



*Gloria Soto*  
*City Councilmember*  
*City of Santa Maria*



Gloria Soto was elected to the City Council in November 2018, by voters in City Council District Three, the southwest portion of the City. [View interactive map of districts.](#)

Gloria Soto was born, raised, and educated in Santa Maria.

She is the daughter of immigrant farm-working parents, who made numerous sacrifices to ensure she would have a better life, and who also taught her the value of hard work and determination. Gloria took advantage of opportunities afforded to her by her family and community; she is a proud past participant of Future Farmers of America and Future Leaders of America (FLA).

Gloria has dedicated her young professional career to advancing reproductive healthcare access on the Central Coast. Since 2011, Gloria has served in a variety of positions at Planned Parenthood California Central Coast (PPCCC) including in education, public affairs, and development. She is currently the Major Gifts Officer working to expand care by stewarding donors to PPCCC's vision of healthcare access. Her commitment to her community has also led her to serve on the boards of community-based organizations. Gloria served four years as a Board of Director for FLA, one of the largest LatinX youth-serving organizations in California, and also sits on the board for the Fund for Santa Barbara.

Gloria was elected in 2018 as part of the national wave of young women of color seeking to bring representation to local governments. She is the first Councilmember to be elected under Santa Maria's City Council [District Elections](#), and at age 29 made history by being the youngest woman elected. Gloria is only the sixth woman to be elected to the City Council.

Today she and her family reside in Santa Maria. Gloria is bilingual, bi-cultural, and deeply connected to the many communities in the Santa Maria Valley. Gloria enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and watching horror films. Gloria attended Pioneer Valley High School and earned her Associates Degree at Allan Hancock College and her B.A. at Chapman University.

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