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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**STEPHEN C. PADILLA**  
EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



## COMMITTEES

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON  
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BUDGET  
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HOUSING  
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## SB 388 - California Latino Commission

One in every four Latino Americans in the country lives in California, and within the state, Latinos make up 40% of the population. Research shows Latinos are facing widespread challenges in California across key issue areas including education, housing, health, and economic mobility. In a study conducted by the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute, Latinos were found to have lower levels of educational attainment compared to the state and national averages<sup>1</sup>. Seventeen percent of California Latino families live below the poverty line, which is 4% higher than the state average, and more than half of California's workers who are at high risk of being impacted by automation are Latino<sup>2</sup>. Addressing these systemic issues requires the development of a cohesive 21<sup>st</sup> century agenda for Latino social mobility and economic development.

SB 388 seeks to establish the California Latino Commission to serve as a powerful tool for policy change, research, and advocacy that improves the economic well-being and social mobility of Latinos across the state. This proposal mirrors existing commissions such as the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islanders. The California Latino Commission is tasked with making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, developing initiatives, and monitoring progress in tackling disparities facing Latinos. Importantly, it will empower subject matter experts who will have a direct role in shaping the Commission's agenda. The Latino community is not a monolith. The issues Latinos in California face vary across the state, some with more urban challenges to those more commonly found in only the most rural areas. The Latino Commission will act as a focal point for experts to address this community's diverse needs across the state through its ability to conduct research, develop strategies, and outline recommendations across key issues.

The Commission will consist of nine members – three by the Governor, three by the assembly, and three by the Senate. The individuals appointed must demonstrate expertise in the areas where Latinos are facing disparities such as housing, education, STEM, labor rights, public health, and workforce opportunities. As the fifth largest economy in the world, California has a responsibility to ensure the state's largest ethnic minority shares in that prosperity. Establishing the California Latino Commission in SB 388 is a critical step in addressing the needs of Latinos.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/15-facts-latinos-california/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/latino-automation-ca/>

## Support

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- Alianza Coachella Valley
- California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
- California Human Development
- Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC)
- Center for Employment and Training
- First Day Foundation
- Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)
- Imperial Valley Equity and Justice
- Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
- La Cooperativa Campesina de California
- Latino Education Advancement Foundation
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
- Proteus, Inc
- Unidos US
- University of California (UC)