

Hon. Christopher M. "Chris" Ward (CA078 D)
State Assemblymember from CA Assembly District 78



Building: State Capitol
Room: Suite 6350
Address: 1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-2078
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Legal Name: Christopher M. Ward
Nickname: Chris
Ethnicity: White/Caucasian
Gender: Male

Political Party: Democratic Party - Majority
Elected: First elected in 2020 - 69% of vote last election
Seniority: 47 of 80
Terms Served: Currently serving 2nd consecutive term
Next Election: 2024
Reelection Status: This legislator may run for reelection

Born: 08/03/1976 in Germany
Residence: San Diego, CA
Family: Life Partner; 2 children
Spouse: Thom Harpole

Education: Johns Hopkins University (MD), Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience, 1998; Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, Master of Public Policy in Public Policy and Urban Planning, 2006

Occupations: Medicine/Healthcare - ALS Technician, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, 1998 - 2004; Business - Environmental and Urban Planner, Eckbo, Dean, Austin & Williams (EDAW), 2006 - 2008; Public Official - Chief of Staff, Office of CA State Asm. Marty Block (CA78 D), 2008 - 2012; Public Official - Chief of Staff, Office of CA State Sen. Marty Block (CA39 D), 2012 - 2016

Political Experience: Member, San Diego City Council, District 3, 2016 - 2020; Former Chair, San Diego City Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee; Assistant Majority Whip, CA State Assembly, 2020 - 2021; Assistant Majority Leader, CA State Assembly, 2022 - Current; Member, CA Coastal Conservancy; Assembly Assistant Majority Leader, CA State Assembly, 2022; Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly, CA State Assembly, 2023

Capitol Staff: Ms. Bethany Westfall, Chief of Staff
Mr. Mike Blount, Communications Director
Mr. Caleb Beaver, Office Assistant
Mr. Charles Loudon, Legislative Aide

District Offices: SAN DIEGO
Suite 102; 2700 Adams Avenue; San Diego, CA 92116
Phone: (619) 280-7801
Ms. Adriana Martinez; Scheduler
Mr. Christopher Gris, Field Representative



BRIEFING REPORT

CREATED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

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District Offices: Ms. Miki Holmes, Field Representative
Ms. Teannae Owens, Field Representative
Ms. Rachel Granadino, Senior Field Representative

Committees: Assembly Budget
Assembly Housing & Community Development - Chairman
Assembly Labor & Employment
Assembly Local Government
Assembly Privacy & Consumer Protection
Assembly Transportation
Assembly Asian American & Pacific Islanders Equity, Inclusion, & Representation
Assembly Select Biotechnology - Chairman
Assembly Select Community Reinvestment
Assembly Select Electric Vehicles & Charging Infrastructure
Assembly Select Permitting Reform
Assembly Select Social Housing

Biography: Assemblymember Ward was elected in 2020 to serve the 78th Assembly District. Prior to his service in the Assembly, he served on the San Diego City Council, focusing his efforts on housing, homelessness, economic development, and the environment, and authored San Diego's landmark Equal Pay Ordinance, as well as enacted a local ordinance to make San Diego the largest city in California to ban Styrofoam and reduce single-use plastics. Additionally, Assemblymember Ward chaired the San Diego County Regional Task Force on the Homeless, transforming outdated strategies to align with national best practices while making meaningful gains to address and respond to homelessness; chaired the Land Use and Housing Committee, updating restrictive housing codes and incentivizing affordable development; and chaired the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, supporting local business.

Before becoming an elected official, Assemblymember Ward was the Chief of Staff to Senator Marty Block, coordinating constituent services, engaging public participation in the legislative process, and addressing the needs of schools and neighborhoods, and an environmental planner at the firm EDAW, working with local government to update land use policies and law, and conduct CEQA environmental reviews.

Assemblymember Ward has long been a community volunteer, serving on the San Diego Community College District's Citizens Oversight Committee, serving as a board member of the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation and San Diego LGBT Center, and serving as a member of the Truman National Security Project

Assemblymember Ward earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Johns Hopkins University and a Masters in Public Policy and Urban Planning at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He and his partner, Thom, reside in University Heights with their two children, and their cairn terrier.