

Sen. Alex Padilla (CAS01 D)

Senior US Senator from CA



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Twitter Profile: <http://twitter.com/SenAlexPadilla>
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Legal Name: Alejandro Padilla (pah-DEE-yah)
Nickname: Alex
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino
Gender: Male

Political Party: Democratic Party - Majority
Elected: First elected in 2021 - 61% of vote last election
Seniority: 89 of 100
Terms Served: Currently serving 2nd consecutive term
Next Election: 2028
Reelection Status: This legislator may run for reelection

Born: 03/22/1973 in Panorama City, CA
Residence: San Fernando Valley, CA
Family: Married; 3 children
Spouse: Angela Monzon

Education: San Fernando Senior High School; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, 1994

Occupations: Engineering - Engineer, Hughes Aircraft, 1991 - 1992; Public Official - Former Staff Member, Office of CA State Assemblyman Tony Cardenas; Public Official - Former Staff Member, Office of U.S. Senator Diana Feinstein; Education - Education Counselor, University of the Pacific (CA), 1994

Political Experience: Manager, CA State Senator Richard Alarcon Campaign, 1998; Former Southern CA Field Director, CA Democratic Party Coordinate Campaign; Member, Los Angeles City Council, 1999 - 2006; President, Los Angeles City Council, 2001 - 2006; Former Member, CA Film Commission; Member (CA020 D), CA State Senate, 2006 - 2014; Chairman, CA State Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments, 2014; Chairman, CA State Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications, 2014; Vice Chair, CA State Senate Select Committee on California's Wine Industry, 2014; Chairman, CA State Senate Select Committee on Science, Innovation and Public Policy, 2014; Secretary of State, CA Office of the Secretary of State, 2014 - 2021; Chairman, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Security, 2022



BRIEFING REPORT

CREATED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

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Capitol Staff: Mr. David Montes, Chief of Staff
Ms. La Vita Westbrook-Scott, Director of Operations
Mr. Joshua Esquivel, Legislative Director
Ms. Priscilla Kim, Senior Policy Advisor
Mr. Nate Bentham, Policy Advisor
- Issues: Aerospace; Disaster; Energy; Environment; Science
Ms. Angela Ebner, Policy Advisor
- Issues: Agriculture; Environment; Land Use
Ms. Adrienne Epstein, Policy Advisor
- Issues: Agriculture; Arts; Education; Housing; Labor; US Postal Service; Welfare
Mr. Sam Mahood, Policy Advisor
- Issues: Appropriations; Transportation
Ms. Sarah Swig, Policy Advisor
- Issues: Energy; Environment; Land Use; Native Americans
Mr. Jose Villalvazo, Policy Advisor
- Issues: Foreign; Intelligence; Military; Veterans
Ms. Tess Oswald, Communications Director
Ms. Alexandra Atlee Phillips, AAAS Fellow
- Issues: Science
Ms. Alyson Sincavage, Chief Counsel on the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety
Ms. Mana Azarmi, Counsel
- Issues: Aerospace; Commerce; Communication; Finance; Foreign; Intelligence; Judiciary; Science; Technology
Ms. Anna Noone, Counsel
- Issues: Campaign; Census; Finance; Judiciary; Rules
Ms. Ursela Ojeda, Counsel
- Issues: Immigration
Mr. Ethan Fallon, Counsel
Ms. Symonne Smith, Scheduling Director
Mr. Aidan Camas, Scheduler
Ms. Lauren Brown, Scheduling Assistant; Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Mr. Michael Zerihun, Systems Administrator
Ms. Samantha Moreno, Operations Assistant
Mr. Harper Rubin, Special Assistant
Mr. Aidan McDonald, Speechwriter
Ms. Jamie Carey, Press Assistant
Mr. Jacob Huls, Correspondence Director; Legislative Aide
- Issues: Agriculture; Arts; Social Security; US Postal Service
Mr. Mason Arndt, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Crime; Homeland Security; Intelligence
Mr. Alex Baldonado, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Disaster; Energy; Environment; Land Use
Mr. Andrew Baratta, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Banking; Budget; Economics; Finance; Small Business; Social Security; Tax; Trade; Transportation
Mr. Andrew Carrillo, Legislative Correspondent



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Capitol Staff: - Issues: Census; Immigration
Ms. Sydney Dahiyat, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Agriculture; Environment; Land Use
Mr. Julian Garcia, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Agriculture; Arts; Education; Housing; Labor; Social Security; US Postal Service
Ms. Emily Latimer, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Foreign; Intelligence; Military; Veterans
Mr. Collin Nelson, Legislative Correspondent
- Issues: Aerospace; Campaign; Commerce; Communication; Finance; Human Rights;
Judiciary; Science; Trade
Ms. Anisa Alazraie, Staff Assistant
Ms. Karina Bravo, Staff Assistant
Mr. Alex Gomez, Staff Assistant
Ms. Ramya Ravi, Staff Assistant
Mr. David Vasquez, Staff Assistant

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Hon. James Schwab; State Director
Ms. Olivia Wardlaw, Executive Assistant to the State Director
Ms. Lizette Mata, Senior Advisor
Mr. Roberto Rizo, Field Representative
Ms. Izchel Montelongo, Constituent Liaison
- Issues: Environment; Service Academies; Transportation

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Mr. Roberto Negrete, Outreach Director
Ms. Lauren O. Gallant, Senior Field Representative
Ms. Ye Rim Choi, Constituent Liaison
- Issues: Finance; Military; Veterans
Mr. Rimon Hossain, Constituent Liaison
- Issues: Aerospace; Agriculture; Energy; Foreign
Ms. Raven Thrift, Constituent Liaison
- Issues: Health; Service Academies

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Ms. Margaret Arechiga; Senior Field Representative
Mr. Jamie Bernal, Staff Assistant

SAN DIEGO



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State Offices: Suite 2240; 600 B Street; San Diego, CA 92101
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Mr. Angel Marquez; Field Representative
Ms. Stephanie Allen, Constituent Liaison
- Issues: Labor
Ms. Theresa Nevins, Staff Assistant

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Suite 3225; 333 Bush Street; San Francisco, CA 94104
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Mr. Daniel Chen; Deputy State Director
Mr. Roberto Arteaga, Constituent Liaison
- Issues: Education; Finance; Foreign; Tax
Ms. Emily Chaffin, Staff Assistant

Committees: Senate Budget
Senate Energy & Natural Resources
Senate Environment & Public Works
- Clean Air, Climate & Nuclear Safety
- Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife - Chairman
- Transportation & Infrastructure
Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs
- Investigations
- Government Operations & Border Management
Senate Judiciary
- Criminal Justice & Counterterrorism
- Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action & Federal Rights
- Immigration, Citizenship & Border Security - Chairman
- Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
- Privacy, Technology & the Law
Senate Rules & Administration

Caucuses: Joint California Congressional Delegation
Joint Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
Joint Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Joint Congressional HSI Caucus - Co-Chair
Joint Congressional Rare Disease Caucus
Senate Bipartisan Task for Combating Anti-Semitism
Senate Cultural Caucus
Senate Mental Health Caucus - Co-Chair

Biography: The proud son of immigrants from Mexico, Senator Alex Padilla believes in giving everyone a fair shot at the American dream. A progressive problem solver, Alex has dedicated his career to finding solutions to the toughest challenges and fighting for communities that are too often left out and left behind.

Alex Padilla is a lifelong Californian. He was born and raised in the proud, working class community of Pacoima, in the San Fernando Valley. Alex's parents immigrated to Los Angeles



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Biography: from different parts of Mexico in the 1960s. Once in California, they met, fell in love, and applied for green cards.

Alex's parents had little formal education, but they shared a strong work ethic and big dreams. For forty years, Alex's father worked as a short order cook in various Los Angeles diners. For the same forty years, his mom worked cleaning houses. They instilled in Alex, his sister, and his brother the importance of getting a good education as well as the value of service to others. As a result, Alex spent many weekends at community clean-ups and other neighborhood service projects.

Alex attended Los Angeles public schools and graduated from San Fernando High School. While his first love was baseball, he also excelled in math and science. With the encouragement of several teachers, he applied and was accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

After graduating from MIT, Alex returned home eager to begin his career. However, a rising tide of anti-immigrant sentiment in California at the time drew Alex towards politics. He knew he had to take a stand against cynical rhetoric demonizing people like his parents, friends, and neighbors. In 1994, Alex joined protests against California's Proposition 187, which sought to deny public benefits to immigrants. He went on to manage political campaigns for several legislative candidates and served as a field representative for Senator Dianne Feinstein.

In 1999, at the age of 26, Alex was elected to the Los Angeles City Council to represent the district where he grew up. In 2001, just two years later, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as President of the City Council—the youngest person in city history and the first Latino in over 100 years to hold the position. Alex served as acting Mayor of Los Angeles during the aftermath of 9/11, leading the city through a time of heightened security and tensions. As a council member, he worked to create economic opportunity zones in his district and reduce crime through improved community-police relations.

In 2006, Alex was elected to California's State Senate, where, over the course of two terms, he became known as one of California's most effective state legislators. A problem-solver with an ability to build consensus, Alex authored landmark bills requiring nutritional information on restaurant menus, streamlining the process for community college students seeking to transfer to four-year universities, phasing out single-use plastic bags, and mandating the deployment of the state's earthquake early warning system. For six years, he served as Chair of the State Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications, where he was instrumental in developing California's renewable energy and climate policies—among the most ambitious in the world—as well as expanding access to broadband and modernizing California's electrical grid.

In 2014, Alex was elected California Secretary of State, the first Latino in state history to serve in the office. As Secretary of State, he worked to make elections more accessible and inclusive while protecting the integrity of voting systems. Alex helped establish automatic and same-day voter registration, secured \$500 million to upgrade California's voting systems to meet higher security standards, and oversaw the implementation of the landmark Voter's Choice Act, which expanded mail-in and in-person early voting. Under Alex's leadership, the state reached a



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Biography: record high number of more than 22 million Californians registered to vote and the highest percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote in 80 years.

In January 2021, Alex was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy created by the election of Vice President Kamala Harris. He was sworn in on January 20, 2021 and is the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate.

Alex's top priority upon entering the U.S. Senate has been to address the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver equitable economic relief for working families and communities across California. Since being sworn in to office, Padilla has established himself as a champion of voting rights, climate action, and ensuring everyone has a fair shot at the American dream.

Alex is the first Latino to serve as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety. His first bill, the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act, seeks to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who served as government-recognized essential workers in key sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also a member of the Senate Committees on Budget; Environment and Public Works; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Judiciary; and Rules.

Alex lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife, Angela, and their three sons, Roman, Alex, and Diego.