

Steven Bradford brings a lifetime of experience to the California State Senate. In over two decades of public service – first as a Gardena City Councilman, then as a State Assemblyman and now as a State Senator - Bradford has proven himself a great citizen activist. He views himself as a public servant and not a politician. His parents who taught him the value of giving back to the community and instilled public service in him.

He made history when he became the first African American elected to the Gardena City Council. Over the 12 years that he served on the City Council, he presided over robust job and economic growth, along with a balanced budget for the city. When he was elected to the Council, the City of Gardena was on the brink of bankruptcy and was \$27 million in debt. There was no money in the bank and employees had not been given raises in over seven years. By the time he left Gardena's City Council, they had eliminated the debt, had \$8.5 million in reserve, gave employees raises without raising taxes or cutting services, and secured millions of federal dollars for various improvement projects for North Gardena- something that had never happened prior to him being elected to the Council.

Bradford was elected to the 51st State Assembly District in a Special Election in 2009, reelected in 2010, and reelected again in 2012, but this time to the newly created 62nd District. While in the Assembly, he rose to prominence by becoming Chair of the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce, which had jurisdiction over electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, private water corporations and other issues related to commerce. In his role as chair, Bradford garnered national attention by presiding over hearings investigating devastating power outages across California.

Senator Bradford had 11 bills signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2019. These laws improved the environment, energy sector, student athletes, supplier diversity, social equity, and the wrongly convicted. In addition to the legislative accomplishments, Bradford secured \$7.5 million in the state budget for Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science and \$30 million for local social equity programs. Senator Bradford co-authored SB 206, landmark legislation known as the Fair Pay to Play Act that gives student athletes the right to their name, image and likeness. Steven is currently Chair of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee.

In his free time, you will often find him on the golf course. He started a Jr. Golf program while on the city council. His favorite community event is the Gardena Jazz Festival, where he serves as the festival's Founder and Chair. The festival has survived 16 years and has become one of the most popular events in the South Bay. Bradford currently serves on the board of the Mervyn Dymally African American Political & Economic Institute at CSUDH.