the State Assemblyman for California’s 38th State Assembly District. Scott’s career spans both the private and public sector. In addition to his tenure in the California State Assembly, Scott served six years on the College the Canyons Board of Trustees. He also spent six years as Chief of Staff to California Assembly Members Tom McClintock and Paula Boland. Additionally, in 1989 Scott was appointed by Palmdale Mayor Pete Knight to be a trustee on the Palmdale Library Board.

Scott and his wife Vanessa reside in Santa Clarita, and have two adult children Alison and Scott Jr. His legislative priorities include strengthening the economy, bringing jobs to the High Desert, water, education, law enforcement and human trafficking and child abuse prevention.

District 25 - Senator Anthony Portantino



Former Mayor and Assembly member Anthony Portantino is a well-respected community leader in the San Gabriel Valley. His success at banning the “open carry” of handguns on Main Street California, in the face of angry and significant opposition from the powerful gun lobby, and his reform efforts in Sacramento, exemplify leadership and Anthony’s willingness to take on the tough issues, and even his own party, to promote a better and safer California.

Anthony has a wife and two daughters. His legislative priorities include education, economic growth, mental health, civil rights, fiscal accountability and foster care.

District 27 - Henry Stern



Henry Stern is the senior policy advisor to California State Senator Fran Pavley. While serving in the Senate, Henry has helped Senator Pavley pass common sense policies to improve the quality of life and economic sustainability of the 27th District and California. Together, they have advanced bipartisan measures to balance the budget, respond to the drought, revitalize our education system, ensure safer communities, and update California’s energy policy for the 21st century. His legislative priorities include environmental protections, the economy,

education and safe communities.

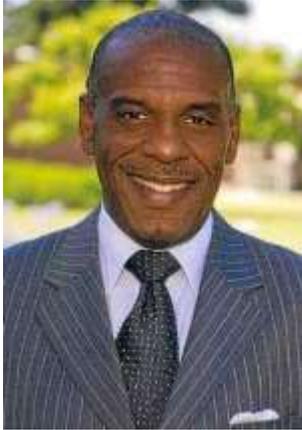
District 29 - Senator Josh Newman



I’m the founder and Executive Director of ArmedForce2Workforce, a non-profit organization founded in November 2012 (and filed with the California Secretary of State in March of 2013) to assist young veterans returning to the Orange County/Greater Los Angeles area in the pursuit of rewarding, career-oriented employment upon completion of their military service and return or relocation to Southern California.

My wife Darcy is a native of Orange County and works as an investment analyst at a locally based Fortune 500 insurance company. We live in Fullerton with our daughter and our three weird but likeable rescue Chihuahuas. My legislative priorities include school finance, jobs creation and public safety.

District 35 – Senator Steven Bradford



I made history when I became the first African American elected to the Gardena City Council. Over the 12 years that I served on the City Council, I presided over robust job and economic growth, along with a balanced budget for the city. I was elected to the 51st Assembly District in a Special Election, reelected in 2010, and reelected again, but this time to the newly created 62nd District in 2012. In the State Legislature, I also dedicated my time to environmental justice as it relates to commerce. As Chair of the Committee on Utilities & Commerce, I authored legislation to promote renewable, clean energy and to protect and enhance local neighborhood security. I also spearheaded numerous pieces of legislation ranging from public safety and civil rights with to protecting the environment. Senator Bradford’s legislative priorities include homelessness, neighborhood security, healthcare, immigrant rights and education.

District 39 – Senator Toni Atkins



Dedicated to public service, Toni Atkins was elected San Diego’s first ever Speaker of the State Assembly. She first began serving our communities in the mid-1980s as director of clinic services at Womancare Health Center and later as a San Diego City Council member from 2000 to 2008, and acting Mayor in 2005 before being elected to the State Assembly in 2010. A pioneer in the fight for affordable and homeless housing, veterans, the environment, women’s health, and LGBT rights, Assemblywoman Toni Atkins has balanced budgets while investing in California’s future – and fought hard for working families. Toni lives in the South Park/Golden Hill community of San Diego with her spouse Jennifer LeSar and their dogs, Haley and Joey. Her legislative priorities include education, equality, healthy communities, veterans and housing.

New Assemblymember Biographies

District 4 - Cecilia Aguiar-Curry



After graduating from local schools, Cecilia earned degrees in business administration and accounting from San Jose State University. Her education and experience with agriculture inspired her to launch a consulting firm specializing in water, public policy and community outreach. She is Chair of the Yolo Housing Commission, Vice-Chair of the Yolo County Water Association, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Council of Governments. As Mayor, Cecilia's been working to secure computers for every 6th-grader in the city, bridge the digital divide by bringing broadband to rural communities, build a state of the art senior housing development, and establish an ag innovation hub in Yolo County. Cecilia is a mother of two grown daughters, and has one stepson with her long-time partner.

Her legislative priorities include job creation, protecting agriculture and water and education.

District 6 - Kevin Kiley



After graduating college, Kevin followed in his mother's footsteps to become a teacher. He taught 10th-grade English at a high school in South Central Los Angeles, where he chaired the English department and led his students to significant academic gains. Wanting to give his students the same opportunity he had at Granite Bay High School, Kevin also started an award-winning speech and debate team. Kevin went on to law school. He passed the California bar and joined Irell & Manella, where he represented individuals and businesses in high stakes litigation. Later, as a Deputy Attorney General, Kevin represented the People of California in cases involving convicted felons. He will make the safety of our communities a

top priority. Kevin attends Bridgeway Christian Church in Rocklin, and enjoys spending time with his wonderful nephews Joey and Matthew, ages 2 and 4. His legislative priorities include tax reform, government accountability, water and economy.

District 12 - Heath Flora



Heath Flora is a farmer, firefighter and business owner with the kind of real world experience desperately needed in the State Assembly. He was raised on a farm and had been a small business owner and volunteer firefighter for 15 years. A volunteer firefighter for over fifteen years, Heath worked his way up the ranks — serving as firefighter, engineer, captain and now as battalion chief. As a regional director for Sons of the Flag, Heath is working to bring together community leaders, pioneering physicians, experienced military service members, and dedicated first responders to advance care and treatment of long-term burn victims. Through his church, Heath did extensive volunteer work in Cambodia where he helped build churches and English schools. Heath is married to Melodie Flora and together they have two little girls, Lacy and Paris. His legislative priorities include water, economy, education, veterans and taxes.

District 14 - Tim Grayson



Tim Grayson has lived in the East Bay for 16 years, working in the city of Concord as a police chaplain working with survivors of violent crimes, first responders and their families, victims of domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking. He has served as a Concord Councilmember and Mayor, creating over 1,700 new living wage jobs. Some of the projects Tim is especially proud of is co-founding the Central Family Justice Center, instituting the Community Court for first-time juvenile offenders, identifying and approving land for a future four-year public college or university and working with police to develop gang violence prevention strategies. Tim lives with his wife and they have two children. His legislative priorities include veterans, infrastructure, women's and LGBT rights, public safety and education.

District 24 - Mark Berman



Marc Berman is a council member for the City of Palo Alto. A lawyer by training, Marc is the former Development Director at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, a non-profit focused on STEM education and closing the achievement gap in public schools in Silicon Valley. Marc has been a leader on the City Council on issues such as infrastructure improvements and financial transparency. Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, Marc was an attorney with Latham & Watkins LLP and Merino Yebri, LLP. Marc has successfully represented pro bono clients seeking protection under the Violence Against Women Act, asylum in the United States due to political persecution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and has served as pro bono counsel to Spark, a national youth development non-profit. His legislative priorities include affordable housing, education, environment, transportation and water.



District 27 - Ash Kalra

Ash Kalra has called San Jose home for over 37 years. Ash made history by becoming the first Indian-American to be elected to the San Jose City Council, where he currently represents District 2. In his time as a Councilmember, he has fought against cuts to public safety including standing up in favor of restoring the SJPD burglary unit and Violent Crimes Enforcement Team, worked to provide incentives for companies to locate and grow in San Jose and has been a champion for more transit options including the BART to Silicon Valley extension. Prior to serving on the City Council, Ash was an attorney for the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office for 11 years. Most of his time was spent in drug treatment court where clients were given the opportunity to complete a rehabilitation program and turn their lives around. His legislative priorities include environment, education, affordable housing and transportation.

District 30 - Anna Caballero



Anna Caballero has a thirty-year legacy of public service in our community. She graduated from law school and moved to Salinas to provide legal services to farmworkers. She also started a non-profit called Partners in Peace to develop strategies to reduce youth and gang violence. At the request of her housing association she ran for Salinas City Council and served for 7 years; where she focused on affordable housing, strengthening the business and commercial opportunities for growth, the redevelopment of downtown, and providing more parks and recreational space for kids and families. She became the first female Mayor of Salinas in 1998 and raised over \$80,00 in private funds to fund the city libraries, and put a ballot measure on the ballot to raise money for essential services during a state budget crisis.

Anna was elected to the State Assembly in 2006 and continued to focus on meeting the needs of local residents. Most recently, Anna joined the administration of Governor Edmund G. Brown as a cabinet Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. Anna has been a tireless advocate for children, families, farmers, veterans, workers, the disabled, seniors and teachers.

District 34 – Vince Fong



Vince started his career with Congressman Bill Thomas, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, working on international trade policy to open up markets for our nation’s farmers and small businesses. He then returned home to serve the residents of Kern County. For nearly a decade, he has served as the district director to House Majority Leader and Congressman Kevin McCarthy, managing public policy issues for the region, working to create jobs, making commonsense reforms, and fighting to improve the quality of life for our neighbors and families. Vince’s priorities include public safety, taxes and education.

District 35 – Jordan Cunningham



Born and raised on the Central Coast, Jordan learned the middle-class values of hard work, integrity, and dedication to community. After losing his brother in a tragic car accident, he watched his parents work tirelessly to strengthen teen driver safety laws. This experience forged his lifelong interest in public policy and the lawmaking process. Jordan obtained his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley and worked in Washington D.C. as an attorney in private practice, a federal law clerk, and an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Desiring to serve the public and return home to raise his children, Jordan became a Deputy District Attorney in the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney’s Office. During his time as a Deputy DA, Jordan prosecuted a wide variety of crimes – including fraud, assault, domestic violence, and environmental crimes – compiling a stellar trial record. He now

represents individuals, families, and local businesses as the owner and founder of Cunningham Law Group. Jordan lives in Templeton with his wife Shauna and their four children.

District 37 – S. Monique Limón



Limón, who is serving her second-term as Santa Barbara Unified School Board Member, is a lifelong resident of the 37th Assembly District. Monique has mentored and assisted hundreds of local students transition to and succeed in college and graduate school in her current capacity, and in previous positions at Santa Barbara City College and UCSB. Monique holds a Masters degree in Education from Columbia University and a Bachelors of Arts degree from UC Berkeley. Monique and her husband, Michael Medel (Director of Admissions and Records at Santa Barbara City College and Vice President of the 19th Agricultural District Association) reside in Goleta, and both were raised in the Santa Barbara area. Her legislative priorities include education, environment and jobs creation.

District 38 – Dante Acosta



After 20 years advising individuals and businesses and spending countless hours volunteering in his community with Circle of Hope, William S. Hart Museum, Santa Clarita Valley Rotary club, Old Town Newhall Association, and coaching Little League and drama, Dante ran for the Santa Clarita City Council. He serves on the Economic Development Committee, Film and Tourism Committee and as Santa Clarita's representative to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Dante and his wife, Carolyn, moved to Santa Clarita 30 years ago. They chose Santa Clarita as a great place to live and raise a family and have been blessed with three children: Rudy, Alexandra, and Doran. After his eldest son, Army Specialist Rudy Acosta, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2011, Dante focused his energy on his family and giving back to his community. Dante is the founder of the Rudy A. Acosta Memorial Foundation and a member of the fundraising committee for the Portraits of the Fallen Memorial, a project that honors California's fallen heroes from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. His legislative priorities include taxes, regulations, crime and immigration.

District 39 – Raul Bocanegra



]While serving as a top aide to former Los Angeles City Council President Alex Padilla, Raul helped implement numerous successful projects resulting in new job creation and much needed economic investment in the Valley. Raul spearheaded the creation of the San Fernando Valley Financial Development Corporation and the Pacoima Development Federal Credit Union. Together, these institutions have helped generate more than \$100 million in investment in the San Fernando Valley, creating or protecting thousands of jobs and providing local small businesses the resources to grow. In the State Legislature, Raul earned a reputation as consensus builder and problem solver who helped pass important legislation including raising the state minimum wage, improving access to Medi-Cal services for women, modernizing the public school curriculum to better prepare students for jobs in growing industries like technology and healthcare, and expanding access to affordable health care services for millions of working families. His legislative priorities include women’s equality, fighting human trafficking and child abuse, education and healthcare.

District 43 – Laura Friedman



During six years on Glendale’s City Council, I have focused on supporting small business and job creation, non-profits and the arts, and environmental sustainability. While on City Council, I have protected open space while promoting smart growth. I passed green building standards surpassing those set by the State of California. Under my leadership, Glendale passed a plastic bag ban before the City of Los Angeles and the State.

At the same time, I have been uncompromising in my support of small business and job creation. I am proud that in 2014 Glendale was awarded the “most business-friendly city” by the Los Angeles Economic Development Council. I have changed ordinances to make it easier to do business and hire employees, and was honored as “Woman of the Year” by the Glendale Chamber of Commerce. I am a strong supporter of affordable housing, affordable and high-quality child-care, and making sure that every child has access to the best public education possible.

District 47 - Eloise Gomez Reyes



Because Eloise believes that local families should have convenient access to quality legal services, she was the first Latina in the Inland Empire to open her own law firm, starting in San Bernardino and then in Colton, where she grew up. She has long worked with Legal Aid to provide free legal services to those who can't afford proper representation. In 2013, she volunteered to represent Colton residents in a successful effort to prevent a toxic waste dump from being located in their neighborhood.

The lack of local affordable health care spurred Eloise to help a group of healthcare professionals start the Inland Empire Community Health Center. And when U.C. Riverside started planning a medical school, they invited Eloise to join the Dean's Medical School Mission Committee. Eloise's passion for teaching young people found a new venue recently when she became an adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona. She teaches students how democracy can work for everyone, not just the rich and powerful.

District 48 - Blanca Rubio



Blanca E. Rubio is a classroom teacher, local school board member, and mother, who has dedicated her life to improving our schools, strengthening our communities, and giving children and working families the tools to succeed. A classroom teacher and educator for 15 years, Blanca has taught kindergarten, first grade and fourth grade. In 2003, Blanca was elected to the Baldwin Park Unified School District Board of Education, serving as President and Vice President of the board twice. As a member of the Baldwin Park School Board, Blanca helped lead successful efforts to improve academic standards in the classroom and put more children on the path to college or a good career.

During her tenure, student test scores have consistently improved and the graduation rate reached an all-time high with 96% of all seniors graduating.

District 55 - Philip Chen



Phillip is a successful small business owner and educator. He owns and operates a property management company overseeing commercial and residential properties. He is also a dedicated public servant who has helped protect our community from crime, taught at three universities and helped save tax dollars.

Phillip is a former Reserve Sheriff's Deputy who volunteered his time as a Reserve Sheriff Deputy to ensure his community stayed safe. In 2009, he was recognized as the Walnut/Diamond Bar Sheriff's Station as the "Reserve Deputy of the Year." Appointed to the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning by Pete Wilson, Phillip worked on legislation to protect foster children,

prevent gang violence, and fight drug abuse. While serving on the staff of conservative County Supervisor, Mike Antonovich, helped save tax dollars and improve delivery of services by fostering public-private partnerships. Currently, he teaches urban politics at California State University Los Angeles. He also served as an Adjunct Faculty Professor at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. His legislative priorities include education, jobs creation, water, and maintaining the right to bear arms.

District 60 – Sabrina Cervantes



A committed public servant, Sabrina Cervantes has demonstrated a history of civic engagement to enhance the communities and lives of all Riverside residents. As a lifelong Riverside County resident herself, she has been a strong advocate for families in the Inland Empire. As a former District Director for Assembly member Jose Medina (D-Riverside) she worked alongside community organizations to enhance the local economy, broaden access to higher education, and improve the access to governmental services for the residents of Riverside. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the University of California, Riverside Chicano Latino Alumni Association (CLA) and the non-profit organization, TruEvolution. Cervantes earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a minor in public policy from the University of California, Riverside, and completed an executive education program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

District 68 – Steven Choi



Steven Choi was elected Mayor of Irvine in 2012 and re-elected in 2014. He was elected to the City Council for the first time in 2004 and re-elected to a second term in 2008. Previously, he was elected as a Trustee of the Irvine Unified School District in 1998 and re-elected in 2002.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea, he immigrated to the United States as a Peace Corps language instructor for the State Department in August, 1968. He then continued his post-graduate studies, earning his master's degree in Library Science from

Louisiana State University, and his Ph.D. in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. Since then, he resumed his teaching career, primarily in higher education at several universities and colleges including USC, UCI, California State University, Los Angeles, Henderson State University in Arkansas, Saddleback College, and most recently, Coastline Community College. He and his wife Janie have lived in Irvine since 1993, where they raised their children Daniel, now an anesthesiologist and Michelle, an attorney. Steven's legislative priorities include lowering taxes and reducing regulations.

District 71 – Randy Voepel



Randy Voepel has spent the last 15 years serving as the mayor of Santee. He has worked to implement a conservative, limited government vision and is proud that Santee is a model for conservative principles at the local level. As a result of his policies, Santee now boasts the best business environment, highest citizen-to-employee ratio, and the smallest pension liability in the region. Randy's legislative priorities include public safety, 2nd amendment, pro-life policies, reducing taxes and fiscal conservatism.

District 78 – Todd Gloria



Addressing the challenges of homelessness and affordable housing inspired him to pursue public office in 2008, when he was elected to serve as the councilmember for San Diego's Third District, consisting of the city's unique older urban neighborhoods. Through his work at the City of San Diego and as a board member of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Councilmember Gloria has helped expand trolley service, implement Bus Rapid Transit service throughout the region, and add valuable bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. As Chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee since 2011, Councilmember Gloria oversaw the development and approval of budgets that stabilized the city's finances after years of cuts, and restored critical services like library hours.

He was selected by the City Council as its President in 2013 and 2014 and served as Interim Mayor of the City of San Diego from August 30, 2013 until March 2, 2014. Prior to his election in 2008, Councilmember Gloria served as District Director to U.S. Congresswoman Susan A. Davis and worked for the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency. Councilmember Gloria is a graduate of the University of San Diego and an enrolled member of the Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. A native of San Diego, Councilmember Gloria is also a third generation resident of District Three and lives in Mission Hills.

Conducting Meet and Greet Meetings

Conducting meet and greet visits with your newly elected officials provides you an important opportunity to meet with your new official early in their tenure. It is critical to develop relationships with the officials who represent you. January and February are the best months to conduct these meetings. Your legislators may be able to help you navigate local issues and will be voting on bills on budget items that impact your work. Since you are the expert, it is important that you introduce yourself and let your officials know how you may assist them on key issues. This is also an opportunity to let them know of any policy priorities you have that they will face in their new position.

Meetings may be conducted in Sacramento or in district offices. New legislators were sworn into office on December 5, 2016. Many are still hiring staff and setting up offices. Call the Capitol or District office and ask for the person handling scheduling to book your appointment. Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent.

Remember, it is also important to get to know the staff! Especially in the District, staff may remain constant while legislators term out. These staff can be important allies for you and your organization.

Who should attend?

- The Executive Director
- A key staff member who may be able to contribute to the meeting
- A member of your Board of Directors. Ideally, this would be someone who is a donor, elected official (e.x. member of a school board) or member of your local Chamber of Commerce.
- For meetings in the Sacramento region you may request an Alliance staff member to attend

What should you bring?

- An organization Fact Sheet
- List of your Board of Directors
- A list of your locations that fall within the District boundaries
- Outcomes and data
- Your economic contribution to the community, how many staff you employ, cost saving data, etc.
- The California Alliance Fact Sheet located on page 48. Let them know that you are a member!

Organizing your meeting

- Remember that meetings generally last only 15 minutes. Prepare a bit in advance to organize your thoughts and what each member of the meeting will contribute.
- Introduce yourself and your agency
- State the purpose of the meeting (education)
- Provide a general overview of your expertise
- Welcome any questions
- Offer yourself as a resource
- Send a follow-up thank you letter when you get home

Simple Tips and Reminders

- Know their name pronunciation and gender.
- Know which legislator! There are several legislator with the same last names, please be sure to verify which one you are calling or visiting (Calderon, Quirk, Gaines and Hernandez are all last names held by two legislators during this session).
- Read their biography and identify things you have in common or work you do that relate to their experience. Remember that parents and grandparents also may identify with children's issues in a personal way.
- Be prompt. This is important to your credibility.
- Congratulate them on their new position. Be positive and open.
- Considering conducting the meeting with other providers in the District.
- Be a good listener.
- Never make up an answer. If they ask a question and you do not know the answer, let them know you will follow up and identify which staff member you should contact with the information.
- Don't forget your business cards.
- Tell them how you may help them. You are experts!
- Do not overstay your welcome. Their schedules are packed tight and the next meeting may already be waiting in the lobby.



About Us

Who We Are

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services is a **statewide association** of accredited, private, nonprofit child and family serving agencies committed to providing the highest quality human services in the most effective and caring manner possible.

Alliance member agencies work with and through the public child welfare, children's mental health, juvenile justice, and education systems.

Formed January 1, 2000, through the merger of the California Association of Services for Children and the California Association of Children's Homes, the Alliance and its parent associations have a combined history of more than 60 years of advocacy on behalf of Californian's most vulnerable children and families, and the organizations that serve them.

What We Do

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services provides budgetary, legislative and regulatory **advocacy** influencing a wide range of key policy issues on behalf of our member agencies and the children and families they serve. Committed to improving outcomes for children in the public human services systems, the Alliance also provides members with a wide range of practice improvement tools and opportunities.

About Our Members

The California Alliance is composed of a **diverse** group of member organizations located throughout California providing a wide range of services and support to tens of thousands of children and their families each year.

All members share a **commitment to excellence** and continuously strive to improve the quality of care and services they provide to high-risk children and families. As an indication of that commitment, all member agencies must meet rigorous **accreditation** standards through a national accrediting organization.

Member agencies participate in the Alliance's **practice improvement** initiatives including provision of evidence-based practices, utilization of common elements with demonstrated efficacy, development of practice-based evidence, and national and state benchmarking.

- Adoptions
- Foster family-based care and treatment
- Specialty mental health services
- Residentially-based services
- Special education, non-public school services
- Wraparound services and support
- Charter schools
- Family preservation
- Family Resource Centers
- Foster care emancipation and transitional housing
- In-home intervention and support
- Kinship care support
- Outpatient therapy and counseling
- Post adoption services
- Psychiatric services and medication support
- School-based mental health services
- Shared family care
- Substance abuse treatment
- Therapeutic behavioral services
- Transitional housing and services (THPP & THP-Plus)
- Vocational preparation and job readiness

Contact Us

California Alliance of Child and Family Services: 916/449-2273 or www.cacfs.org.

