

DISCUSSION WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER SUSAN BONILLA

May 7-8, 2012

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Presentation: Assemblymember Susan Bonilla
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2, Education Finance

Item 4.7

Issue

Assemblymember Susan Bonilla chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance. She has been a strong and fair supporter of California Community College issues in the state budget process. Assemblymember Bonilla will be discussing with the Board of Governors the current challenges in the State Budget and what community college stakeholders can do to advocate most effectively for the California Community Colleges in the 2012-13 State Budget.

Background

Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla was elected in November 2010 and represents California's 11th Assembly District, which is primarily comprised of the northern portion of Contra Costa County.

Assemblywoman Bonilla previously served on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, representing the County's 4th District of Concord, Clayton, Pleasant Hill and portions of Walnut Creek. She was elected to the Board in 2006, previously serving on the Concord City Council and as Mayor. Prior to serving as a public official, Bonilla worked as a high school English teacher in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

As a member of Contra Costa County's Board of Supervisors, Bonilla created the Foster Youth Employment Program, providing youth in the county foster system job opportunities within the county structure. She also developed partnerships to open the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity to provide job training directly to residents within the Monument Corridor of Concord. Additionally, Bonilla advocated for government partnerships with non-profit agencies and local businesses, creating a new and innovative public/private partnership that provides grants to non-profits to deliver services to our community resulting in taxpayer savings and tangible benefits to the local economy.

As a former teacher, Bonilla is dedicated to improving California's public education system. While on the Concord City Council, she initiated the Literacy Coalition, a network of literacy providers dedicated to raising the awareness of literacy needs and mobilizing volunteers to meet those needs. In the Assembly, Bonilla is focused on improving our educational system, fostering economic development and job creation, improving access to health care, and rebuilding California's transportation system.

Bonilla earned her B.A. in English from Azusa Pacific University in 1982 and her teaching credential from CSU Los Angeles in 1987. Assemblywoman Bonilla and her husband, John, reside in Concord. They have four daughters and two grandchildren.

Staff: Marlene L. Garcia, Vice Chancellor of Government Relations