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SWATI DANDEKAR

SCIENCE, SERVICE, AND STATESMANSHIP

Born and educated in Nagpur, India, Swati Dandekar built a distinguished career in U.S. public service. A Democrat, she served in the Iowa House of Representatives (2003-2009) and the Iowa Senate (2009-2011) before becoming a member of the Iowa Utilities Board. She later served as the U.S. executive director and ambassador to the Asian Development Bank. Dandekar earned a B.S. in Chemistry and Biology from Nagpur University and a postgraduate degree in Dietetics from Bombay University, while championing education, energy, and economic development.

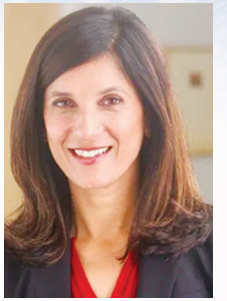


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SARA GIDEON

A CHAMPION OF BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP

Sara Gideon served as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives from 2016 to 2020, earning a reputation for building bipartisan consensus on key issues. Born in Benin, West Africa, to an Indian father and an Armenian mother, she was raised in the United States and graduated from George Washington University. A Democrat, Gideon championed healthcare, education, renewable energy, and economic opportunity, while also leading efforts to pass commonsense gun safety measures, including extreme risk protection orders, restrictions on deadly firearm accessories, and expanded background checks.



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KASHMIR GILL

MAKING HISTORY IN CALIFORNIA'S PUNJABI HEARTLAND

Kashmir "Kash" Gill made history as the first Sikh mayor in the United States and the first Indian American mayor in California when he was elected to lead Yuba City in 2009. Born in Punjab, India, he immigrated to California with his family as a child and built a successful career in banking after graduating from California State University, Chico. A Republican, Gill served on the Yuba City Council, as Vice Mayor, and as Mayor (2009-2010; 2013-2014), championing flood protection, economic development, and community partnerships.



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VIN GOPAL

A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP IN NEW JERSEY

Championing stronger schools, expanded mental health care, tax relief, veterans' services, disability rights, and small businesses, Vin Gopal has emerged as one of New Jersey's leading state lawmakers. As Senate Majority Conference Leader and Chair of the Senate Education Committee, he has helped shape key state policies. An entrepreneur, former EMT, and founder of the Vin Gopal Civic Association, Gopal also made history as the first South Asian American elected to the New Jersey State Senate, representing the 11th Legislative District since 2018.



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RAJ GOYLE

LAWYER, LEGISLATOR, AND PUBLIC POLICY REFORMER

Raj Goyle is an attorney, entrepreneur, and former Kansas state legislator known for championing government accountability, affordable housing, lower utility costs, consumer protection, clean energy, and fiscal transparency. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Indian immigrant parents, he graduated from Duke University and Harvard Law School. A former ACLU attorney, Goyle is also an advocate for campaign finance reform, public education, healthcare affordability, and protecting civil rights.



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GHAZALA HASHMI

BREAKING BARRIERS IN VIRGINIA POLITICS

Ghazala Hashmi made history as Virginia's first Indian American, first South Asian American, and first Muslim elected to statewide office when she became the state's 43rd Lieutenant Governor this year. Born in Hyderabad, India, she earned a B.A. from Georgia Southern University and a Ph.D. in English from Emory University before a 25-year career in higher education. A Democrat, Hashmi has championed public education, affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, voting rights, gun violence prevention, housing, and environmental protection.



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ARUNA MILLER

FIRST SOUTH ASIAN ELECTED LT GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller made history as the first South Asian woman elected Lieutenant Governor in U.S. history and the first immigrant elected to statewide executive office in Maryland. Born in Hyderabad, India, she immigrated to America at age seven and earned a degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology. After a 25-year career as a civil engineer, Miller served in the Maryland House of Delegates (2011-2019) before becoming Maryland's 10th Lt Governor in 2023, championing infrastructure, education, workforce development, and economic opportunity.



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JENIFER RAJKUMAR

CHAMPIONING INCLUSION THROUGH ACTION

From expanding opportunities for Asian Americans to strengthening public safety, Jenifer Rajkumar has become one of New York's most influential state lawmakers. Representing Queens' 38th Assembly District since 2021, she is the first South Asian woman elected to state office in New York. The daughter of Indian immigrants, she studied at the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford Law School. Rajkumar authored legislation to create New York's first AAPI Commission, expand crime victims' compensation, and help make Diwali a public school holiday in NYC.

