



RICHARD ALATORRE
COUNCILMAN
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

Councilman Richard Alatorre

In an historic election on December 10, 1985, Richard Alatorre became the first Latino elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 23 years, and only the second in this century.

Councilman Alatorre gave up his State Assembly seat of 13 years to return full-time to Los Angeles, where he was born and raised, to become a member of the 15-person governing body of the city.

As the 14th Council district representative, he serves residents in the northeast section of Los Angeles, including the communities of Boyle Heights, Eagle Rock, El Sereno, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Monterey Hills, Montecito Heights and Mt. Washington.

Alatorre is Chairman of the City's Police Fire and Public Safety Committee, serves as Vice Chair of the Council's Budget and Finance Committee and is a member of the Grants Committee.

Shortly after being elected to the City Council, Mr. Alatorre successfully led the city's redistricting effort in response to a voting rights act law suit charging that the Hispanic vote had been fragmented in Los Angeles. The Councilman also spearheaded efforts to increase the participation of minorities and women in all levels of city government, especially the Police Department, and in City Contracts as well.

Councilman Alatorre has been a leader in substantially increasing the number of police officers in the city, and in providing new funding for anti-gang programs, for at-risk youth and for the growing number of homeless.

As a leader in the California Assembly -- elected to the first of seven terms in 1972 -- Mr. Alatorre authored landmark legislation in the areas of consumer fraud, health care, voluntary retirement (eliminating mandatory retirement at age 65), missing children, crime victims' rights, child abuse, outlawing insurance redlining, and veterans benefits.

He also has been a staunch supporter in the legislature of longer prison terms for violent criminals, welfare reform (workfare), property tax limitations and creating more jobs through a robust state economy.

In recognition of his effective leadership, Mr. Alatorre has received many awards, including the prestigious "Outstanding State Legislator" citation from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

ALATORRE, RICHARD
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Councilman Alatorre, 45, graduated from James A. Garfield High School in Los Angeles, where he was elected student body president. In 1965, Mr. Alatorre earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from California State University, Los Angeles, and later a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He was an instructor at California State University, Long Beach and the University of California at Irvine.

As Western Regional Director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he initiated successful lawsuits against school districts that arbitrarily assigned pupils -- most of them Spanish speaking -- to classes for the mentally retarded. He also served as a consultant to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

In 1968, Mr. Alatorre was the recipient of a coveted Ford Foundation Legislative Internship which enabled him to become an aide to former Assemblyman Walter Karabian.

A member of numerous civic and community organizations, Mr. Alatorre has been selected as one of the "Five Outstanding Young Men" by the California Jaycess; received the "1980 Legislator of the Year" award from the California Foster Parents Association; serves as a member of the Board of Directors, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Hispanic American Democrats (HAD), and is a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

In addition, Councilman Alatorre is a member of the Board of Directors of the Education Division of the Music Center of Los Angeles County. He serves on the major gifts division of the East Los Angeles YMCA. He is a recipient of the 1980 NORCAL Center on Deafness "Legislator of the Year" award.

In 1981, the Los Angeles legislator was the first recipient of the new "Presidential Medallion Award" from California State University, Los Angeles. It was presented to him in recognition of his "exceptional dedication to the University, the community it serves and the special needs of higher education."

The Councilman lives in Monterey Hills with his wife, Sharrell. He has two sons, Derrick, 24, a student at California State University, Los Angeles and Darrell, 23, a student at the University of Southern California.

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ALATORRE, RICHARD



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ABOUT RICHARD ALATORRE...

Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre's commitment to public life and service began as a high school student during the John F. Kennedy presidential campaign. From 1966 until 1973, he directed or worked in the campaigns of many candidates including Alfred H. Song (for state senator); Walter J. Karabian (for state assembly); Julian Nava (for Los Angeles Board of Education); Tom Bradley (for mayor of Los Angeles); Herman Sillas (for state controller); and David A. Roberti (for state senator).

In 1968, at the age of 25, he was elected to the California Democratic Party State Central Committee. Alatorre was also an activist in the Chicano community as co-chair of the Chicano Legal Defense Fund, and a member of the Congress of Mexican American Unity, the Foundation for Mexican American Studies, and the Center for Social Action (which redirected gang members to use their leadership skills for socially productive ends).

Alatorre received a Ford Foundation legislative internship to the California State Assembly in 1968. That same year he became Southwest Regional Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

He taught at a number of educational facilities between 1969 and 1971 including California State University, Long Beach, and the University of California, Irvine (public administration and Chicano Studies). He also taught at the Terminal Island Correctional Facility.

Alatorre lost a bitterly contested and controversial election in a 55th Assembly district to a Republican candidate in 1971, primarily because of third party opposition. He won an impressive victory to that same seat in 1973, and served six terms in the Assembly. As a freshman assemblyman at the age of 29, Alatorre served on the powerful Committee on Ways and Means. He later served in key committees: Health; Labor Relations; Employment and Public Services; Revenue and Taxation; Elections and Reapportionment; Criminal Justice; Governmental Organization; Education; Human Resources; and Intergovernmental Relations.

In 1981-1983, he chaired the Assembly Committee on Elections and Reapportionment from which he directed the 1981 and 1983 Assembly

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reapportionments that required the balancing of numerous conflicting political interests.

During his tenure in the Assembly, Alatorre's major accomplishments included sponsorship of landmark legislation in the fields of agricultural labor relations, bilingual education, prison reform, and child care services.

Alatorre was appointed to the pivotal position of chairman of the credentials committee for the Democratic Party National Convention. He was state co-chair for the 1988 Democratic presidential campaign.

On his election to the Los Angeles City Council in 1985, one of his earliest responsibilities was to chair the redistricting of that body in settlement of a federal voting rights lawsuit. His work resulted in providing the first fair apportionment for the Latino community and the election of another Latino to the Los Angeles City Council.

Alatorre is chairman of the city's Public Safety Committee, vice chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, and a member of the Community Redevelopment and Housing Committee. In 1990 he was appointed to the powerful Los Angeles County Transportation Commission--the first Latino ever named to this important transit policy agency. More recently, Alatorre has joined the board of the Rapid Transit District, which operates mass transit throughout the region.

As councilman, Alatorre has led the effort to substantially increase police protection and to provide new funding for anti-gang programs, for at-risk youth, and for the growing number of homeless.

Beginning in the mid-seventies, Richard Alatorre, along with Congressman Esteban Torres and state Senator Art Torres, forged the first successful community-based political organization in East Los Angeles. This gave the Latino community the opportunity to participate more fully in local and regional politics, and created the political base from which numerous others have been elected or appointed to public office.

Councilman Alatorre is a member of the Board of Directors of the Education Division of the Music Center of Los Angeles County. He helped build the East Los Angeles YMCA, was a recipient of the 1980 NORCAL Center on Deafness "Legislator of Year" award, and is proud to have received the Martin Luther King Human Dignity Award from the Los Angeles Metropolitan YMCA in 1988.

Richard Alatorre was born on May 15, 1943 in Los Angeles, California and attended public schools in East Los Angeles. He was graduated from James A. Garfield High School in 1961 where he was elected student body president. After earning his B.A. in sociology from California State University, Los Angeles in 1965, he earned an M.A. in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1971. The councilman lives in Monterey Hills. He has two sons, Derrick and Darrell.