



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 was born, raised, and educated in Santa Maria. She comes from an immigrant family whose example taught her the value of hard work and determination, and whose parents made numerous sacrifices to ensure she would have a chance at a better life. Gloria took advantage of every opportunity that her family and community offered her. She was part of the first graduating class of Pioneer Valley High School, and she holds degrees from Allan Hancock College and Chapman University.

Gloria is a non-profit professional who, since 2011, has worked with Planned Parenthood California Central Coast in a variety of positions including education, public affairs, and development. Currently, she is the Regional Development Manager. Her experience in the non-profit world also includes the hundreds of hours she has worked with youth by directing leadership programs, serving on boards, and volunteering.

Gloria is a member of the Board of Directors for Future Leaders of America, the largest youth-serving organization in the State of California, and she is also a board member of the Fund for Santa Barbara, a non-profit community foundation that supports grassroots organizations working for social and economic change in Santa Barbara County.

Currently, her parents, brother, niece, and nephew continue to live in Santa Maria, as does Gloria, who is a homeowner and resident of the Westgate neighborhood in District 3. She is bilingual, bi-cultural, and deeply connected to her many communities in the Santa Maria Valley. As a lifelong Santa Marian, Gloria understands the everyday struggles of families in our City.

Gloria is the first new Councilmember to be elected since the City Council began converting to district elections from the at-large voting system, which was the practice before November 2018. ([For more about the district elections click here](#)). At age 29, she is the youngest woman elected to the Council in the history of Santa Maria, and is only the sixth Councilwoman since the City's incorporation in 1905.