

Leticia Perez – Kern County Supervisor, 5th District

Leticia Perez is a third generation Bakersfield resident. She is a proud Highland High School graduate who went on to earn her Bachelor's Degree In "Law and Society" at the University of California, Santa Barbara, before journeying to Indiana to fulfill her dream of earning a Juris Doctorate.

Leticia was raised alongside a dozen foster children and comes from a family who has been dedicated to public service for more than forty years in Kern County. Following in her Father's and Mother's footsteps, Leticia has been active in Political and Social Issues, as well as Philanthropic efforts from the time she could walk. She literally accompanied her parents to Bible College in a carriage—sleeping quietly under a seminary desk while her parents prepared for ministry in Kern County.

Leticia returned from Law School in 2006 and chose to work with indigent clients while volunteering her free time on the Boards of Directors for *Big Brothers Big Sisters*, *Community Service Organization*, and *New Life Recovery Training Center*. Her dedication to the practice of law and her service to the community earned her the respect of her peers and their selection to her being the first woman to preside as president of *The Kern County Bar Association's Criminal Defense Section*.

Leticia was nominated for, and served as Chair of the *Kern County Planning Commission*. She later became the consultant for the *California State Senate Committee on Economic Development and the State Permitting Process*. Currently, Leticia is the Vice Chair of the *Kern County Board of Supervisors*. Leticia has received numerous awards for her partnership with local businesses, job developers, and community leaders while spearheading some of the county's most innovative economic development and alternative energy development projects.

Leticia was recently elected as the 2nd Vice President of California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and serves as the Chair of the Latino/a Caucus. She is also a California State Governor appointed member of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and co-chairs the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) overseeing the Proposition 47 grant process and developing the program criteria.

Leticia is a sought after speaker on issues ranging from the nuances of the *California Environmental Quality Act* regulations, alternative energy development, socioeconomic policies and procedures effecting the *Central Valley*, and recipes to the best hard-shell-tacos South of the Kern River. She is a frequent guest on local and valley wide radio and television. Her political career has been reported on by the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and she has been featured on the *Daily Show with John Stewart*.

Leticia's mother was Vietnam era Army Nurse and she comes from a family of Veterans. In fact, she married one, and it is because of her marriage to her husband that Leticia has become an avid proponent of Mental Health support for combat veterans who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, also known as PTSD.

Most importantly, Leticia is the very proud mother of Jude, her 4 year-old son, whom can often be found with his "mamma" at events in our community.