



Lindsay Thompson SFSU

**Velma Veloria**  
Filipino American  
**State Legislator**

Velma Veloria (1950- ) was born in the Philippines, but was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She returned to the Philippines after college and was shocked by what she saw. Bad leaders did not care about their people and she encouraged people to change their leaders. When she returned to the United States, she wanted to help workers. She wanted them to get higher pay and better working conditions. In 1992, Velma was the first Filipina to be elected in the state of Washington. She passed laws about housing and worker's rights that made life better for people in her state.