



Velma Veloria

Former Washington State Representative Velma Veloria is an immigrant from the Philippines. She graduated from San Francisco State with a B.S. in Medical Technology. In 1993 she was elected into office and became the first Asian American woman and first Filipina American elected to the Washington State legislature. Representing the 11th District, Veloria served from 1992 until 2004.

Among her many accomplishments in the legislature was her sponsorship of HB 1175, making the State of Washington the first state in the nation to criminalize human trafficking on a state level. Since the enactment of HB 1175, all 50 states in the nation have passed similar legislation.

Veloria has more than 40 years of community organizing. She worked as a labor organizer for Cannery Workers Union Local 37, SEIU 1199NW, and SEIU Local 6. She has taught Critical Community Organizing with Dr. Third Andresen and co-taught Human Trafficking in an Era of Globalization with Dr. Connie So and Dr. Sutapa Basu.

Veloria continues to be active organizing for many different causes including being co-chair of the Capital campaign for the Filipino Community Village, a \$40million building with 94 units of affordable senior housing and an Innovation Learning Center for the youth. She chairs the King County International Airport Community Coalition unified in pursuing health, environmental justice, and no expansion of the KCIA.