



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATOR SCOTT WIENER ENDORSES LENA GONZALEZ FOR STATE SENATE

Newly Elected Chair of the Legislative LGBT Caucus Endorses Gonzalez

LONG BEACH, CA - Long Beach City Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez announced today that she has received the endorsement of Legislative LGBT Caucus Chair, California State Senator Scott Wiener, in her race to fill the 33rd State Senatorial District seat vacated by Ricardo Lara who was inaugurated last week as California's Insurance Commissioner.

Wiener issued the following statement in endorsing Gonzalez:

"Lena Gonzalez will be a great addition to the California State Senate. As a member of the Long Beach City Council, Lena has led the way to streamline the processes for approval of new housing. As a result, Lena's councilmanic district has three thousand units already entitled and ready to be built. She's led the fight to add more green space and parks in the city's most under-served communities through her Park Equity Program. She is exactly the kind of person we need in the California State Senate and I look forward to calling her my colleague."

Elected in November 2016, Wiener represents District 11 in the California State Senate. In the Senate, Wiener works to make housing more affordable, invest in our transportation systems, increase access to healthcare, support working families, meaningfully address climate change and the impacts of drought, reform our criminal justice system, reduce gun violence, reduce California's alarmingly high poverty rate, and safeguard and expand the rights of all communities, including immigrants and the LGBT community.



During his term in the Senate to date, Wiener has passed 26 bills that were signed into law. Among those bills are SB 35, a landmark bill to streamline housing approvals in cities not meeting their housing goals; SB 822, which enacts the strongest net neutrality protections in the nation; SB 1045, which expands and strengthens California's conservatorship laws to help individuals who are living on our streets with severe mental health and substance use disorders; SB 700, which significantly expands access to renewable energy; and SB 923, which modernizes California's eyewitness identification standards to ensure innocent people are not sent to prison.

"Senator Wiener has been an advocate for creating more housing in California," said Gonzalez. "Homelessness and skyrocketing rents are a direct result of California's housing shortage. Additionally, as the new Chair of the legislature's LGBT Caucus, his endorsement is extra special for me. I have always prided myself in being the biggest ally possible for the LGBT community. I thank the Senator for his endorsement and look forward to working with him as a member of the State Senate."

Wiener joins the following in endorsing Gonzalez for State Senate:

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara
Congressman Alan Lowenthal
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn
Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach Councilmember Jeannine Pearce
Long Beach Councilmember Rex Richardson
Long Beach Councilmember Roberto Uranga
Huntington Park Vice Mayor Karina Macias
Huntington Park Councilmember Graciela Ortiz
Huntington Park Councilmember Marilyn Sanabria
Huntington Park Councilmember Manny Avila
Paramount Mayor Diane J. Martinez
LBCCD Board President Sunny Zia
LBCCD Board Vice President Vivian Malauulu
LBCCD Trustee Uduak-Joe Ntuk

A date for the special election has not yet been set. Governor Gavin Newsom has until January 21, 2019 to call for a special election.

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Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez has served on the Long Beach City Council since 2014 representing Downtown Long Beach and surrounding communities. She has served as the Vice Chair of the city's State Legislative committee for the past five years, and chairs the Harbor and Tidelands Committee.

Councilwoman Gonzalez lives in Downtown Long Beach with her husband Adam and their three sons. She graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Cal State Long Beach and an MBA from Loyola Marymount University. She currently is employed with Microsoft, focused on issues around digital inclusion and tech equity.

The 33rd District includes the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, portions of the City of Los Angeles and the unincorporated communities of Florence and Walnut Park.

Paid for by Lena Gonzalez for State Senate 2018
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