



Sen. Richard Polanco (Ret.)

Former California Senate Majority Leader
Founder & Chairman Latino Legislative Caucus

As the former Senate Majority Leader and Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, he promoted and has often been quoted as saying "*The Latino Agenda is an American Agenda. Good jobs, descent housing, safe neighborhoods, access to health care and Equal Opportunity in Education*".

First elected in 1986, Richard Polanco served sixteen years in the California Legislature. In 1994 he was elected to the State Senate *and served as Senate Majority Leader from 1998 to his retirement in 2002*. Senator Polanco is perhaps best known for his work with the Latino Legislative Caucus, which he chaired from 1990 until 2002. **Under his leadership, Senator Polanco led efforts to increase the statewide number of Democratic Legislators from seven Latino members to 24.** This contributed greatly to the first Latino Speaker of the Assembly.

Senator Polanco fought tirelessly on behalf of *underserved communities* throughout the State of California. He has spent a lifetime advocating for low income communities and authored significant legislation creating policy in the areas of: MWBE certification; *Congregate Living Facilities for HIV Populations*; Accessibility Emergency Services Information for the *Hearing Impaired*; Money Transfers Act; Universal Access/Telecom & Life Line Communication Service; Polanco Redevelopment Act; Homeless Tax Exemption; *Possession of Child Pornography Crime/Act*; ***Migrant Worker Vehicles Safety Act***; Pharmacy Technician Act; Small Business Innovation Research Program; the California Procurement Act; ***Water Desalination Facilities***; California Business Preference Bond Act; California Aerospace and Advanced Transportation Supplier Program; *California Arts License Plates*; Mental Health Managed Care Plans; Loan Export Finance Guarantee Program; ***Farm worker Housing Attorney Fees Act***; Small Business Surety Bond and Loan. Motor Voter Act; ***Indian Gaming Compacts (1995-96)***; Community Colleges Economic Development Program; ***California Indian Education Centers Act***; *Breast Cancer License Plate Act*; Community College –California /Mexican International Trade Centers; ***Cesar Chavez Community Service Holiday***; and ***The California Voting Rights Act***.

In October 2002, Senator Polanco established the California Latino Caucus Institute for Public Policy, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. The Institute was created as a non-partisan effort by the California Latino Legislative Caucus to serve as a broad-based public policy, educational and leadership development organization.

The Institute's Mission is Leadership development and training. The Institute was created to fill a pressing need in our society for enlightened leadership and positive social, political, and economic transformation. The Institute supports innovative leadership programs to enhance the quality of life for all Californians. The Institute created and funded three primer programs:

The Richard G. Polanco Fellows Alumni Scholarship Program: Since 2004, the CLCI has presented the Richard G. Polanco Public Policy Fellowship Program, a yearlong, world-class leadership building experience for high quality candidates. The program has graduated 42 Fellows who are provided the opportunity of one-year stipend working in Sacramento for a Member of the California State Senate or Assembly. In addition to their Fellow responsibilities they are committed as a class to complete a community service project with a non-profit located in the Sacramento community.

The Chrysler/CLCI Elected Officials Academy: Is a two-day Academy designed to train *newly elected officials* at the municipal and county levels in the administrative aspects of governance; this is one of the CLCI's signature programs and it is not exclusively for Latino and non-Latino elected officials of both political parties.

The CLCI Madrinas Padrinos Leadership Program: Based in Southern California this program supports young professionals in their careers and helps develop a new generation of public policy activists. Prior to elected office, Polanco served on the staff of Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, Assemblyman Richard Alatorre, and Governor Jerry Brown.

Senator Polanco began his career in public service through his involvement in student government, the Junior Optimist Club, and other youth organizations. He founded the “*East Side Association*” which enabled more than 500 youths to compete in sports while emphasizing academic and learning skills.

Polanco later helped to establish the “*Arroyo Vista Family Health Center*” in Highland Park, which offers health care with fees based on the patient's ability to pay and served as the Executive Director to *The Maravilla Neighborhood Project Area Committee* (\$24m Community Redevelopment East LA) and *Maravilla Public Housing Projects* (Organizer) and *Casa Maravilla Youth Center* (Gang Counselor).

Senator Polanco is ***Managing Director of Tres Es Inc.***, a boutique government affairs and lobbying firm that will surpass client expectations. Clients include public government and private entities such as the ***Southern California Metropolitan Water District, South Coast AQMD, and Southern Water Replenishment District; City of Coachella, City of Delano, City of Baldwin Park;*** they included private sector energy companies such as ***Southern California Edison, El Paso Natural Gas, Wyoming Power Company & TransWest Transmission,*** and ***Petra Solar*** (Solar panels on City street light pole); ***California Public Utility Commission Low Income Oversight Board Member*** (\$200m Ratepayer Fund).

Sentaor Polanco also has served for six years as ***Board of Director California Delta Dental Plan*** (largest Dentist insure in the US); ***Former Director of Meruelo Maddux*** (a large landowner in Los Angeles); ***Advisor to Sylvatex*** (Low Carbon Diesel Alternative) and E-85 Flex Fuel (Renewable fuel); ***Advisor to Rypos*** (Diesel Particulate Truck Filter); ***Advisor to Billboard Bulletin Displays;*** ***Founder of Coachella Grow; High Hampton*** (Past Director Cannabis Public Company); ***US Cannabis Research and Development Laboratories*** (Principal); ***The California Emerging Technology Fund*** (Non Profit Close Digital Divide); ***Advisor to T Mobile/Sprint Merger;*** ***Principal of University of Moldova US Inc.*** He also was ***Advisor to SEA “Soledad Enrichment Action” Charter Schools*** (High Risk Alternative School) and ***EdVoice*** (Education Reform).

Senator Richard Garcia Polanco (ret.) son of Maria and Lorenzo Polanco was born and raised in East Los Angeles. He graduated from James A. Garfield High School and East Los Angeles College where he would go on to attend both the University of Redlands and the Universidad de Mexico, where he majored in Business Administration. Senator Polanco lives in Los Angeles with his wife Olivia where he still continues to serve his community and his people.