

Senator Deborah Ortiz

California State Senator

State Policy Champion

Deborah Ortiz (D, CA) was elected to the 6th State Senate District in November 1998. During her time in the Senate, Senator Ortiz has worked toward improving the health of California families, including authoring the nationally recognized law protecting stem cell research and spearheading efforts to prevent the sale of soda in grade schools as part of her work in childhood obesity prevention. Senator Ortiz continues to be a strong advocate for public health, writing legislation directing millions of dollars into ovarian, breast and prostate cancer research and awareness programs.

First elected to the Assembly in November 1996, Ortiz championed legislation to give state workers a long-overdue pay raise; create statewide after-school learning programs for a half million at-risk students; and raise millions of dollars for cancer research. Her cancer research bill marked the first time state funds will be used towards a gender-based cancer research and an awareness program.

A past member of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Ortiz is deeply involved in shaping public education reforms. One of her main priorities is improving the situation for low-performing schools. She continues to lead the effort for statewide universal pre-kindergarten programs, as well as expansion of successful after-school programs. She has authored legislation to provide emancipated foster youth the training and employment they need to successfully transition into independent living.

Senator Ortiz' background is in local government. She served on the Sacramento City Council where her work focused on making neighborhoods safer. She authored the Sacramento ordinance prohibiting the sale of firearms in neighborhoods and requiring gun dealers to register with City Police.

Born and raised in Sacramento, Senator Ortiz attended the University of California at Davis and graduated from McGeorge School of the Law.