



BIOGRAPHY

Since Pedro's election to the State Assembly in 2004, he has shown a strong commitment to public safety, emergency preparedness and protecting the environment. Whether he's fighting to advance the rights of sexual assault victims, punish animal abusers or help police officers and fire fighters protect our communities, you can count on Pedro. He is the only Attorney General candidate with a 100% Cope labor voting record. He has a 100% record with Equality California and has been named Legislator of the year by many organizations including CalPIRG and the American Red Cross.

The week Pedro started in the Capitol, the Ventura County La Conchita tragedy cost 10 people their lives and buried 30 homes under a tsunami of mud. He became responsible for coordinating emergency response and recovery legislation in the State Assembly. He is currently the Vice-Chair of the Joint Senate/Assembly Committee on Emergency Management, and during his 5 years on the committee he worked to merge two departments -- the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security -- into one, CalEMA (the California Emergency Management Agency).

As a Deputy District Attorney in Fresno, he headed the Targeted Narcotics Prosecution/Asset Seizure program, served on the Rape Crisis Center board of directors and was the first non-peace officer named "Peace Officer of the Year" by the Latino Peace Officers Association. As a lawmaker, he has authored bills to protect victims' personal information from sexual violent predators and give prosecutors the tools to keep these criminals off our streets. Recently, Pedro was honored for these efforts by an appointment to a seat on the Domestic Violence Program Advisory Council.

He is well known in the environmental community, having earned one of the highest environmental protection voting records while serving for 8 years on the California Coastal Commission. Since his election, he has introduced important legislation to protect the environment. Some of the highlights include a bill banning the use of lead in areas frequented by the endangered California Condor, the establishment of a comprehensive oil spill prevention program, and legislation to protect watersheds.

Before becoming a prosecutor, Pedro worked with community colleges, private vocational tech educators, the private sector, community based organizations and local government, helping the unemployed find jobs.

Born in 1948, and living in Santa Barbara, Pedro grew up and attended public schools in Southern California. He is a strong supporter of public education. He studied at San Bernardino Valley College, graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, and obtained his law degree from the University of California, Davis' Martin Luther King Jr. School of Law.

Pedro has a long history of community involvement, having been President of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law, and the Santa Barbara Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and serving as a Board Member of Santa Barbara Women Lawyers, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the Santa Barbara Jewish-Latino Roundtable and as an Honorary Board Member of the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center. Pedro was also a recipient of the first Women's Economic Ventures "Man of Equality" award.