



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **First 5 California Welcomes Yajayra Gonzalez as Legislative Manager**

**(SACRAMENTO, CA – April 2, 2026)** — First 5 California is pleased to announce that Yajayra Gonzalez has joined the organization as Legislative Manager on its External and Governmental Affairs team. In this role, Gonzalez will help advance First 5 California’s policy and advocacy efforts in support of young children and families across the state, bringing extensive experience navigating California’s legislative and policy landscape.



Gonzalez most recently served as a Legislative Coordinator at Murdoch, Walrath & Holmes, where she conducted in-depth policy research, tracked legislation, and helped advance strategic advocacy efforts for a range of clients. Her previous experience includes serving as Senior District Representative for Senator Angelique Ashby, where she led community engagement efforts, managed district operations, mentored new staff, and notably represented Senator Ashby internationally at the California-Mexico 2030 Summit. She also served as Senior District Representative for Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra, where she helped execute high-impact community events, including the March for the Governor’s Signature, a multi-regional movement tied to statewide legislation and advocacy at the State Capitol.

Gonzalez served as Field Representative for Assemblymember and now Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty, acting as a key liaison between the Member and constituents, local governments, businesses, district organizations, and community leaders. Earlier in her career, Gonzalez worked in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, collaborating with state agencies to resolve high volumes of complex constituent casework and communicating with Californians in both English and Spanish. She also served as a Press Assistant in the Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon, supporting media relations and legislative communications.

“Yajayra brings a deep understanding of California’s legislative process and a strong commitment to public service,” said First 5 California Executive Director Jackie Thu-Huong Wong. “Her experience across the Legislature, the Governor’s Office, and advocacy organizations will strengthen our ability to advance policies that improve outcomes for young children and families. We are excited to welcome her to the team and look forward to the impact she will make.”



“Yajayra’s strong commitment to public service makes her an incredible asset to our work,” said Jorge De La Cruz, Deputy Director of External and Governmental Affairs at First 5 California. “Her mission-driven approach aligns seamlessly with our efforts to support California’s youngest children and their families, and her perspective will help ensure that their needs remain at the forefront of our advocacy every step of the way.”

Gonzalez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Journalism from California State University, Sacramento. Her diverse background across multiple levels of government and her mission-driven approach position her to play a key role in supporting First 5 California’s North Star policy agenda and ongoing efforts to create brighter futures for California’s youngest children.

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**ABOUT FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA**

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources support parents, caregivers, and teachers in giving California’s children the best possible start in life. For more information, visit [www.cfc.ca.gov](http://www.cfc.ca.gov).