

# **California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones**

Dave Jones is California's Insurance Commissioner. He was first elected Insurance Commissioner on November 2, 2010 and re-elected on November 4, 2014. Jones leads the California Department of Insurance and regulates the California insurance market. Insurers collect \$288 billion a year in premiums in California, making it the nation's largest insurance market.



In 2011, Commissioner Jones established the Insurance Diversity Initiative (IDI) at the California Department of Insurance. The Initiative aims to increase procurement from diverse suppliers and increase governing board diversity in California's \$288 billion insurance industry. Since inception, procurement from diverse California businesses has increased 83% (from \$930 million to \$1.7 billion). Governing board diversity remains a challenge. In 2016, 80% of insurance company governing board seats were reported held by men, 96 insurance companies reported zero women on their governing boards, and 273 insurance companies reported zero persons of color on their governing boards.

The initiative is focused on transparency, as "what gets measured, gets done."

## **ABOUT THE INSURANCE DIVERSITY INITIATIVE**

The Insurance Diversity Initiative has three major components:

- Conducting surveys of insurance company supplier diversity and governing board diversity.
- Hosting the Annual Diversity Summit, that facilitates business matchmaking to increase contracting opportunities for California's diverse businesses with the nation's leading insurers and recognizes insurance industry leaders and stakeholders for achievements in diversity
- Established the Insurance Diversity Task Force comprised of insurers, diverse suppliers, stakeholders, and experts in this field to advise on issues of diversity.

## **CALIFORNIA INSURER SUPPLIER DIVERSITY RESULTS**

2012	\$930 Million
2013	\$1.3 Billion
2014	\$1.5 Billion
2015	\$1.7 Billion

More than 200 California companies met the \$100 million premium threshold to report in 2015, representing approximately 47% of the national insurance market.

In addition to his groundbreaking work on supplier and governing board diversity, Jones has secured crucial victories for consumers, including:

- Saved California consumers and businesses over \$2.66 billion in premiums by regulating rates for auto, homeowners and other property and casualty insurance;
- Implementing healthcare reform, including market reforms to protect consumers and expand access to health insurance;

- Issued emergency regulations establishing stronger requirements for health insurers to create and maintain sufficient medical provider networks to provide timely access to medical care;
- Saved California consumers \$357 million through the review of health insurance rates;
- Recovered more than \$359 million for consumers from consumer complaints and market conduct exams;
- Sponsored successful legislation to give small employers more time to comply with the Affordable Care Act;
- Reduced medical malpractice insurance rates, saving medical providers \$64 million;
- Required health insurance companies to cover an essential treatment for autism;
- Protected California's seniors with new laws on the sale of annuities;
- Obtained insurance company investments in low and moderate income communities;
- Investigating insurance fraud, which has led to nearly 4,626 arrests to date;
- Won a major anti-fraud lawsuit combating healthcare provider fraud, which costs consumers hundreds of millions of dollars;
- Led a national investigation of life insurance companies and secured payment of hundreds of millions in unpaid benefits and strict business reforms to ensure companies end decades-long practice of improperly holding onto life insurance benefits;
- Established first in the nation insurance diversity initiative increasing procurement from diverse suppliers by \$587 million.

The Daily Journal, the state's largest legal newspaper, in 2011 named him one of California's Top 100 Lawyers. The Greenlining Institute gave Jones their "2012 Big Heart Award" for his work promoting insurance industry diversity. Jones received the 2012 Distinguished Advocate Award from Autism Speaks.

Jones served in the California State Assembly from 2004 through 2010, where he chaired the Assembly Health Committee, the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. Named "Consumer Champion" by the California Consumer Federation, Jones was also awarded the "Leadership Award" by the Western Center on Law and Poverty. Planned Parenthood, Environment California, the Urban League, Preschool California and CalPIRG have all honored his work. Capitol Weekly named Jones California's "most effective legislator" other than the Assembly Speaker and the Senate President Pro Tempore. The American Psychiatric Association awarded Jones its prestigious Jacob K. Javits Public Service Award in 2015 for his work on mental health parity. In addition, Jones received the Phillip Burton Award for Courage from the Orange County Labor Federation on April 23, 2015.

Jones began his career as a legal aid attorney, providing free legal assistance to the poor with Legal Services of Northern California from 1988 to 1995. In 1995, Jones was one of only 13 Americans awarded the prestigious White House Fellowship. He served in the Clinton Administration for three years as Special Assistant and Counsel to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Jones served on the Sacramento City Council from 1999 to 2004.

Jones graduated with honors from DePauw University, Harvard Law School and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He and his wife, Kim Flores, have two children, Isabelle and William.