

Role Profile for Lena Gonzalez California State Senate District 33

POLI 190 Legislative Simulation

Part 1: Individual Profile

- **Name:** Lena A. Gonzalez
- **District:** California State Senate District 33
- **Party Affiliation:** Democratic Party
- **Age:** 45 (born in January 26, 1981)
- **Gender:** Female
- **Race/Ethnicity:** Latina; Mexican American heritage. Her mother immigrated from Aguascalientes, Mexico, and her father was a union truck driver
- **Marital status:** Married to Adam Carillo; they have 3 sons
- **Education:** B.A. in Political Science, California State University, Long Beach; Executive MBA, Loyola Marymount University

Career Background

- **Non-political:** Before entering the State Senate, Gonzalez worked at Microsoft, where she led social-impact programs involving digital skills, the future of work, criminal-justice projects, and efforts to expand diversity and inclusion in technology
- **Political:** Gonzalez served on the Long Beach City Council from 2014 to 2019. She won a June 2019 special election to the California State Senate and has represented Senate District 33 since then. She is currently Senate Majority Leader and Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus
- **Years in current role:** About 7 years as of September 2026
- **Last general election:** In the November 5, 2023 general election, Gonzalez received 217,560 votes, or 69.9%, defeating Republican Mario Paz, who received 30.1%

Three Issues Gonzalez is Best Known For

- **Workers' Rights:** Gonzalez had emphasized protections for working families. Her legislation includes SB 616, which expanded California paid sick leave from three days to five, and SB 338, aimed to protecting port truck drivers from wage theft and misclassification
- **Environmental Justice and Clean Transportation:** She has authored more than 20 environmental bills. SB 1137 was made on neighborhood oil and gas drilling and legislation supporting billions of dollars in zero-emission transportation funding
- **Digital Equity and Access:** Gonzalez authored Broadband for all legislation and has pushed for broadband infrastructure and funding to close the digital divide in underserved communities

Prominent Campaign Donors

For the 2024 election cycle, prominent contributors to Gonzalez's campaign included:

- Raise the Wage California, sponsored by the California State Council of Service Employees and Affiliates (\$22,800)
- California Teachers Association/Association for Better Citizenship (\$21,800)
- SEIU Local 2015 State PAC (\$21,800)
- International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 13 PAC (\$21,800)
- SEIU Local 1000 Candidate PAC (\$21,800)
- SEIU Local 721 State&Local (\$21,800)
- SEIU United Healthcare Workers West PAC (\$21,800)
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11 (\$20,900)

Ideology

- **Economic:** Progressive/pro-labor. Gonzalez supports higher labor standards, paid sick leave, worker protections, workforce development, small-business economic vitality, and public investment in infrastructure such as broadband and clean transportation
- **Social:** Socially progressive. Her record emphasizes reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, health-care access, racial and health equity, and protections for immigrant communities. She authored the Abortion Accessibility Act and legislation addressing health disparities
- **Environmental:** Strongly pro-environmental regulation and environmental justice. She supports reducing neighborhood exposure to oil drilling and pollution, expanding zero-emission transportation, and protecting communities that bear disproportionate environmental burdens

Part 2: Constituent Profile--Senate District 33

- The current 33rd Senate District includes Southeast Los Angeles, the City and Port of Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill, Catalina Island. The district has roughly one million residents and combines dense urban communities, major port and logistics activity, commercial areas, coastal communities, and small-business corridors

Economics

- **Prominent Industries:** Port and goods movement/logistics, transportation and warehousing, trade, tourism and hospitality, health care, retail and small businesses, manufacturing, and professional/service-sector employment
 - The Port of Long Beach is especially important to the district's economy
- **Median Household Income:** \$81,735
- **Per-capita Income:** \$35,132
- **Poverty Rate:** 15.1% of residents are below the poverty line
- **Economic Character:** The district contains major economic assets such as the Port of Long Beach, but it also includes working-class communities where wages, housing costs, health access, pollution exposure, and job protections are significant concerns

Demographics

- **Population:** Approximately 1,004,030 residents
- **Median Age:** 36 years
- **Foreign-Born Population:** 32.2%

- **Educational Attainment:** 72.4% of adults have at least a high-school diploma; 24.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher
- **Race/Ethnicity:** The district is majority Latino
 - A 2020 Census redistricting profile reported 70.9% Hispanic/Latino, 11.6% of non-Hispanic White, 7.9% non-Hispanic Black, 6.4% non-Hispanic Asian, with smaller shares of Native American, Pacific Islander, and multiracial residents
- **Urban/Rural Breakdown:** Urban/Suburban
 - The core of the district is the Long Beach and Southeast Los Angeles area (heavy population)
 - Catalina Island adds a small island/coastal component

Politics

- **Registered Voters:** 552,010 registered voters as of October 21, 2024
- **Democratic Registration:** 301,102 (54.55%)
- **Republican Registration:** 89,852 (16.28%)
- **No Part Preference:** 120,923 (21.91%)
- **2024 Senate Election:** Gonzalez (Democrat) 69.9%; Mario Paz (Republican) 30.1%
- **2020 Senate Election:** Gonzalez (Democrat) 61.8%; Elizabeth Castillo (Democrat) 38.2%
 - Since both general election candidates were Democrats under California's top-two system, there was no Republican percentage in this race
- **2016 Senate Election:** Ricardo Lara (Democrat) 78.6%; Honor Mimi Robson (Libertarian) 21.4%
 - No Republican appeared in the general election
- **2012 Senate Election:** Ricardo Lara (Democrat) 80.4%; Lee H. Chaucer (Peace and Freedom) 19.6%
 - No Republican appeared in the general election
- **Redistricting:** District boundaries changed after the 2020 Census, so 2012, 2016, and 2020 elections describe the districts as it remained in those election years and aren't perfectly comparable with today's SD 33

Three Specific Issues Important to Constituents

- **Jobs, Wages, and Worker Protections:** The district includes many union households, port and logistics workers, service workers, and working-class families
 - Paid leave, wage theft, workplace safety, and economic security are therefore central issues
- **Environmental Justice and Public Health:** Communities near ports, freight corridors, industrial sites, and oil operations face concerns about air pollution and neighborhood health
 - Clean transportation, oil-well setbacks, and pollution reduction are major district concerns

- **Housing, Health Care, and Affordability:** High Southern California housing costs, poverty in parts of the district, and unequal access to health services make affordable housing, health care, reproductive care, and community services important constituent priorities

Constituents' General Positions

- **Economic:** Generally center-left to progressive: supportive of worker protections, unions, public investment, expanded services, and policies aimed to reducing economic inequality, while also valuing the district's ports, local businesses, and job-producing industries
- **Social:** Generally Democratic and socially progressive, with strong constituencies for immigrant rights, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ equality, health equity, and expanded access to education and health care
- **Environmental:** Generally supportive of environmental protection and environmental-justice policies, especially when they address air quality, port emissions, oil drilling near homes, and clean transportation
 - Policy must account for the districts dependence on port, freight, and industrial employment

Simulation Takeaway

- To role-play Senator Gonzalez faithfully, the strongest overall approach is to act as a progressive Democrat with a strong pro-labor and environmental-justice orientation. She is likely to support proposals that protect workers, expand health and reproductive access, improve digital equity, reduce pollution, and direct state investment toward underserved communities. Since she represents the Port of Long Beach and a large working-class Latino constituency, she would also pay close attention to how legislation affects jobs, goods movement, small businesses, affordability, and community health

Sources

- **California State Senate, Senator Lena A. Gonzalez Biography**
 - <https://sd33.senate.ca.gov/biography>
- **California State Senate, Senate District 33**
 - [Senate District 33](#)
- **California Secretary of State, November 5, 2024 Statement of Vote**
 - [General Election, November 5, 2024 - Statement of Vote](#)
- **California Secretary of State, Report of Registration, October 21, 2024**
 - [General Election, November 5, 2024 - Statement of Vote](#)
- **California Department of Finance, 2020 Census Redistricting Profile: State Senate District 33**
 - https://dof.ca.gov/media/docs/forecasting/Demographics/2020-census-data/2020Census_PL942020_Profile_CalifSTSD.pdf
- **Census Reporter, State Senate District 33 (ACS 2024 5-year)**
 - [State Senate District 33, CA - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)

- **Transparency USA, Lena Gonzalez 2024 Campaign Finance**
 - <https://www.transparencyusa.org/ca/candidate/lena-gonzalez?cycle=2024-election-cycle>