

[California's Fifth Congressional District](#) , nestled between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, is centered in metropolitan Sacramento, the heart of northern California. The city is both the capital of the Golden State and one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation.

[The 2005-2009 American Community Census Survey](#) ranked it as the forty-first largest city in the United States, with a population of 658,493 in the city proper and roughly 1.2 million in the greater Sacramento area. Sacramento combines the comforts of a small town with the amenities of a thriving cosmopolitan city. Crime rates, air pollution, and commute times are all generally lower than those of other major California cities. With its dynamic and high-growth business sector, a new easy-to-use public transportation system, and a rich diversity of cultural, educational, and entertainment attractions, it is easy to see why Sacramento is an ideal place to live and do business.

### **History**

At the turn of the 19th century, Sacramento was settled by predominantly the Miwok, Maidu, and Shonommey Indian tribes. In the early 1800s, Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga arrived on the lush banks of the city's major river and proclaimed the area "Sacramento", the Spanish word for Holy Sacrament. However, the most pivotal event in Sacramento's history began in nearby Coloma, when pioneer John Sutter and his business partner, James Marshall, discovered gold on their property in 1848. This event forever changed the face of Sacramento and transformed it from a tranquil wilderness outpost into the center stage for prospector dreams and ambitions. As a result of the Gold Rush, Sacramento enjoyed a period of great economic prosperity as the commercial epicenter of the west coast. This economic boom was partly triggered by the building of the western hub of the first continental railroad in Sacramento and the city's close proximity to major rivers. In 1849, Sacramento became California's first charter city.

### **Government**

Sacramento became the state's capital city in 1854, four years after California was admitted into the Union. Since then it has served continuously as the center of government for what is now the

