

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Doug Shupe

Corporate Communications Manager, Automobile Club of Southern California

Doug Shupe is the Corporate Communications Manager at Auto Club of Southern California, where he spearheads media relations and strategic campaigns across Southern California, Texas, Hawaii, and New Mexico. Doug is dedicated to addressing critical traffic safety issues through innovative media initiatives, focusing on key areas such as speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, Slow Down Move Over awareness, and pedestrian and bicyclist safety. With over a decade of experience at AAA and a rich background as a television news reporter and anchor in Florida and Texas, Doug brings a unique blend of media acumen and real-world insights to his role. His journalistic experience delay equips him with a deep understanding of traffic safety issues and an ability to communicate complex topics effectively to the public. Doug's work is driven by a commitment to making roads safer and fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility among drivers.

WELCOME REMARKS



Aaron Hake

Executive Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission and Chair, Mobility 21

Aaron Hake serves as Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority where he serves a Commission of 32 elected officials and one Governor's appointee. He leads a professional staff of 80 across nine departments and annual budget of over one billion dollars. Aaron has served RCTC for 19 years. In 2023 RCTC's Executive Committee unanimously selected Aaron to lead RCTC, tasking him with implementing Riverside county's multi-modal transportation and conservation vision.

As a civic leader in Riverside County, Aaron has served as Chair of the Riverside County Planning Commission, the City of Corona Planning Commission, and Treasurer of the City of Corona. He has served as Board Chair of the Inland Southern California United Way and has participated on numerous other local nonprofit boards of directors. His efforts have earned him recognition, including the WTS Inland Empire Chapter Secretary Ray LaHood Award, the Pick Group of Young Professionals IMPACT Award for Civic Leadership, and the 30 Under 30 by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, Aaron's leadership at RCTC has placed him at the forefront of transportation policy and funding in Riverside County, throughout southern California, in Sacramento, and in Washington. With the support of the best Commission and best staff in California, Aaron's career efforts have resulted in funding and legislation impacting nearly every highway and public transit corridor in Riverside County. This year, Aaron serves as Board Chair of Mobility 21, Southern California's public-private transportation advocacy coalition.

Aaron earned a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from American University, a master's of public administration from USC, and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in Local and State Government program.



Hon. Doug Chaffee

Supervisor, County of Orange and Chair, Orange County Transportation Authority

Supervisor Doug Chaffee currently serves as the Fourth District Supervisor of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. He joined the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors in January 2019.

Supervisor Chaffee was elected to the Fullerton City Council in June 2012 and served as Mayor in 2018. Prior to joining the Council, he served as Chairman of the Fullerton Planning Commission and past president of both the Fullerton United Way and Sunrise Rotary Club.

Active in the Fullerton community, Supervisor Chaffee served on the board of the North Orange County YMCA and the Advisory Board of Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service. He is a member of Friends of Jazz and the Sierra Club and was a past recipient of the Mr. YMCA award.

In addition to his public service, Supervisor Chaffee is a Business Attorney, practicing law for more than 40 years in downtown Fullerton.

Supervisor Chaffee is a graduate of Fullerton Union High School in 1961 and graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Redlands in 1965 and a JD from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1968.

He and his bride of 36 years, Paulette, have two grown sons, both raised in Fullerton.

FEDERAL AND STATE LEADERSHIP UPDATE



Hon. Alex Padilla – Video Remarks

Senator, United States Senate

Senator Alex Padilla, a progressive problem-solver, is the first Latino elected to represent California in the U.S. Senate. The son of immigrants, Senator Padilla grew up in the San Fernando Valley and studied Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was drawn to politics in response to California's anti-immigrant Proposition 187. Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1999 and the State Senate in 2006. As California's Secretary of State, he oversaw a historic expansion of voting rights and voter participation. As United States Senator, he has taken action to cut costs for families, combat the climate crisis, and help thousands of Californians secure millions of dollars owed to them by federal agencies. Senator Padilla is the Ranking Member of the Senate's Committee on Rules and Administration. He also serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration. Padilla is a member of the

Senate Committees on Budget; Environment and Public Works; Energy and Natural Resources; Judiciary; and Rules. Senator Padilla and his wife, Angela, have three sons: Roman, Alex, and Diego.



Hon. Dave Cortese – Video Remarks

Chair, California State Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Dave Cortese was elected in November of 2020 to represent State Senate District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for over a decade, with four years as Board President, on the San Jose City Council for eight years, including two years as Vice Mayor, and as a trustee for the East Side Union High School District for eight years.

He grew up in San Jose as part of a family that has been active in civic, cultural, and business activities for generations. Senator Cortese graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory then University of California, Davis where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. He earned his Juris Doctorate at Lincoln University Law School in San Jose. He has four children and is married to his wife Pattie Cortese who is currently a Trustee on the Eastside Union High School Board.

During his nearly three decades in public service, Senator Cortese has brought the community together to address and reduce homelessness, combat climate change, expand public transit options, reform the Santa Clara County's jail custody operations, and fight for the rights of immigrants.

To increase affordable housing and find solutions to homelessness, Senator Cortese initiated the creation of a countywide housing task force with representatives from business, labor, city and county offices, the local homeless population, and many experts on housing and homelessness. That group's recommendations led to such initiatives as the groundbreaking \$950 million "Measure A" affordable housing bond that Senator Cortese co-chaired as well as the All the Way Home campaign that has housed 1,940 of the County's veterans.

As a member and former Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Senator Cortese fought hard to bring federal stimulus funds to the South Bay to rehabilitate our aging roads and ease congestion. On the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), he pushed to secure funding for the BART expansion into San Jose and for VTA's eventual light rail service to Eastridge. Senator Cortese secured improvements to expressways, Highway 101, Highway 85, and the Tully Road/Capitol Expressway/Yerba Buena interchanges. He spearheaded officially merging the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and MTC's efforts to advance smarter land-use policies for the entire Bay Area and to tackle the important connection between housing, jobs, transportation and climate protection in a coordinated, regional fashion.

Senator Cortese has long been a champion of protecting our environment, leading Santa Clara County to transition to 100% renewable electric power, creating the County Climate Coalition in partnership with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, and helping to form Silicon Valley Clean Energy, the community-owned provider of carbon-free electricity for Silicon Valley

Opening General Session *Grand Ballroom*

Senator Cortese has prioritized women's policy issues. He initiated the County's Gender and Ethnicity Pay Equity Ordinance, their landmark Anti-Human Trafficking Team, and their first-of-its kind review of Title IX policies for K-12 and higher education institutions.

Senator Cortese pushed Santa Clara County to become the first in the nation to file a lawsuit in federal court against the Trump Administration to overturn its unlawful rescission of the DACA Program. This attempt was successful, with the Supreme Court eventually overturning the Trump Administration's repeal of DACA. Senator Cortese again pushed the County to sue the Trump Administration for denying federal funding to "sanctuary" cities and counties that didn't participate in the President's aggressive immigration enforcement agenda. He helped lead the establishment of the Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations, the New American Fellowship program that employs DACA youth, and the allocation of millions in funding for legal services for DACA/DAPA recipients.

Senator Cortese provided oversight and direction for the County in areas of Finance, Budget, Technology and Capital Projects. He created the County's Open Government Ordinance and Office of Labor Standard's Enforcement to monitor the County's Wage Theft and Living Wage Ordinances, that he championed, as well as workplace sexual harassment.

Senator Cortese has initiated several local community-based gun buy-back and firearm relinquishment programs including "Unity Day" that became the County's largest gun buy-back event. After hosting the Community Summit on Firearms Safety with over 300 diverse participants, Senator Cortese spearheaded the County's safe-storage ordinance to prevent accidental shootings and suicides in homes.

With a strong track record rooted in restorative justice and fighting systematic inequities, Senator Cortese has taken major steps to re-envision our justice system, including establishing the Santa Clara County Blue Ribbon Commission, which led to hundreds of recommendations to improve the treatment of inmates in custody, and creating the first policy in the United States to halt the incarceration of offenders under 13 years of age at Juvenile Hall.

As a School Board Trustee, Senator Cortese jump-started dormant plans to build a new high school in Evergreen and co-chaired the \$80 million bond campaign that led to Silicon Valley's first new high school in 25 years. He was a major architect of School Linked Services, a program that connects students and families to County social services and counseling. School Linked Services has grown to serve about 200 schools in the County.

Senator Cortese has had the opportunity to work with his father, former Assemblyman Dominic L. Cortese over a political career that commenced in 1968. His deep, local roots and love for his community continue to fuel his passion for public service.

As a California State Senator, Senator Cortese intends to continue and expand on the successful work he has done in Santa Clara County and apply as many solutions as possible statewide. That includes addressing climate change through building decarbonization, increasing California's housing stock, shifting the focus of our justice system from incarceration to rehabilitation, and fighting sexual assault and gender-based violence.



Hon. Lori Wilson – Video Remarks

Chair, California State Assembly Transportation Committee

Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson was elected in April 2022 to represent California's 11th Assembly District which includes all of Solano County and portions of Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties. The District includes the Cities of: Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Oakley, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo.

Prior to her election to the Assembly, Assemblymember Wilson was the first Black female Mayor to serve in the entire history of Solano County. First elected to the Suisun City Council in 2012, she served as Vice-Mayor for six years before winning the Mayor's race in 2018. During her tenure, Assemblymember Wilson demonstrated a track record of fiscal responsibility while leading efforts to bring more housing, jobs and diversity to Suisun City.

After being elected to the California State Assembly in April of 2022, Assemblymember Wilson hit the ground running. During this first year and a half, Assemblywoman Wilson has already sent 11 bills to the Governor's Desk and delivered millions of dollars in state funding directly to the 11th District. From housing to electric vehicle infrastructure to flood resiliency to transportation and public safety improvements, these funds will improve the quality of life in Contra Costa, Sacramento and Solano Counties.

In addition to being an effective and results-oriented legislator, Assemblymember Wilson's tenure in the Assembly has also resulted in multiple historic moments. First, Assemblywoman Wilson is the only Black woman in California history to be appointed Chair of the influential Assembly Transportation Committee. Dating back to 1954, the Transportation Committee oversees California's transportation infrastructure, networks and state agencies tasked with delivering California a safe and efficient transportation system.

Second, Assemblymember Wilson is the first legislator in the history of California to be elected Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus as a freshman. The California Legislative Black Caucus was formed in 1967 when African American members of the California Legislature joined together to address the legislative concerns of African Americans and other citizens of color. Under her leadership, the Caucus has shattered previous records delivering hundreds of scholarships to students of color while also enjoying numerous legislative and budget wins.

Finally, Assemblymember Wilson is the first legislator in the history of California to openly discuss being the parent of a transgender child. In today's heated political climate, it is crucial that this community has representation in Sacramento and Assemblywoman Wilson has demonstrated her commitment to defending vulnerable communities.

Assemblymember Wilson's track record in the California State Assembly includes delivering policies that create good jobs, keep the community safe and improve the quality of life for her constituents and the people of California. Assemblymember Wilson is focused on bringing state services directly to individuals, local businesses, veterans, non-profits, and local governments who need help interacting with government agencies, like the Employment Development Department.

Assemblymember Wilson is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accountancy. Her diverse career history, including more than 20 years in Accounting & Finance, has afforded

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Assemblymember Wilson tremendous opportunities to hone her skills in government and nonprofit management, strategic development and budget administration.

A native Californian raised on the west side of Fresno, Assemblymember is married to her high school sweetheart Chavares Wilson, a retired Air Force Reserve Technical Sergeant. They have been blessed with two sons, Tyler and Kiren, a daughter-in-law, Brittney, and a grandson, Weston. They have enjoyed living in Suisun City since 2004 after being stationed at Travis AFB for 5 years.



James Hacker
Undersecretary, CalSTA

James Hacker was appointed Undersecretary of the California State Transportation Agency in April 2025. Hacker previously served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary in the office of Governor Gavin Newsom, where he covered transportation, housing and broadband issues. He served as Principal Consultant to the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review from 2017 to 2023 and has held positions in the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office.

James earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Affairs from George Washington University and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.



Dina El-Tawansy
Director, Caltrans

Dina El-Tawansy serves as the 35th Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom, she now oversees the management of more than 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes and leads a department with a nearly \$18 billion budget and a workforce of 22,000 employees.

With 27 years of distinguished public service, Dina brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to public infrastructure. Her career at Caltrans spans three districts and multiple divisions, including leadership roles such as Chief Deputy Director, San Francisco Bay Area (District 4) Acting Director, and Deputy District Director of Operations and Maintenance in Orange County (District 12). Most recently, she served as the Caltrans Bay Area (District 4) Director, becoming the first woman to hold this position in the district's history.

Dina holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, and a Master of Science in Construction Management from California State University, Long Beach. She is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in the State of California and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).