

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: 22 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. Cecelia Sidley, Legislative Aide
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

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



BRIEFING REPORT

CREATED ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

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

Leadership Positions: Senate Assistant Majority Whip

Committees: Joint Fairs, Allocation & Classification
Senate Agriculture
Senate Governmental Organization - Chairman
Senate Housing
Senate Health
Senate Insurance
Senate Select CA-Mexico Cooperation & Dialogue - Chairman
Senate Select CA's Wine Industry
Senate Select Econ Dev & Tech Innovation
Senate Select Minority Economic Development
Senate Select Older LGBTQ+ Californians
Senate Select Social Determinants of Health

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,



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Biography: College of Law. He has been a published columnist writing on local, state, and national policy 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.