



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

Term: 1991 – November 30, 2014
District: First
Date of Birth: May 31, 1948
Website: gloriamolina.org

Gloria Molina was elected to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in February 1991 in a special election and began her term in March. She replaced Peter F. Schabarum, who retired. Molina was re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010.

A native of Los Angeles, Molina was born May 31, 1948. She grew up in the Pico Rivera area and is the eldest of 10 children. She graduated from El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, and attended East Los Angeles and Rio Hondo Colleges.

During the 1970s Molina became involved in the Chicano movement as a women's health advocate. She is credited with starting the "Nurse Mentoring Program" in partnership with local community colleges to help alleviate the County's nursing shortage—as well as 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.

Molina went on to serve in the Carter White House as a deputy for presidential personnel. After leaving the White House, she served in San Francisco as a deputy director for the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

She was elected to the California Assembly representing the 56th District in 1982 and the Los Angeles City Council for the First District in 1987. She was a councilwoman when elected to the Board of Supervisors to represent the First District.

Her major accomplishments as county supervisor include:

- Championed parkland/open space development in the inner cities (i.e. the Los Angeles River Center, El Bosque de Rio Hondo, and the Los Angeles Bikeway Plan), and continues to support capital improvement projects at neighborhood parks in her district.
- Led efforts to end the County practice of pension spiking, rein in medical malpractice liability costs, and eliminate numerous perks, bonuses, and transportation allowances for highly paid bureaucrats.
- Advocated the closing of massage parlors acting as fronts for prostitution, cracked down on illegal pharmacies selling dangerous over-the-counter drugs without a prescription, and worked to remove unsightly graffiti and illegal billboards.
- Instituted landmark legislation that restricts the proliferation of adult businesses

- in the unincorporated areas.
- Created the County's Nuisance and Bar Abatement Team, resulting in liquor license revocations and the subsequent closures of 14 problematic bars, nightclubs, and markets.
- Was instrumental in acquiring a \$1 billion federal commitment from President Clinton in 1995 to rescue the County's public health care system.

Credits include being the first Latina to be elected to the California Legislature, the Los Angeles City Council, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. She was one of four vice chairs of the Democratic National Committee through 2004, and was named one of 15 top women leaders nationwide as a possible vice-presidential candidate during the 2000 presidential election by the White House Project, a non-profit and non-partisan group dedicated to raising awareness of women's leadership in American politics. She was also named as one of the Democratic Party's "10 Rising Stars" by Time magazine in 1996.

Molina resides in the Mount Washington area of the City of Los Angeles with her husband, businessman Ron Martinez. They have a daughter, Valentina. Molina 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.

Sources: Excerpted from Molina's official biography.