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EQUALITY CALIFORNIA ENDORSES CANDIDATES FOR SENATE DISTRICT 33 SPECIAL ELECTION

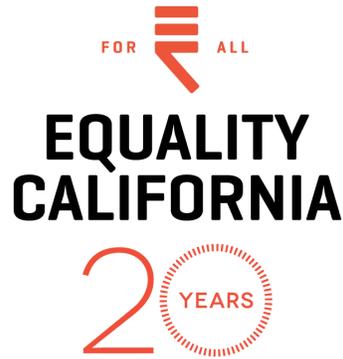
LOS ANGELES — Equality California, the nation’s largest statewide LGBTQ civil rights organization, has dual-endorsed Long Beach City Councilmember Lena Gonzalez and Lynwood Mayor José Luis Solache in the special election for California Senate District 33, which Ricardo Lara vacated last month when he was sworn in as California’s insurance commissioner.

“Pro-equality voters in District 33 have two fantastic choices to fill Commissioner Lara’s large shoes in the Senate,” **said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur.**

“Councilmember Gonzalez and Mayor Solache have dedicated their careers to fighting for civil rights and social justice, and we’re confident that each would be an effective champion for the 33rd District and for the LGBTQ community in Sacramento.”

Councilmember Lena Gonzalez currently represents the First Council District in the City of Long Beach. She was first elected in June 2014 and unanimously re-elected last year. An ally to and champion for the LGBTQ community, she has hosted many LGBTQ community events in the City of Long Beach, including Transgender Day of Remembrance and an annual Harvey Milk celebration honoring local LGBTQ advocates and leaders. Councilmember Gonzalez also led an open letter to President Trump in opposition to his anti-transgender agenda and has advocated for funding from the state and federal governments to support LGBTQ business owners.

Mayor José Luis Solache of Lynwood is the only openly LGBTQ candidate running for California Senate in the District 33 special election. He was first elected to the Lynwood City Council in 2013 and previously served on the Lynwood Unified School Board from 2003 to



2013. As a school board member, Solache led an effort to improve academic performance, boosting Lynwood Unified School District's graduation rate to 93 percent. On the Lynwood City Council, he helped turn annual deficits into a more than one million dollar surplus. As a member of the LGBTQ community, Solache has spent his career fighting to advance LGBTQ civil rights and social justice, and his election would contribute to the growth of California's Legislative LGBT Caucus.

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Equality California is the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ civil rights organization. We bring the voices of LGBTQ people and allies to institutions of power in California and across the United States, striving to create a world that is healthy, just, and fully equal for all LGBTQ people. We advance civil rights and social justice by inspiring, advocating and mobilizing through an inclusive movement that works tirelessly on behalf of those we serve. www.eqca.org