

The logo for Kathy Neal, Democrat for Assembly, is displayed on a blue background. The name 'KATHY NEAL' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, with 'NEAL' in a larger font size than 'KATHY'. Below this, the words 'DEMOCRAT FOR ASSEMBLY' are written in smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font, stacked on two lines.

KATHY NEAL DEMOCRAT FOR ASSEMBLY

About Kathy Neal

Few candidates have run for the Assembly with a greater breadth and wealth of experience as Kathy Neal. Kathy is a businesswoman who has served as a commissioner on several state and local authorities and worked as a not-for-profit social service director. She approaches public policy and politics with over 30 years of diverse experience.

Kathy has been involved in politics since before she was old enough to vote, with a passion that focused on social justice, economic empowerment, health care, and the arts. Born and raised in the Los Angeles, Kathy was inspired by her mother's hard work and dedication to the issues she believed in. She learned from an early age the value of education and hard work. Her mother owned and managed a daycare center, working long days to care for children in the community and then coming home to care for Kathy. Her father was the child of poor Texas sharecroppers who worked hard to become a prominent dentist in Los Angeles.

When Kathy's parents passed away at a young age, she took with her the lessons she learned from them about drive and commitment. She put herself through school, graduating from California State University Los Angeles with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Kathy was inspired to help those around her by getting involved in local politics. She took a position in the Los Angeles City Council as a legislative analyst, where she worked with council committees on a variety of important policy issues. Through her time at the City Council, Kathy learned the intricacies of public policy and the political process necessary to affect change.

After nine years in government, Kathy returned to the private sector as a managing partner of 24K, a specialty clothing manufacturing firm, where she was responsible for business operations, administration and marketing. There, she learned firsthand how important small businesses are to our local economy, about creating jobs through small businesses, and what government can do to help businesses succeed.

In 1980, Kathy married Former Assemblyman and Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris and moved to Oakland. She founded Kneal Resource System, a firm that provides in-depth project support to a variety of companies – from large corporations such as IBM to governmental entities like Oakland Unified School District to other small to mid-size companies. Kathy also obtained a Masters of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco and two specialty business management certificates from Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business. In 1995, Kathy was appointed by President Bill

Clinton as a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business, where she helped develop 60 public policy recommendations to further shape small business' role as the nation's job creators, innovators, and risk takers.

Kathy has been an extremely active member of the Oakland Community – helping local and non-profits and serving on local and state-level boards and commissions. She has served with distinction on the State Bar Board of Governors, which is responsible for licensing and regulating all California attorneys practicing law; the California Community College Board of Governors whose responsibilities include setting educational policy for the state's community colleges; and the California Integrated Waste Management Board where she oversaw legislatively mandated waste reduction programs. In 1998, Kathy was appointed as a Commissioner over the Port of Oakland by the Oakland City Council. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for overseeing a \$1.5 billion budget and managing the City of Oakland's airport, seaport, and commercial real estate holdings.

Kathy is currently an elected representative to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, serving as the 16th Assembly District Vice Chair. She is also a member of the California Democratic Central Committee. In these positions, she has successfully increased diversity and engaged more young people in the Democratic Party.

Kathy has also belonged to a number of other private sector and social service boards and has a long history of membership in civic and charitable organizations. She currently volunteers her time with the Oakland Community Fund, A Friendly Manor (shelter for homeless women), and Covenant House of California and its Bay Area Leadership Council. She previously worked with a wide array of organizations, including Women's Refuge, Oakland Fund for the Arts, East Bay Regional Parks Foundation, Oakland Ballet, Westside Women's Clinic, Alameda County Hospital Foundation, Oakland Zoo Development Committee, International Diplomacy Council, American Lung Association, and the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. Kathy has been formally honored by the Los Angeles City Council, California League of Cities, California Senate and Assembly and many other local and community organizations.