



Brief Biography

Background

Grace Flores Napolitano was born in Brownsville, Texas. After high school, she married and moved with her husband to California where they raised 5 children.

Napolitano began her political career as a member of the Norwalk City Council, winning her first election in 1986. In 1989, Napolitano's fellow council members selected her to serve as Mayor. During her council tenure, she addressed the city's need for jobs and reliable public transportation.

Following her retirement from the Ford Motor Company in 1992, Napolitano was elected to the California Assembly, where she established herself as a leader in international trade, environmental protection, transportation and immigration. She quickly earned a reputation as a hard worker and a champion for small businesses, women, and economic expansion.

In Congress

First elected to Congress in 1998, Rep. Napolitano is currently serving her eighth term. Her Los Angeles County-based district covers several cities and communities in the San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles County areas.

Napolitano has been a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources since the 106th Congress, and is currently the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Water and Power. She has been a long-time promoter of conservation, water recycling, desalination, and groundwater management as solutions to Southern California's water needs. She is also a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she has advanced projects and policies that relieve congestion, improve transit, and reduce the negative impacts her district takes on as a primary shipping corridor from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Along with Representative Tim Murphy (R-PA), Napolitano co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional Mental Health Caucus, where she promotes access to mental health for children and adolescents, improved mental health resources for veterans, and increased mental health coverage by insurance providers. The Congresswoman is also a member and former Chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which addresses the impact of national issues on the Hispanic community.