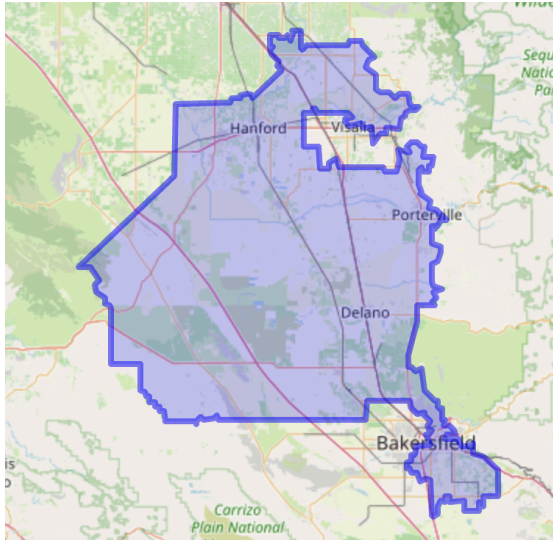


Senator Melissa Hurtado (Democrat)



District 16, Bakersfield

Legislator Background

- **Age:** 38 years old
- **Gender:** Female
- **Race/Ethnicity:** Latina/Hispanic
- **Marital Status:**
- **Religion:** Catholic
- **Education Level:** Sacramento State University
Bachelor's in Political Science
- **# of years in current role:** 4 years
- **% of vote received in the last general election:** Melissa Hurtado received 35.5% in the primary for California State Senate

- **Career Background:**

—> *Political:*

I began by serving on the Sanger City Council from 2016-2018. Then I was elected to the California State Senate from 2018-2022 as the youngest woman to be elected. I'm a considerate policymaker who works confidently with senators of all parties to ensure that the priority continues to be the residents within my district and their concerns. I believe voices in the rural and suburban areas deserve recognition and a voice throughout all the levels of government in order to effectively create sustainable and affordable living for the people. In 2020, I had the honor of being appointed to the National Biden Latino Leadership Committee as one of the only two selected Latinas in California. In 2021, I was then selected to be the chair for a subcommittee on the Council of State Governments (CSG) 2021-2022 Healthy States National Task Force. Finally, in 2022, I was elected to serve District 16 with a slim margin of votes in my favor, with 13 total votes. I am running for re-election this November 3rd for another term.

—> *Non-Political:*

I am the daughter of immigrants who work with dignity and dedication in the Central Valley. The Central Valley is my home, and I've been here my entire life. I was born and raised in Fresno, Sanger City. I am passionate about what I do because growing up and recognizing the struggle is what I strive to change. With the costs on the rise, Valley families are spread thin with an economy that doesn't accommodate them, and water conservation failing to be a priority. When I make significant impacts in my district, I do it with the hope of making the Valley more affordable and keeping my constituents' needs in mind. This is because my job is personal, and I believe our communities deserve more transparency and service that meets their needs, which is exactly what I advocate for. I also enjoy spending time with my family, whom I hold dear, and reading novels in my spare time.

Collection of committees Melissa is/was involved in:

Between 2019 - 2020

- ★ Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
- ★ Senate Human Services Committee (Chair)
- ★ Senate Health Committee
- ★ Governance and Finance Committee
- ★ Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Between 2021 - 2022

- ★ Senate Insurance Committee
- ★ Senate Agriculture Committee (Vice Chair)
- ★ Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
- ★ Senate Health Committee
- ★ Senate Human Services Committee (Chair)

Between 2023 - 2024

- ★ Climate Change Policies Committee
- ★ Senate Agriculture Committee (Chair)
- ★ Environmental Quality Committee
- ★ Senate Health Committee
- ★ Senate Human Services Committee
- ★ Natural Resources and Water Committee

Between 2025 - 2026

- ★ Senate Governmental Organization Committee
- ★ Climate Change Policies Committee
- ★ Senate Agriculture Committee (Chair)
- ★ Banking and Financial Institutions Committee
- ★ Environmental Quality Committee
- ★ Natural Resources and Water Committee
- ★ Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
- ★ Senate Governmental Organization Committee

● **3 issue positions for which your politician is best known:**

- **Agriculture**
- **Water Conservation**
- **Healthcare Access**

● **Endorsements:**

Senate President Pro Tem Monique Limon

California Federation of Labor Unions

California Nurses Association

Service Employees International Union California

California School Employees Association

California Professional Firefighters

California Police Chiefs Association

California Association of Highway Patrolmen
CAL FIRE Local 2881
California Democratic Party
Equality California
California YIMBY
Women's Political Committee
California Teachers Association

- **Ideology on economic, social, and environmental issues:**

First and foremost, the cost of living is a crucial element of my advocacy. As I previously emphasized, the Valley is becoming an increasingly costly region. Whether it has to do with expensive gas/electric bills or AI becoming a preferred tool by large corporations to drive these prices up. I believe it's within my abilities to prevent such issues from coming to fruition because the outcome will directly affect my residents. A second important element that is important to me is water. I require water to be safe for drinking, and to do so, I secured \$171 million for exactly that in communities like Earlimart. Pursuing water security and controlled anti-flood architecture that farms and families can feel relief from is another aspect I plan to cover. Along with health care accommodations, considering the recent cuts to federal funding that impact Medi-Cal coverage and CalFresh, which can put working-class families in severe distress. Food security is a primary necessity that I hold vital, through means of ensuring all of my constituents have access to food no matter their income. Water is a major concern for Central Valley residents. Residents rely on it for farming, drinking, and activities in the Valley's hot temperatures. Healthcare access is a pressing issue that I plan to alleviate for residents who reside in more rural regions for them to receive sufficient medical care.

What the constituents want economically, socially & environmentally.

Economic:

The cost of living is the fundamental issue that residents in District 16 face every day, along with prices for gas, food, healthcare, and other essentials that are on the rise. There's overwhelming support for small businesses and investments in more economically beneficial infrastructure, such as projects that assist farmers, field workers, and teachers.

Social:

Healthcare Access is limited in the regions where District 16 resides, forcing residents to travel long distances for medical care. Being able to access educational institutions, Healthcare facilities, and essential social service institutions is important to the citizens who might struggle with disabilities, age, illness, or low income. Education is oftentimes underfunded, leaving students without resources for supplies to learn and grow at school. Residents advocate for free resources or resources that cost little to nothing for K-12 students in order to reduce the child poverty rate. Within higher-density cities, there is a more progressive ideology that leans into more tolerant views with immigration, diversity, community, and resources for low-income families.

Environmental issues:

Water conservation is a primary element that constituents value greatly in their district, considering it's made up of agricultural lands and rural regions. This also raises awareness of the

drought vulnerability that the district is prone to. Policies to protect or improve water reservoirs, maintain crops, improve harvests, and improve public health resources that can assist the elderly and the youth.