



BIOGRAPHY

Warren Furutani was re-elected to the 55th Assembly District in 2010 for his second two-year term representing the cities of Carson, Lakewood, (North and West) Long Beach, and the Los Angeles communities of Harbor City, Harbor Gateway and Wilmington.

With over 40 years of experience in education and public service, Warren has always been a staunch advocate for equal opportunity especially as it relates to education.

Beginning as a civil rights activist in the 1960s, Warren worked tirelessly to establish admissions programs for students of color at universities throughout the United States. He helped many campuses establish ethnic studies programs and was instrumental in UCLA and Long Beach State University adopting an Asian American Studies program.

In 1969, Warren was one of the founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage, an annual event to honor the 110,000 Japanese American men, women and children who were forced to leave their homes and incarcerated during World War II.

In 1987 Warren was the first Asian Pacific Islander American to ever be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education – the largest school district in California. In 1999 Warren was elected to the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees – the largest community college district in the country.

In the California State Legislature, Warren was appointed Chair of the Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee where he is fighting to protect pensions. He is Chair of the Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Workforce Development where he is working on preparing students with the training they need for 21st century jobs. He is also chair of the Asian Pacific Islander American Legislative Caucus, and serves on the following standing committees: Utilities and Commerce, Transportation and Labor.

In 2008, he authored Assembly Bill 37, which granted honorary college degrees to Japanese Americans whose education was disrupted due to their wrongful incarceration during World War II. He also successfully advocated for State resources to help rebuild the Gerald Desmond Bridge in the Port of Long Beach, which is expected to generate 4,000 jobs for at least five years in the community.

Born in San Pedro and raised in Gardena, Warren is fourth-generation Japanese American. He is a product of the Los Angeles public education system. He graduated from Gardena High School and Antioch University with a liberal arts degree. He is married to Lisa Abe Furutani and is the proud parent of two grown sons.

Warren Furutani's Strong Record of Standing with Labor Unions

(partial list of examples)

- Warren has a 96% California Labor Federation lifetime voting record in the Assembly.
- As the current Chair of the Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee, Warren has defended the State's public employee unions against the attacks from the "political right" to abolish or privatize pensions and eliminate collective bargaining.
- As Chair of the Assembly's Budget Sub 4 Committee, Warren "killed" the Republican effort to re-calculate the prevailing wage formula in the Central Valley and revived a 20-year old lawsuit the United Farm Workers had won but was swept under the rug by ARLB staff.
- In 2009, he was one of three Assembly members to answer Labor's call to vote against the budget. The California Labor Federation and SEIU awarded him "Labor Warrior" for his efforts. He lost his position as Chair of the Elections Committee because of his vote.
- Warren successfully advocated for State resources to rebuild the Gerald Desmond Bridge in the Port of Long Beach, which is expected to generate 4,000 union jobs for five years.
- Warren led both campaigns to pass the billions of dollars of community college bonds and the establishment of a precedent-setting Project Labor Agreement (PLA) guaranteeing that bond monies will be used to hire union labor and develop good union jobs locally.
- Warren is a co-founder of the LACCD Dolores Huerta Labor Studies Center. He has supported workers on countless picket lines, and was arrested in 2007 while protesting with LAX-area hotel workers in Los Angeles.
- Warren served as one of the official spokespersons against Propositions 74, 75, 76 and 77 and the UFCW Supermarket Strike in 2003-04.
- As a Los Angeles Community College Board Trustee, Warren was a proponent and advocate for a prevailing wage on all LACCD Projects. He was the only Board member to oppose SEIU Local 99 janitor's shift change.
- Warren worked with SEIU Local 660's organizing effort of workers at Pacific Clinics, and joined the picket lines for Justice for Janitors. He was an associate member of SEIU Local 1000 and was an SEIU Union Delegate at the 2004 Boston Democratic National Convention.
- Early in his career, Warren worked with and learned from Filipino farm worker organizers Larry Itliong and Phillip Vera Cruz. His family members helped build Agabayani Village in Delano for retired Manongs, elderly Filipino Farmworkers. He studied labor history and was active in the UFW Grape and Lettuce Boycott in Los Angeles. In the 1980's, he organized AFSCME, Local 1000 chapter at Resthaven Mental Health Center.
- Warren has received the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's COPE endorsement the two times he ran for the LAUSD School Board, the three times he ran for the Los Angeles Community College Board and every time he has run for the California State Assembly.

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Warren Furutani

LA★CITY★COUNCIL

Endorsements

(partial list)

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz
Congresswoman Karen Bass
Congresswoman Judy Chu
Congresswoman Laura Richardson
Congresswoman Maxine Waters
State Controller John Chiang
Chair, California State Board of Equalization, Jerome Horton
Speaker of the Assembly, John Perez
Assemblymember Gil Cedillo
Assemblymember Isadore Hall
Assemblymember Ricardo Lara
Assemblymember Holly Mitchell
Former Lieutenant Governor Mervyn Dymally

Community Leaders

Danny Bakewell, Publisher, Los Angeles Sentinel*
Charisse Bremond, Brotherhood Crusade*
Connie Calderon, Founder, Wilmington Teen Center*
Ray Cordova, Chair, South County Labor AFL-CIO*
“Sweet” Alice Harris, Executive Director, Parents of Watts*
Ray Madrigal, Executive Director, Harbor Community Development Corp.*
John Stinson, Board Member, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council*
Jane Tokubo, Board Member, Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council*

**Titles used for identification purposes only*

Labor Organizations

AFT Faculty Guild Local 1521
AFT Staff Guild Local 1521
CAPE Los Angeles
Laborers Local 507
Operating Engineers Local 12
TCU Local 1315
Teamsters Joint Council 42
United Industrial Workers SIU
United Steelworkers Local 675

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**Why Warren Furutani is the Strongest Candidate
in the 15th Los Angeles Council District Race**

- Recent polling shows Warren with a strong lead over other potential candidates. He leads former Republican City Councilmember Rudy Svornich by 3 points and Pat McOsker by 8 points.
- Warren currently represents 30% of the 15th Council District in the State Assembly - the communities of Wilmington, Harbor City and Harbor Gateway.
- Warren's name has appeared on the ballot in the 15th Council District **six times**, and portions of the district **eight times**.
- Warren represented San Pedro and the 15th Council District while a member of the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education (1987-1995) and the Los Angeles Community College Board (1999-2007)
- If elected, Warren would be only the second Asian Pacific Islander to serve on the city council after Michael Woo (1985-1993), and the first Japanese-American.
- Warren is a proven fundraiser who raised \$650,000 for his election in 2007. His donor base includes over 1,000 individuals.
- Warren is the only candidate with strong endorsements including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Laura Richardson and Judy Chu, and Speaker of the Assembly John Perez.
- Winning campaign team includes consultant Parke Skelton, SG&A Campaigns.