

About Tom Torlakson

Senator, 7th District, California



Senator Tom Torlakson represents California's 7th Senate District, which includes most of Contra Costa County.

Tom is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and he is a member of the Education Committee and the Transportation and Housing Committee. Tom also is the Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Schools and Community.

Tom previously was Chair of the Senate's Majority Caucus, and Chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee and Senate Local Government Committee.

An avid runner, bicyclist, and triathlete, Tom is the Chair and Founder of the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness, a group seeking to raise the profile of health and fitness in the public schools and in the workplace.

Tom's career in public service began as a science teacher in 1972. He was elected to the Antioch City Council in 1978, and then served on the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors for 16 years. Tom was elected to the California's 11th Assembly District in 1996 and 1998. Tom was elected to the State Senate in 2000 and was reelected without opposition in 2004.

Tom was born in San Francisco in 1949. He served in the Merchant Marine during the Vietnam War. He earned a B.A. in History in 1971, a Life Secondary Teaching Credential, and an M.A. in Education in 1977 from UC-Berkeley. Tom has two adult daughters, Tiffany Margulici and Tamara Torlakson.