



Steve Padilla

CA STATE SENATOR

District: Senate District 18 (San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino)

Time in Office: 4 years, elected in 2022

Party: Democrat

% Vote Received: 59.8% of the vote

Age: 59

Gender: Male

Race/Ethnicity: Latino

Marital Status: Divorced with 1 daughter

Education: Undergraduate degrees in Liberal Arts and Public Administration from Southwestern College and National University. Also studied law at Western State University, College of Law.

Career Background: 13 years in law enforcement, as a Detective specializing in domestic violence and child abuse. Served on the Chula Vista City Council, Mayor of Chula Vista from 2002–2006, returned to the City Council in 2016, chaired the California Coastal Commission from 2019–2021, elected to State Senate in 2022

TOP 3 ISSUES

Environmental Health: Supports stronger action on Tijuana River and Salton Sea pollution

Wages & Housing: Supports higher wages and more affordable housing.

Lithium Valley Jobs: Supports lithium development and local clean-energy jobs.

PROMINENT DONORS

Turo, Inc. - \$23,600

California Teachers

Association/Association for Better Citizenship - \$23,600

United Domestic Workers of America Action Fund - \$23,600

California State Association of Electrical Workers - \$23,600

CONSTITUENT PROFILE

Population: ~900,000, fair mix of urban/rural

Demographic: 4% Black, 7% Asian, 69% Latino, 16% White / 24% Under 18, 63% 18-64, 12% 65+

Income: \$103k Median Income, 12% below poverty line

Political Affiliation: ~54% Dem, ~14% Rep, ~27% No Preference

Important Issues: Cost of living, Environmental health and water quality, Jobs

Prominent Industries: Health care and social assistance, Retail trade, Accommodation and food services

Unemployment Rate: 8.6%