



Catherine Blakespear

California State Senate District 38

Democratic party

- Age: 50 (Born February 29, 1976)
- Gender: Female
- Race/Ethnicity: White
- Marital Status: Married (Spouse: Jeremy Spearman; 2 children)
- District encompassing northern San Diego County and southern Orange County
- Education Level: Juris Doctor (J.D.) & Master's Degree
 - B.S. in Journalism – Northwestern University (1999)
 - M.S. in Journalism – Northwestern University (1999)
 - J.D. – University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law (2006)

CAREER BACKGROUND

Mayor of Encinitas

California (2016 – 2022, 3 terms)

Chair / Board Member

San Diego Association of Governments
(SANDAG)

Non-Political / Professional Experience

Estate Planning Attorney at Ray Quinney & Nebeker
News reporter for The Associated Press and the Los
Angeles Times

California State Senator

District 38 (December 2022 –
Present)

Encinitas City Councilmember

(2014 – 2016)

Vice President

San Dieguito Water Board

Political ideology

ECONOMIC

Center-Left / Progressive.

Supports state investments in green infrastructure, public transit, labor protections, and subsidized affordable housing development.

SOCIAL

Progressive.

Firm advocate for reproductive rights, gun safety measures, social support services for unhoused populations, and equity programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Progressive / Green

Prioritizes net-zero carbon goals, single-use plastic reduction, zero-emission transportation, and coastal wildlife habitat preservation.

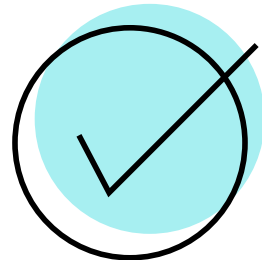
PROMINENT DONORS TO POLITICIAN'S CAMPAIGNS

Labor: California Teachers Association (CTA), Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA), San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council.

Environmental Advocacy Groups: California Environmental Voters, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters.

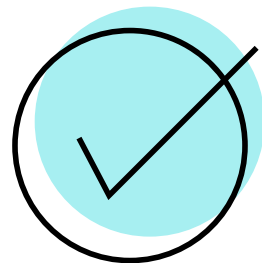
Real Estate, Business & Grassroots Donors: Regional property management and real estate firms, alongside local individual contributors across North San Diego and South Orange counties.

Notable Positions



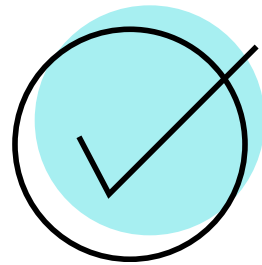
Environmental Protection & Climate Action

Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee; author of SB 1053 (banning single-use plastic grocery bags statewide); champion for 100% renewable energy and local climate action plans.



Public Safety & Gun Violence Prevention

Advocate for safe gun storage legislation, red flag laws, restrictions/bans on untraceable "ghost guns," and community violence intervention programs.



Housing, Homelessness & Transportation Expansion

Author of SB 1098 to revitalize passenger rail service along the LOSSAN Corridor; proponent of state funding to increase affordable housing availability and unhoused supportive services.

Constituent Profile: California Senate District 38

Electoral Performance under Current Boundaries:

State Senate District 38 was completely reconfigured during the 2021 redistricting cycle from an inland East San Diego district into a coastal North San Diego / South Orange County district.

Total District Vote

2022 General Election: 52.2% Democratic (Catherine Blakespear – 190,992) vs. 47.8% Republican (Matt Gunderson – 174,581).

San Diego County: 56.1% Dem / 43.9% Rep

Orange County: 42.9% Dem / 57.1% Rep

2026 Primary Election: 51.9% Democratic (Blakespear – 104,730) vs. 48.1% Republican (Bassett – 96,969).

Top 3 Issue Priorities

1. **Housing Affordability & Homelessness:** Managing high living costs, housing cost burdens, and expanding supportive services.
2. **Coastal Infrastructure & LOSSAN Rail Resiliency:** Protecting coastal bluffs and ensuring the reliability of the 351-mile LOSSAN rail corridor.
3. **Environmental Protection & Marine Stewardship:** Preserving ocean habitats, reducing plastic waste, and adapting to wildfire and climate risks.

Prominent Industries

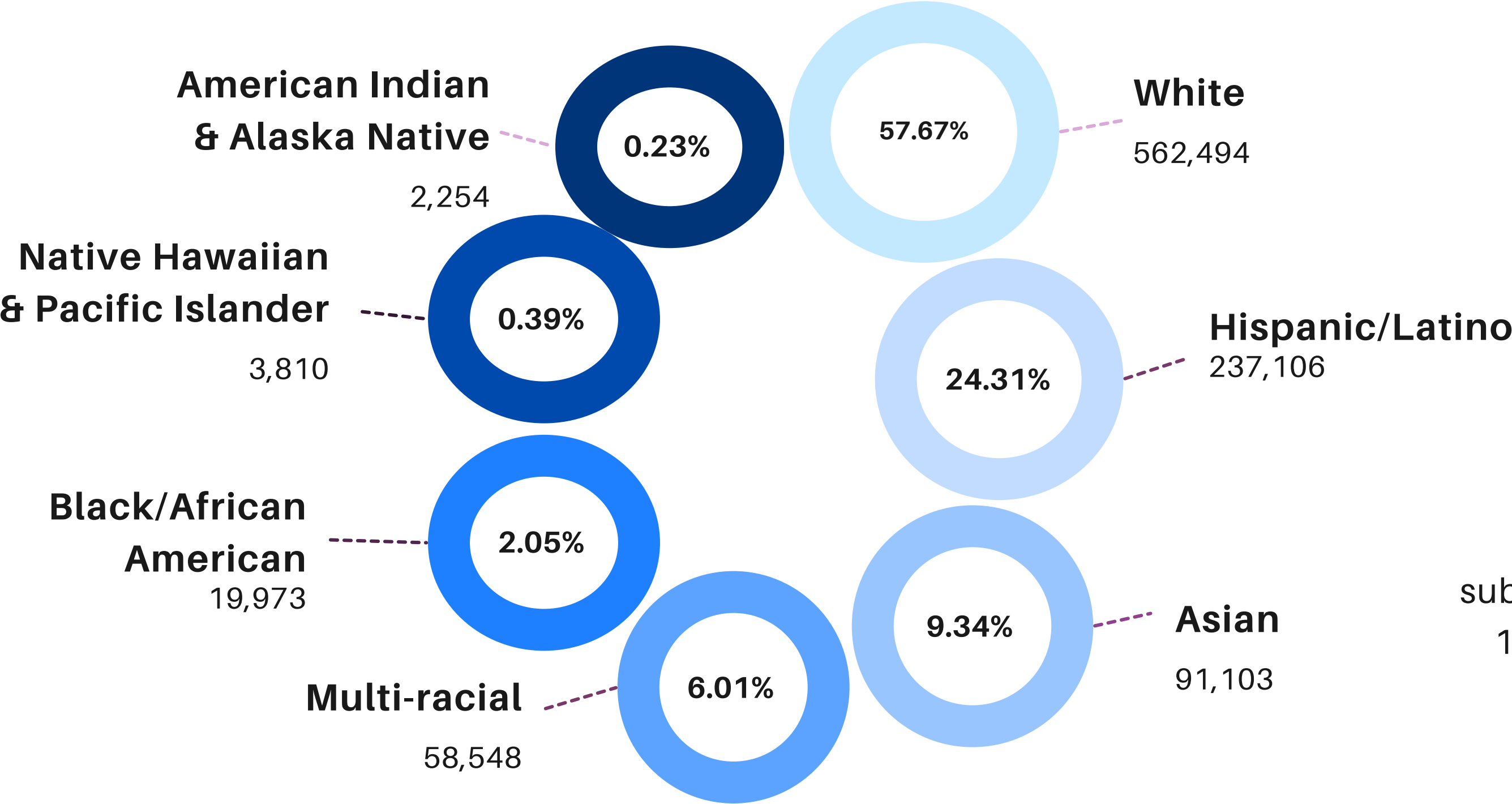
- Biotechnology & Life Sciences
- High Tech & Oceanography (anchored by UC San Diego and Scripps Institution of Oceanography)
- National Defense & Military (U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton)
- Tourism, Recreation & Hospitality (spanning 60+ miles of Pacific beaches, SeaWorld, and Mission San Juan Capistrano)
- Clean Energy & Environmental Technology

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population: 975,288 residents

Income & Poverty: High median household income and lower poverty rates relative to statewide averages

Housing Burden: Over 42.6% of district households experience a high housing cost burden, making housing affordability a central regional concern.



Constituents' General Ideological Positions:

Economic: Moderate
Supports green economy investments and innovation alongside fiscal accountability.

Social: Moderately Progressive
Pro-choice, supportive of public education funding, gun safety laws, and suburban public safety.

Environmental:
Pro-Conservation
High community priority on ocean health, beach preservation, and clean energy transition.

Urban / Rural Breakdown:
Overwhelmingly urbanized and suburban coastal corridor consisting of 11 cities and major unincorporated communities