

## Sen. Steve Padilla (CA018 D)

State Senator from CA Senate District 18



Building: State Capitol  
Room: Suite 6640  
Address: 1021 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Phone: (916) 651-4018  
Fax: (916) 651-4918

Legal Name: Steve Padilla  
Nickname: Steve  
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino  
Gender: Male

Political Party: Democratic Party - Majority  
Elected: First elected in 2022 - 60% of vote last election

Seniority: 36 of 40

Terms Served: Currently serving first term

Next Election: 2026

Reelection Status: This legislator may run for reelection

Residence: Chula Vista, CA  
Family: Divorced; 1 child

Education: Bonita Vista High School; Southwestern College (CA), Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts; National University (CA), Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration; Western State College of Law (CA), Attended

Occupations: Law Enforcement - Former Officer, Chula Vista Police Department; Law Enforcement - Former Detective, Coronado Police Department; Public Official - Chair, CA Natural Resources Agency, Coastal Commission, 2017 - 2023

Political Experience: Member, Chula Vista (CA) City Council, 1994 - 2002; Mayor, City of Chula Vista, CA, 2002 - 2006; Member, Chula Vista (CA) City Council, 2016 - 2022; Member, CA Coastal Commission, Chair (2019 - 2021), 2017 - 2021

Capitol Staff: Mr. Dan Reeves, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Alexis Castro, Legislative Director  
Mr. Cameron Sutherland, Communications Director  
Ms. Emily Zhou, Legislative Aide  
Ms. Jenna Von Esmarch, Scheduler

District Offices: CHULA VISTA  
Suite 204; 780 Bay Boulevard; Chula Vista, CA 91910  
Phone: (619) 409-7690  
Mr. Ian Fregosi; District Director  
Mr. Thomas Lawton, District Representative  
Mr. Jessie Schmitte, District Representative

EL CENTRO  
Suite D; 1224 State Street; El Centro, CA 92243



# BRIEFING REPORT

CREATED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

Sen. Steve Padilla (CA018 D)

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District Offices: Phone: (760) 335-3442  
Ms. Larissa De La Torre; District Representative  
Ms. Lorena Minor-Montes, District Representative

#### INDIO

Suite L; 82013 Doctor Carreon Boulevard; Indio, CA 92201  
Phone: (760) 398-6442  
Ms. Joselyn Ramirez; District Representative

Leadership Positions: Senate Assistant Majority Whip

Committees: Joint Legislative Budget  
Joint Legislative Climate Change Policies  
Senate Agriculture  
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review  
- No. 4 on State Administration & General Government - Chairman  
Senate Governmental Organization  
Senate Housing  
Senate Natural Resources & Water  
Senate Revenue and Taxation  
Senate Select CA-Mexico Cooperation & Dialogue - Chairman  
Senate Select Ports & Goods Movement

Biography: Senator Steve Padilla was elected to the Senate in November 2022, representing the counties of San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino. Senator Padilla is a native of San Diego, a graduate of Bonita Vista High school, and lifelong Chula Vista resident.

Senator Padilla has dedicated his life to public service. Before becoming an elected official, he served 13 years in law enforcement, beginning in the City of Chula Vista and concluding in the City of Coronado, where he served as a Detective, specializing in domestic violence and child abuse. Senator Padilla's interest in public affairs began early in life, as did his service to Chula Vista, where he served as a member of the Board of Ethics and Safety Commission. He was elected for the first time to the City Council in 1994 and served two terms. In 2002, Steve was elected the City's 38th Mayor and served from 2002 - 2006. Senator Padilla returned to elected office in 2016 and, only one year later, was appointed for the second time to the California Coastal Commission, where he served as Chairman from 2019-2021.

Prior to being elected to the State Senate, Steve worked with a variety of private entities, non-profit organizations, and public interest groups advocating on economic development projects, and transportation, housing, environmental and social justice issues. In 2008, he served as a member of the Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy for the Council on Foreign Relations.

Senator Padilla is noted for being the first person of color ever elected to City office in Chula Vista history, the first Latino Mayor, and the first openly LGBT person to serve or be elected to city office. He holds undergraduate degrees in Liberal Arts and Public Administration from Southwestern College and National University, and studied law at Western State University, College of Law. He has been a published columnist writing on local, state, and national policy



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Biography: issues. Senator Padilla is proud father to Ashleigh, an accomplished professional in political and policy advocacy, and his son-in-law, Nelson, a former political staffer and current U.S. Naval officer.