

# Lorraine Salas

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Lorraine Salas has been a proud resident of the Coachella Valley for over 30 years. She was born in Palm Springs and raised in the Eastern Coachella Valley. She graduated from Coachella Valley High School and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in sociology from Pitzer College. She returned to service work as a teacher in the area where she was raised to give back to her community and has resided in the City of Palm Desert since 2012. She has participated in social justice movements that have taken place in the 42<sup>nd</sup> California assembly district such as helping the United Food and Commercial Workers organize Walmart workers against abusive and unlawful employer practices. She also volunteered with the Human Rights Campaign in 2008 to urge voters to vote no on proposition 8, a ballot initiative to ban same-sex marriage in the state of California.

She identifies herself as a Chicana, Mestiza, queer feminist and advocates for families and community members who continue to experience disenfranchisement due to race, cultural background, class, and sexual orientation. She has taught special needs children for 13 years in the communities of Mecca, North Shore, and Oasis as a special education teacher and recognizes the need for resources in transportation, health care, access to services, and environmental health. Her experience growing up in the eastern Coachella Valley and her grandmother's political involvement has inspired her passion and drive for equity and justice. She has witnessed the adverse effects the lack of healthcare can cause and when California's senate bill 562 was introduced, she supported activists and the California Nurses Association by attending rallies and calling legislators.

Lorraine hopes to bring perspective, diversity, and progressive values that include healthcare for all, enforcement of civil rights laws for immigrants and workers, environmental proposals such as water import for the Salton Sea, affordable housing, and many more issues.