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Role Profile for Thomas John Umberg, CA State Senate District 34

Part 1... Individual/Organization profile

- *Name: Thomas (Tom) John Umberg*
- *District 34 (Orange County area, including Santa Ana, Irvine, Garden Grove)*
- *Party Affiliation: Democrat*
- *Age: 70*
- *Gender: Male*
- *Race: White*
- *Ethnicity: German*
- *Marital Status: Married to Robin Umberg, a retired Brigadier General*
- *Education: BA from UCLA; JD from University of California, College of Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings) ; Master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College*

Career Breakdown

- *Non-Political*

↳ *Tom is a Retired US Army Colonel who began his military service at the Korean Demilitarized Zone, He was deployed overseas for three tours totaling over five years, and served as a paratrooper with Army Special Operations Command and the XVIII Airborne Corps. He was a federal and military prosecutor who tried more than 100 white-collar, civil-rights, murder, and sexual-assault cases, who is also a founder of a veteran-owned law firm, Umberg Zipser LLP, in Orange County.*

- *Political*

↳ *His political career officially started when he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1990 (72nd/69th district) until 1994. Instead of seeking a third term he ran for Attorney General of California but lost in the general election. In (1997 - 2000) Tom was appointed by President Bill Clinton as Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy ("Deputy Drug Czar.") He returned to the Assembly from 2004–2006 (69th district), and from 2008 to 2014 Tom served in various capacities on the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), including as Chairman. In 2011, Tom was appointed Co-Chair of the U.S. State Department's Public Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan. He was elected to the State Senate in 2018, and re-elected in 2022.*

Committees

- *Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee*
- *Senate Committee on Housing*
- *Senate Committee on Transportation*
- *Former Chair, Select Committee on the Growing Impact of AI in California*

Number of Years in current role

- *Tom has been in this role for about 8 years*

% of Vote received in the last general election

- *In the November 8, 2022 general election, Umberg received 58.8 of the vote*

Issues the Senator is best known for

- *Recently led passage of first-in-the-nation legislation setting ethical requirements for attorneys and arbitrators using generative AI. Background in law enforcement/prosecution and drug policy informs his focus on public safety. He has emphasized opioid epidemic response and gun violence prevention.*

Prominent donors to Umberg

- *The biggest donor of Tom is the California State Association of Electrical Workers, a union of Electrical Workers advocating for labor standards, safety, and legislative priorities.*

Ideology

Economic: His donor base skews toward business/professional interests (Google, Big Four accounting firms, auto dealers) alongside some labor and consumer-attorney PACs. His legislative focus has been consumer protection (banning unfair arbitration clauses, deceptive contract terms) rather than sweeping economic reform.

Social: Solidly progressive on social issues but holds a 100% voting score from Equality California (LGBTQ+ rights), is pro-choice, and has been endorsed by progressive groups like WAVE PAC. He's also secured endorsements from establishment Democrats including Governor Newsom and Senator Adam Schiff.

Environmental: Recently Tom's California Environmental score card has plummeted suggesting inconsistent alignment with the most aggressive environmental priorities compared to some Senate colleagues.

Part 2 ... Constituent Profile

Economics

- *Prominent industries include Disneyland, Angel Stadium, and the Discovery Science Center; the district's economy centers on entertainment, tourism, healthcare/social assistance, and retail trade.*

Unemployment rate

- 5% range, close to 25,000 people

Income levels

- The median household income is approximately \$92,149, mean is higher given the district's mix of working-class and professional households

Poverty rate

- 2.2% of people (about 112,847 people.) On par with statewide and national rates

Demographics

Population:

↳ 939,589

Population breakdown by race:

↳ *White*: ~29%

↳ *Asian*: ~21.4%

↳ *Black*: ~1.4%

↳ *American Indian/Alaska Native*: ~0.4%

↳ *Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*: ~0.44%

Population breakdown by ethnicity:

↳ *Hispanic/Latino: ~46.9%*

The largest single group, and the reason this is due to one of Orange County's Latino-plurality districts, Santa Ana (which itself is roughly 80% Latino)

Age

↳ *The Median age is 35.4, younger than the statewide median of 37.9*

↳ *Voting-age population (18+): 688,872*

Income

↳ *Median household income: \$92,149*

Urban/Rural breakdown

↳ *Densely urban/suburban, about 9,723 people per square mile*

↳ *Concentrated in northern Orange County cities*

Politics

Partisan voter registration

↳ *Registered voters: 441,884*

2020 analytics by party

Democrat: 41.03% (194,860)

Republican: 29.94% (142,162)

2016 analytics by party

Democrat: 40.74% (155,357)

Republican: 33.28% (126,937)

2012 analytics by party

Democrat: 41.48%

Republican: 29.38%

3 specific issues cared about by the constituents in the district

- *Immigration and healthcare access are among top constituent concerns, alongside housing affordability and public safety.*

Constituents general positions

- *The district solidly aligns with Democratic Party positions, consistent through their voting history.*