



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

THE HON. GLORIA MOLINA LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR, 1ST DISTRICT

On February 19, 1991, Gloria Molina became the first Latina ever elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. To many observers both at home and across the nation, Molina's election to the board represented both the growing formidability of the Latino electorate and the determination of voters of all backgrounds to elect a leader to office who understood their needs.

A proud daughter of a Mexican mother and a Mexican-American father, Molina grew up in working-class surroundings and she is acutely aware that as L.A. County property values skyrocket, fewer people can afford to buy homes. She understands that for many people—but particularly children—public parks take the place of private backyards. Consequently, Molina has prioritized the development of new parks.

She has been an influential force behind Los Angeles River revitalization projects, which include the Los Angeles River Center, the Los Angeles Bikeway Plan, and numerous pocket parks from Marsh Street Park in Elysian Valley to Clara Street Park in Cudahy. She also has helped bring to fruition greening projects along the L.A. River from Bell and Cudahy to Maywood and South Gate. Molina has been instrumental developing the “Emerald Necklace,” a network of rivers and green space gracing the San Gabriel Valley which includes Lashbrook Park in El Monte, the Thienes Gateway in South El Monte, the San Jose Creek Vista in Avocado Heights, El Bosque del Rio Hondo, and the much anticipated San Gabriel River Discovery Center.

Molina has allocated tens of millions of dollars toward various parks capital projects which include (but are not limited to) the construction of a gym in City Terrace, a senior center at Roosevelt Park, improvements for the Bassett Little League in Shyre Park, the construction of both the Santa Fe Dam Nature Center and additional lifeguard facilities, as well as multiple renovations at Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Assorted upgrades at other county parks also have taken place under Molina's leadership. These include a new skate park and synthetic soccer field at Bassett Park, a new computer center at Saybrook Park, a new splash pad and Tiny Tots Adventure Zone at Mayberry Park, a new skate park at Belvedere Park, a new splash pad and kitchen at Valleydale Park, and a completely remodeled Salazar Park.

Molina started the “Nurse Mentoring Program” in partnership with local community colleges to help alleviate L.A. County's nursing shortage and to provide an opportunity for hundreds of individuals to become skilled employees. She worked with the private sector so that hundreds of schoolchildren could receive eyeglasses that they otherwise could not afford through the “Gift of Sight” project. She was instrumental in acquiring a \$1 billion federal commitment from President Bill Clinton in 1995 to rescue L.A. County's public health care system, upon which millions of people depend. It is thanks to Molina that all public health clinics in the First District that L.A. County was forced to close in 2001 due to budget cuts were eventually reopened. Molina also fought hard to ensure that the LAC+USC Medical Center replacement project moved forward. The completed, state-of-the-art facility should open to the public in November 2007.

Molina resides in the Mount Washington area of the City of Los Angeles with her husband—businessman Ron Martinez—and their college-age daughter, Valentina. She divides her time between her family, her position as county supervisor, and her love for quilting for which she has received recognition for original pieces she created