

About Loretta

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Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez represents the California 47th Congressional District of California, which encompasses the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and some of Fullerton in Orange County. She began her congressional career in November 1996, and is serving her seventh term in the House of Representatives.

Loretta is known for two things: accessibility and collaboration. Those traits have served her well, both in Washington and in Orange County.

She travels to her home district from Washington each week to do work in the community and meet with constituents. Loretta has focused much of her time on issues such as education, public safety & crime reduction, economic development, and protections for our senior citizens. Born and raised in the district she serves, she is acutely aware of the issues facing her constituency.

Since entering Congress in 1996, Loretta Sanchez has brought millions of dollars in federal funding back home to Orange County for local projects including: transportation improvements, crime prevention, community centers, flood prevention, environmental preservation and much more. She has worked hard to improve the infrastructure and quality of life for this fast-growing suburban county through various transportation, education, environmental, and crime reduction projects.

She has hosted hundreds of community events for her constituency. She has personally visited every school in her district, often with dignitaries such as former Vice President Al Gore, cabinet secretaries, astronauts and other Members of Congress. She regularly hosts "Community Office Hours," a grassroots approach to generating community interest in and accessibility to their Congressional representative.

Loretta is a businesswoman. Prior to her work in Congress, she was a financial manager at the Orange County Transportation Authority. She was an assistant vice president at Fieldman, Rollap and Associates, specializing in advising clients of the firm in the area of municipal finance—a skill that serves her well in her role as Congresswoman. Loretta was an associate at Booz, Allen and Hamilton, putting financial plans together for municipalities as well as private companies. She eventually started her own consulting business in Santa Ana, assisting public agencies and private firms with financial matters, including cost-benefit analysis, strategic planning and capital acquisition. She received industry recognition when the State of California selected her to independently review the financial status of Orange County's first toll road to save about \$300 million in financing costs.

Loretta attended Chapman University, in Orange, California, where she was selected in January 2002 to serve as the university's first Latina member of the Board of Trustees. She received her bachelor's degree in economics in 1982 (voted "Business Student of the Year"), and then entered American University in Washington, D.C. to obtain her master's in business administration with an emphasis on finance, which she received in 1984. During the second year of her MBA program at American, Loretta spent a year in Rome, Italy, attending European Community's Market Management School.

Congresswoman Sanchez is the ranking woman of the House Armed Services Committee and sits on the Oversight and Investigations, Strategic Forces, and Military Personnel Subcommittees. She has fought for pay raises, improved healthcare and a myriad of benefits for military families including: educational benefits; quality child care; military housing and support services.

Her seat on this panel helps bring jobs to Orange County's growing high-tech industrial base. Loretta was instrumental in requiring the Department of Defense to include the City of Palmdale, California when it investigates cost alternatives for Joint Strike Fighter production. She has served on the Terrorism Panel of this Committee, where she joined other Members to investigate intelligence progress and terrorist threats to the United States.

Congresswoman Sanchez was selected by Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve as Vice Chair of the full Homeland Security Committee, and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism where she works to improve the nation's homeland security policy by strengthening and allocating federal funding to protect against potential terrorist plots. The Committee provides oversight to the Department of Homeland Security to assure it is working effectively and quickly. The Committee has legislative jurisdiction over matters relating to the Homeland Security Act and plays a central role in fighting the war on terrorism. She is also a member of the Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response Subcommittee.

While serving on the Homeland Security Committee, Congresswoman Sanchez took a leave of absence from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which oversees education and labor issues. During her tenure on the Committee, she has protected parental involvement initiatives and successfully saved national gender equity in education program. She spearheaded efforts to promote school safety, including the well-being of children walking and bicycling to and from local schools in Orange County. She is also the author of legislation to facilitate tax-free bonds to encourage school construction across the country.

Congresswoman Sanchez is a member of the Blue Dog Democrats, the New Democratic Coalition, the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. She also is a member of the Women's Congressional Caucus, the Older Americans Caucus, the Law Enforcement Caucus, and the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus. She serves on various boards. She is past president of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, a member of the Los Amigos of Orange County, the Rotary Club of Anaheim, and the Anaheim Assistance League.