Role Profile for Tony Strickland, California State Senate District 36

Section 1 - *Individual Profile*

- Name: Tony Strickland
- District: California State Senate District 36
- Party Affiliation: Republican
- Age: 56 Years Old
- Gender: Male
- Race: White
- Ethnicity: German
- Marital Status: Married to Carla Dispalatro Strickland. Formerly married to Audra Strickland, another Republican who ran in the District Assembly.
- Education: Bachelor in Political Science from Whittier College

Political Career

Tony Strickland got into politics relatively early. From 1996-1997, Tony Strickland served with the staff of Tom McClinttock. In 1998, at only 28 years old, Tony Strickland was elected to serve in the California State Assembly for CA Assembly District 37, where he would serve until 2002, where his wife would then succeed him. In 2006, Strickland would run for State Controller. He would proceed to win 41% of the primary vote, but would fall short in the general election and would lose to John Chiang by a margin of 50.7%-40.2%. This did not interrupt his career, however, and in 2008 he would run against Hannah-Beth Jackson for CA State Senate District 19 for a position in the California State Senate. Strickland would win by only 900 votes and would be sworn in that year. Strickland would again win the primary vote for State Controller in 2010, but would again lose to Chiang by a margin of 55%-36%. In 2012, Strickland ran for Congress in California's 26th congressional district, but lost the election to Julia Brownley. He would run for the 25th congressional district in 2014, but would lose

again to Steve Knight. In 2015, Strickland would create Strong America, which is a super PAC where he is President and CEO. In 2016, he was named the California chairman of the Committee for American Sovereignty, another super PAC that is pro-Trump. In 2022, Strickland would be elected to the Huntington Beach City Council, with the council also choosing him to be Mayor of Huntington Beach that same year. He was succeeded as mayor by Grace Van Der Mark in 2023, but remains a councilmember. Now, in 2025, after Janet Nguyen stepped down from CA State Senate District 36, Strickland would be sworn in after sweeping over 50% of the primary vote to finish Nguyen's term in the California State Senate, which is his current position in the State Senate.

Current Committees:

- Banking and Financial Institutions Committee
- Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
- Senate Transportation Committee (Vice-Chair)
- Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee
- Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee (Vice-Chair)

No. of years in current position:

Strickland has served in his current position in the Senate for only a year.

% of votes received last election:

Strickland got 51.3% of the vote, or 81,133 individual votes, during his last election

Important Issues for the Senator

The number one issue for Senator Strickland is fiscal responsibility. He advertises his "A" grade from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and touts that he is one of the state's top advocates for spending reform and accountability. His other important issues

are overreach from Sacramento, crime reduction and prevention, and the homelessness problem.

Prominent Donors

By a large margin, the biggest donor to Strickland is the California Republican Party, which donated a whopping $682,319 to his current 2026 reelection campaign. Other major donors include:

- The California Association of Highway Patrolman PAC
- The California Dental Association PAC
- The California Medical Association
- Sempra Energy
- California Association of Realtors
- California Correctional Peace Officers Association PAC

Ideology

Economic - Strickland heavily disagrees with the current spending of Sacramento, voting against the current planned fiscal year funds allocated for 2027. As well, he wants to support the average taxpayers of California, voting for SB 180, which gives more rights to the taxpayers. He also authored SB 885, the Restoring Accountability Act, that says that any major regulatory proposal with an impact on Californians that is estimated to be more that $50 million must be explicitly approved by the Legislature.

Social - Strickland authored SB 1015, the Protecting Our Children from Online Extortion Act, an act designed to penalize predators and molesters that use a minor to harass or sexually exploit another minor. Strickland is also heavily against the Democratic Socialists of America, going so far as to sponsor SR 138, a bill condemning the DSA as a parallel to past authoritarian socialist and communist regimes. Strickland does not support Planned Parenthood, and scored 0% on their scorecard in 2025.

Strickland also doesn't support many LGBTQ+ bills, scoring only 22% in Equality California.

Environment - Tony Strickland has advocated for the environment, actually being the author behind SR 140, formally proclaiming September 4 as California Wildlife Day. However, his ideals for energy in California and his support for oil expansion (and his acceptance of oil money) leaves him conflicted in terms of the environment with only a 18% score by California Environment Voters.

Section 2- *Constituent Profile*

Huntington Beach, the major area of District 36, sits atop the Huntington Beach Oil Field, a major oil field in the Pacific. As well, tourism is rampant, with Huntington Beach being named "Surf City, U.S.A.", and receives a major cash boost from hotels and surfers for its year-round surfing. Finally, a major installation of Boeing can be found here, touting aeronautics as a core piece of District 36's economy (as Boeing is the number one employer in District 36).

- Unemployment Rate: 28,120 people (or 0.03%)
- Median Household income: $116,228...Median Family income: $133,770
- Poverty Level: 8.9% of the population

Demographics

- Population: 986,596

Breakdown of Race

- White: 446,179
- Black: 16,750
- American Indian and Alaskan Native: 6,171
- Asian: 271,783

- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 4,837
- Two or More Races: 137,938

Breakdown of Ethnicity

- Hispanic/Latino: 229,249
    - Out of this number, 180,411 are Mexican
- The most prominent ethnicities in this district are Mexican, Vietnamese, Filipino, English, German, and Korean.

Age

- Median Age: 43.9

A small majority of the population is between ages 55 to 59. There are more older people than younger, but the population is still spread pretty evenly with no major differences.

Income

- Median Household Income: $116,228
- Mean Household Income: $161,647

Urban/Rural Breakdown

This district is classified as Suburban.

Politics

- Voters Registered: 637,782
    - 2020 Analytics by Party:
        - Republican: 36.51%
        - Democrat: 32.41%
    - 2016 Analytics by Party:
        - Republican: 42.06%
        - Democrat: 29.80%
    - 2012 Analytics by Party:
        - Republican: 43.91%
        - Democrat: 27.63%

Specific Issues

According to Strickland's takeaways on his website, the three biggest issues for District 36 are taxes, affordability, and crime.

Constituents General Positions

District 36 contains a mix of highly Democratic and Republican areas. However, Republicans have been in the State Senate seat since 1990, and are generally more favored in District 36.