

# **Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy**

## **2011-12 Committee Member Biographies**

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### **Chairman V. Manuel Pérez, representing the 80<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Being the oldest son in a farm worker family, V. Manuel Pérez knows what it is to be an advocate. Manuel spent much of his early childhood working along side his parents in the blistering desert sun of Imperial County and the Eastern Coachella Valley. At an early age, V. Manuel Pérez was taught the value of hard work, humility, the significance of a good education, and the importance of speaking on behalf of voices struggling to be heard. Manuel's family settled in Coachella, California, where they raised Manuel, his younger brother Gabriel, and his little sister Corina.

He graduated from Coachella Valley High School and went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from the UC, Riverside in Chicano Studies and Political Science. He returned home and became a teacher where he taught English and History for 5 years. Witnessing first hand the power of education upon our youth, Manuel furthered his academic aspirations and attended Harvard University where he received his Master's in Education.

First elected in 2008 and now in his second term, State Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez represents the 80th Assembly District, comprised of eastern Riverside and Imperial counties. As chair of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, the Assemblyman's top legislative priority is economic recovery and job creation. Included among the Assemblyman's many legislative accomplishments are the reinstatement of the Small Business Loan Guarantee program; securing \$2.3 billion in clean tech economic recovery bonds to help local governments attract business and create jobs; expediting the state permitting process for renewable energy projects in the desert region; ensuring fair access to the Safe Routes to School program to help promote more walkable and pedestrian friendly communities; granting the Cal Vet home loan program the authority to provide refinancing services to eligible veterans to help them avoid foreclosure; and protecting the Enterprise Zone program from elimination during budget negotiations.

### **Vice Chairperson Shannon L. Grove, Representing 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Shannon Grove was born in Bakersfield, California and raised in Arvin California, where she graduated from Arvin High School. Shortly after high school, Shannon joined the United States Army serving with the Headquarters Company 5th Corps in Frankfurt, Germany. After her service in the military, Shannon returned to Bakersfield and worked for several employment agencies. In 1993, she and her sister-in-law formed Continental Labor and Staffing Resources and today Shannon presides as Chief Executive Officer. Her company currently operates four offices in California (Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Paso Robles and Visalia) and one in Greeley, Colorado.

Shannon has been very involved in Kern County civic organizations, including: Small Miracles Foundation for children with cancer; Board Member and Chair of the Kern Leadership Alliance, a collaboration of the faith community; Board Member for Garden Pathways, a family mentoring, performing arts and preschool program in downtown Bakersfield; Past Board Member of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce; Member, Executives Association of Kern County; and member of the Bakersfield Downtown Rotary. Shannon served on the Advancement Committee for Bakersfield Memorial Hospital to raise funds for the new Tower, Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit. She received the Jim Burke

Ford "Light and Liberty" award for her contribution to youth and education in the community. She has served in mission fields including inner-city Los Angeles, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Zimbabwe.

Shannon received one of the California Legislature's Small Business Awards from then Assembly member Kevin McCarthy in 2005 for her two-year participation in promoting Worker's Compensation reform legislation, SB 899.

Shannon is a member of the Bakersfield Congress of Republicans and served as co-chairman from the Republican Lincoln Day Dinner, 2010. She proudly serves the 32nd Assembly District encompassing Kern County and part of San Bernardino County.

She is the mother and stepmom of five grown children and grandmother of Presley. Shannon and her husband, Rick Grove, Operations Manager for KS Fabrication and Machine, reside in Bakersfield.

### **Jim Beall, Jr., Representing 24<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Years of public service have prepared Jim Beall for the California State Legislature. Prior to joining the Legislature, Beall served 12 years on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and 14 years on the San Jose City Council., working on issues affecting uninsured children, seniors, foster care, and people with disabilities.

In addition to serving as chair of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Jim Beall is also chair of the Board's "Children, Seniors and Families Committee," vice chair of the "Public Safety and Justice Committee," and vice chair of the Board's "Legislative Committee." Before becoming a county supervisor, Jim Beall served for 14 years on the San Jose City Council.

Jim Beall is chair of the Santa Clara County Family Health Plan, served as a county representative to the State Seismic Safety Commission (2002-04), and on the board of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). These and many other tough assignments have made him an expert in local, regional and statewide issues.

Jim Beall, Jr., was elected to the Assembly in November 2006 with 64 percent of the vote. His dedication to improving the lives of our children, families, and seniors has led him to fight for better health care and the efficient delivery of social services. These goals are reflected in his legislation and in his committee assignments. As Chair of the Committee on Human Services since 2007, he has focused on bolstering the Safety Net for our elderly, poor and people with physical and developmental disabilities, and combating hunger.

"We have an obligation to provide every Californian with the opportunity to succeed," Assembly Member Beall says. "And it all starts with guaranteeing our citizens sound and accessible health care, a solid public education, and a helping hand when they deserve it. If we give our people a strong foundation, our state will reap its benefits for generation upon generation."

Assembly Member Beall has convened Human Services Committee hearings up and down the state to explore ways to update the Lanterman Act, which establishes the rights of developmentally disabled people to obtain the services and support they need to live in the community. These hearings have received testimony from consumers, advocates, service providers, and administrators.

To curtail underage drinking, Assembly Member Beall introduced legislation requiring the labels on cans and bottles of "alcopops" -- sweet, liquor-laced drinks that mimic the taste and appearance of energy or fruit drinks to entice young drinkers -- to prominently display wording that informs consumers they contain

alcohol. In 2007, Beall convinced lawmakers and the Governor to get a 5 percent increase for foster care families into the state budget, the first such increase in six years. He also assisted in the adoption of a \$20 million increase in transitional housing for foster youth.

Jim Beall, born in 1952, attended San Jose State University where he focused on Urban Planning and Public Finance and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

### **Marty Block, Representing the 78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Assemblymember Marty Block was elected in November 2008 to represent the 78th District with the cities and communities of San Diego, Chula Vista, Bonita, Lemon Grove, and Spring Valley.

Marty brings a background as an active community volunteer, respected elected official, and an experienced professional to task of representing his constituents in the Assembly.

A former dean at San Diego State University (SDSU), a retired professor at SDSU, a former member of the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees, and a former San Diego County Board of Education member, Marty is passionate about education issues at both the collegiate and the K-12 levels. He will bring the same no-nonsense, results-oriented approach to state government that served him so well in the education sector. As an Assemblymember, Marty's priorities (in addition to education) include public safety, balancing the budget and ensuring that everyone in the district has access to quality, affordable healthcare.

Marty has served on the San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families; in addition to the San Diego County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. He has served as past government relations chair of the San Diego Multiple Sclerosis Society and the past president of the American Jewish Committee, San Diego Chapter and on a variety of community boards and committees.

A believer in education in its many forms, Marty has been the host of more than 50 public affairs television programs on San Diego's Learning Channel.

A five-time recipient of Outstanding Faculty Awards at SDSU, Marty was presented with a University Distinguished Service Award upon retirement. He was also honored for community service by the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

### **Ben Hueso, Representing the 79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Assemblymember Ben Hueso was elected November 2010, representing California's 79th Assembly District. This district includes the cities of Chula Vista, National City, Imperial Beach, Coronado and portions of San Diego. The district also encompasses the border region, which includes the busiest land port of entry in the world, the largest ship building company in the West Coast, and the Tijuana River Valley, a protected estuary that is home to thousands of endangered birds. Hueso previously served as president of the San Diego City Council, a position he was elected to in 2008 after his 2006 election to the city council. He believes in an open, consensus building style of leadership that he is utilizing in the California Assembly.

### **Mike Morrell, Representing the 63<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District**

A small business owner for over 25 years, Assemblyman Morrell understands the issues faced by a wide range of individuals and industries. Whether educating entrepreneurs, advising legislators, or working in Sacramento, his philosophy remains that government is to be our servant, not our master, and that principles - political, economic, and moral - do not change. The right to private property, the gift of free enterprise, and government by consent have built and preserved our way of life, and we must uphold this foundation to make California and America great.

Representing his constituents in the State Assembly, Mike Morrell is the Vice Chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, and a member of the Budget, the Banking and Finance, the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, the Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, and the Joint Sunset Review Committees. Assemblyman Morrell is committed to reigning in the tax and regulatory burdens in our state. He is honored to represent the 63rd District and to serve the citizens of California.

Assemblyman Morrell has consistently lent his time and talents to the community. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Building Industry Association and the Board of the Rancho Cucamonga YMCA, as well as the Advisory Board for the Gary Anderson School of Business at UC Riverside. He was a key member of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership and the Legislative Committee for the Citrus Valley Association of Realtors. Mike Morrell co-founded the Inland Empire Prayer Breakfast, contributed to Inland Empire leadership for the City of Hope, and acts on the Advisory Board to the Pacific Justice Institute. He is proud to support Hillsdale College through the Parents Board, as well as the Claremont Institute President's Club.

Mike graduated from Damien High School, and earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business at the University of La Verne. He commenced his career in the Title industry. After breaking company records twice, he began his own business in Upland, CA. As president of both Provident Home Loans and Provident Real Estate, he incorporated in 1989.

Assemblyman Morrell and his family share a vision of preserving freedom for the next generation; they place a high priority on educating others about the founding principles of limited, Constitutional government. Mike and his wife Joanie have been married for 33 years. Their daughter Kristen is an alumna of the Claremont Graduate School; their son David is a Yale Law School graduate; and their son Matthew currently attends Hillsdale College.