

The Honorable Delia Garcia
Kansas State House of Representatives



Kansas State House Representative Delia Garcia became the first Latina to be elected to the Kansas State Legislature, after 145 years of Kansas statehood. She is also the youngest female legislator elected to the Kansas Legislature, and one of the youngest Latina legislators in the United States. She was elected at the age of 27. Garcia, a native of Wichita, knew from an early age that she had political inclinations, and her life so far has been leading up to this stage. When she was still in her mother's womb, Garcia attended President Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Ball; In 1994, she received an Outstanding Youth Community Service Award from President Bill Clinton; She was coordinator of the National Latino Vote Campaign in 2000, sponsored by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute; and she has been involved in various presidential, congressional, state and local campaigns—most recently, of course, her own.

The Honorable Delia Garcia is also a proud product of many national Latino leadership organizations such as LULAC through the HLOP- Hispanic Leadership Opportunity Program during her high school years. She was also a member of the American GI Forum since 1991 and elected their National Youth President in 1996. Garcia attended Wichita State University, and amongst her many involvements, she was president of HALO- the Hispanic American Leadership Organization and a founding charter member of the first Latina sorority at WSU- Kappa Delta Chi Latina Service Sorority, Inc. Amongst her graduating class at WSU in 2001, she had the highest university honor to be selected as one of five Senior Honor Women. In 2000, she was recognized for her tireless, tenacious efforts and was awarded at the United States Hispanic Leadership Conference in Chicago as the first recipient of the Outstanding Youth of America Award

In August 2004, in the midst of her campaign for Kansas State Legislature, Garcia completed her master's degree in Political Science, as a Distinguished Graduate with a 3.94 GPA from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. After being elected in November, she returned to San Antonio in December to walk across the stage, and then moved to our state capitol Topeka just a few weeks later to be sworn in on January 10, 2005. Representative Garcia enjoys the opportunity to give back to her community what she has received her whole life, and has been previewed by various national magazines, including LATINA magazine for a second time in this month's August issue.