



# BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## The U.S. – Mexico Border Region Presents: California



California, nicknamed the Golden State, is known for its 1,100-mile-long coastline, national parks, redwood trees, the Hollywood entertainment industry, and is often cited as a laboratory for testing new policy ideas. The heartland of California is the Central Valley, which runs for 450 miles and is the state's agricultural center. Formerly known as the grizzly bear state, it is the most biologically diverse state in the United States, with more than 40,000 plant and animal species.<sup>1</sup> In

2016, California's population reached over 39 million. To put this in perspective, one out of every eight Americans is from California.<sup>2</sup>

### California Economy

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), in 2016 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in California reached \$2,637,868,000,000 which was 14.2% of total U.S. GDP and continues to be ranked as the largest state economy in the nation.<sup>3</sup> Regarding trade, since 2014, Mexico, Canada, China and Japan have been California's biggest trading partners in international import and export.<sup>4</sup>

### California – Mexico Border

California shares six land ports of entry throughout its border with Baja California. This includes Tijuana, Baja California with San Diego, California; Tijuana, Baja California with Otay Mesa, California; Tecate, Baja California with Tecate, California; Mexicali, Baja California with Calexico, California; Mexicali, Baja California with Calexico, California (Eastern border checkpoint); and Los Algodones, Baja California with Andrade, California. San Ysidro, which connects San Diego and the neighboring Mexican city of Tijuana, is often cited as the world's busiest land border crossing. In 2017, it was estimated that more than 32 million people crossed from Mexico into the United States at San Ysidro, averaging over 87,000 per day.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/place/California-state>

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from the Council of State Governments *The Book of the States*, 2017

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2018-02/qgsp1117.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/ca.html>

<sup>5</sup> Retrieved from the Council of Foreign Affairs at <https://www.cfr.org/quiz/see-how-much-you-know-about-mexico>



# BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

Based at UC San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), the Center for U.S. – Mexican Studies is a policy research institute that has been operating since 1979. The centers' research topics include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), cross border, migration, and *Mexico and the United States: The Politics of Partnership*. For more information, visit [HERE](#).

## California Legislature

The California State Legislature is a bicameral body with 40 members in the State Senate and 80 members in the State Assembly. As a result from the November 2018 election, Democrats hold the majority in the Senate comprising 73% while Republicans comprise 27%. Of these, 68% are men and 32% women. Each Senator represents an average 931,349 residents, based on the 2010 Census. Senators serve four-year terms, limiting them to three terms, or 12 total years of service. Similarly, Democrats hold the majority in the Assembly with 75% and Republicans comprise 25%. Of these, 71% are men and 29% women. Each Assemblymember represents an average of 465,674 residents, based on the 2010 Census. Assemblymembers serve two-year terms, limiting them to six terms, or 12 total years of service.<sup>6</sup> Legislators elected in or after 2012 can serve any combination of four-year Senate or two-year Assembly terms up to a cumulative total of 12 years.

California's legislature is unique in that it has been full-time since 1966. In 2019, the Legislature will be in session from January 7, 2019, through September 12, 2019.<sup>7</sup> California has the distinction of having the longest scheduled session of any state legislature in the country. Currently, the Senate has 20 standing committees<sup>8</sup>, the Assembly has 32 standing committees<sup>9</sup>, and 4 joint committees that includes the Legislative Budget Committee, which oversees the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). The LAO provides detailed information and analysis of the state budget throughout the legislative process and has provided fiscal and policy advice to the Legislature for 75 years.<sup>10</sup>

Along the California - Mexico border, there is one Senate district and four assembly districts. Senator Ben Hueso represents district 40. Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia represents district 56. Assemblyman Randy Voepel represents district 71. Assemblymember Todd Gloria represents district 78. Lastly, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez represents district 80.<sup>11</sup>

## Up Next: Chihuahua

<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from [https://ballotpedia.org/California\\_State\\_Legislature](https://ballotpedia.org/California_State_Legislature)

<sup>7</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/products/state-net/ctr/state-legislative-session-calendar.page>

<sup>8</sup> <https://sd39.senate.ca.gov/news/20181221-senate-leader-atkins-announces-committee-assignments-2019-2020-legislative-session>

<sup>9</sup> Retrieved from <https://speaker.asmdc.org/press-releases/speaker-rendon-announces-assembly-leadership-and-committee-assignments>

<sup>10</sup> Retrieved from <https://lao.ca.gov/>

<sup>11</sup> Retrieved from [http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators\\_and\\_districts/legislators/your\\_legislator.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html)



# BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

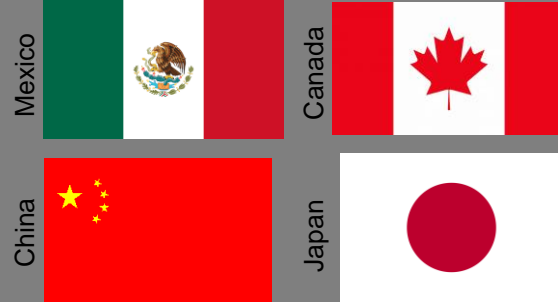
## United States- Mexico Border Region Infographic: California

### California Demographics 2016



Capital City: Sacramento  
Population: **39,250,017**  
Nickname: Golden State

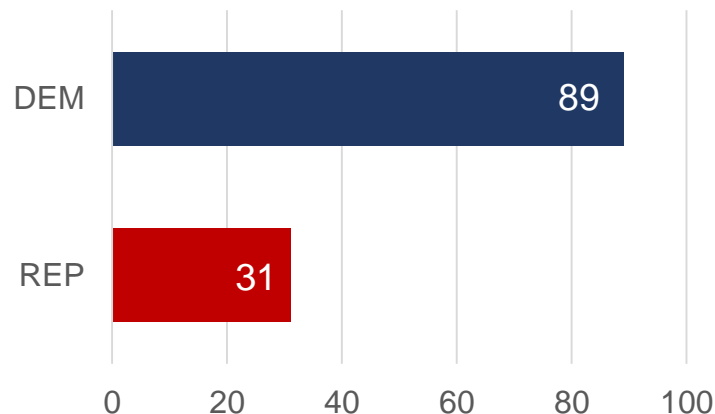
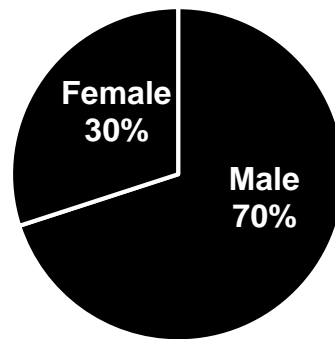
The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the state reached **\$2,637,868,000,000** which was **14.2%** of U.S. GDP



California's top international trading partners since 2014

### California State Legislative Demographics *Projected 2019-20 Legislative Session*

**120**  
Legislators



### California – Mexico Border State Legislative Districts 2019

**Senate District**  
Senator Ben Hueso, 40

### Assembly Districts



Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56  
Assemblyman Randy Voepel, 71  
Assemblymember Todd Gloria, 78  
Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, 80

The following resources were used:

- <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2018-02/qgsp1117.pdf>
- <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/ca.html>
- [http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators\\_and\\_districts/districts/](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/districts/)

Published January 2018