



Brenda Gonzalez
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Brenda Gonzalez currently serves as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, where she shapes and advances strategic communications, brand positioning, and external engagement efforts that support the Chamber’s policy, advocacy, and business priorities. In this role, she helps steward the organization’s voice across the region’s public, private, and civic sectors.

Gonzalez was previously appointed by President Joe Biden in January 2021 and served until January 2025 as Chief of the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) in the External Affairs Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). As chief, she oversaw all USCIS communications with both internal and external stakeholders. In this role, Gonzalez oversaw five divisions – Strategic Communications, Media Affairs, Multimedia, Internal Communications, and Plain Language. Her office managed communications and messaging with USCIS’s external stakeholders, empowered employees with the tools needed to perform their jobs, facilitated consistent messaging and imaging for USCIS, and informed the public on USCIS benefits and services.

Before joining USCIS, Gonzalez was the first Latina to serve as State Press Secretary and Senior Director of Public Engagement under U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris. In that role, she served as Harris’ formal spokesperson in California and directed all internal and external communications for the senator’s five district offices. She also helped manage the Senator’s social communications and liaised with talent, influencers, artists, and business leaders to accelerate the Senator’s key initiatives and bills. Gonzalez worked with traditional and digital media outlets to advance Senator Harris’ affirmative agenda at home and in Washington, D.C. Additionally, she was the Senator’s spokesperson for ethnic media – directing communications and media strategy for outlets and print publications including *La Opinión*, *Los Angeles Sentinel*, *Univision*, *Korea Times*, and *Telemundo*.

A seasoned public relations professional, Gonzalez has worked at many levels of government – city, state, and federal. Before joining the United States Senate, Gonzalez served as Press Secretary and Community Liaison at the California Department of Justice under Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, where she managed communications for several key initiatives and state justice programs including Back on Track LA, Open Justice and the Bureau of Children’s Justice. From 2012 to 2014, she was Communications Director for Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge and, in 2015, joined Harris’ campaign for U.S. Senate as her press secretary.

Gonzalez began her career as a press aide for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). While at the USDA, she helped coordinate national interviews, travel and program announcements for Secretary Tom Vilsack and the department’s senior leadership.

A proud Poet, Trojan, and Southern California native, Gonzalez received her bachelor’s degree in political science from Whittier College and earned her master’s in strategic public relations from the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. She currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the USC Center for Public Relations at USC Annenberg.