



## Senator María Elena Durazo

*District 26 - Democrat*

**Counties Represented:**  
Portions of Los Angeles  
county (Vernon, and portions  
of the city of Los Angeles)

### About María Elena Durazo:

María Elena was born the seventh child in a family of eleven children to migrant worker parents. Growing up, María Elena traveled with her family, following the crops throughout California and Oregon, and experiencing the exploitative conditions and hardships that migrant laborers suffer. In spite of these obstacles, María Elena attended St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, and graduated in 1975. In college she became involved in the Chicano Movement. Then she entered the labor movement as an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (later called UNITE, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees). While working as a union organizer, she pursued an education in law at the People's College of Law and earned her degree in 1985. By 1987, María Elena was ready to lead a drive by the rank and file of HERE Local 11 to make the union more responsive to its majority-Latino membership. The organizing drive successfully instituted a shop steward system that educated the rank and file on their rights, workers were now able to participate in negotiating their union contracts and all meetings and publications were from then on bilingual. María Elena was married to the late union leader Miguel Contreras, who served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor from 1996 until his untimely death on May 6, 2005. She has two children with Miguel Contreras, Mario and Michael Contreras.

## Member Priorities & District Issues

### Member Priorities

- Labor Rights

### Committee Membership

#### Standing Committees

- Chair, Elections
- Budget and Fiscal Review  
Committee

### Legislation

- SB 354 - California Dream Loan  
Program

### Legislative Contact Information | <https://sd26.senate.ca.gov/>

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