



**Name in English:** Fiona Ma  
**Name in Chinese:** 马世云 [馬世雲]  
**Name in Pinyin:** Mǎ Shìyún  
**Gender:** Female  
**Birth Year:** 1966  
**Birth Place:** New York City, New York  
**Current location:** San Francisco, California  
**Philanthropy:** Yes

## California State Assembly Leader

### Profession(s): Politician, Accountant

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Accounting, Rochester Institute of Technology, 1988; Master of Science, Taxation, Golden Gate University, 1992; Master of Business Administration, Pepperdine University, 1994

**Awards:** 2009, Policy Impact Award, 2009 Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit; 2007, Community Partner Award, San Francisco Food Bank; 2006, Commendation and Honor for Public Service, City and County of San Francisco; 2006, Recognition of efforts to prevent Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer in Asian Community, Asian Liver Center, Stanford University

**Contribution (s):** Fiona Ma became a member of the California State Assembly representing California's 12th Assembly District and Assembly Majority Whip upon her election in 2006. She has gone on to become Speaker pro Tempore for the body in 2010 after being elected to three consecutive terms. In her time with the Assembly, she has worked to protect young children from dangerous environmental chemicals, championed Hepatitis B prevention that is especially prevalent among Asian Americans, and has helped author the plans for the California High Speed Railway, approved by California's voters in 2008.

Fiona Ma was born and raised in New York. She is the oldest of three children. Upon receiving her bachelor's degree in accounting at the Rochester Institute of Technology, she moved to California. While in California, Ma got her master's degree in taxation from Golden Gate University, and an MBA from Pepperdine University. She is a California accredited CPA. In 1995, she became a part-time district representative to former State Senate President Pro Tempore John Burton. Working for Burton, she helped constituents in such issues as licensing, unemployment, and Medi-Cal.

In 2002, she was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors where she represented the Sunset District (District 4) from 2002 to 2006. While on the board, she helped prevent sex worker trafficking in the city, and worked to grow small businesses through the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program which enabled such businesses to more easily participate in public works projects.

Fiona Ma received 70% of the votes in 2006 to replace Leland Yee as the 12<sup>th</sup> District representative. In recognition of her prowess as a fundraiser for state Democratic Party political candidates, she was appointed Assembly Majority Whip, a position she held for three years.

As an Assemblywoman, Ma has authored important legislation, such as the "Rubber Duck" bill (AB 1108), a bill that banned products, especially plastic toys, that included the toxic chemical phthalate that can increase the risk of premature birth, the early onset of puberty, lower sperm count, increased reproductive defects, and cancer. Assemblywoman Ma's bill has since been used as a model for Federal legislation like the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

**Philanthropy:** At the age of 22, Fiona Ma learned that she had Hepatitis B (HBV), a disease that infects about 1 in 10 Asian/Pacific Islander Americans (APIs). Like the vast majority of those infected, she acquired the disease from her mother during pregnancy, as did her siblings.

Ma has been vocal about the disease both within the community and throughout the nation. She is heavily involved with San Francisco Hep B Free, a campaign dedicated to making San Francisco, a city with a large API population and the highest rate of liver cancer caused by the disease in the nation, the first hepatitis B free city in the country. The campaign provides free and low-cost hepatitis B testing and vaccinations to API adults. Federal representatives are now looking to replicate the program in other cities with large Asian-American populations. It is essential that Asian Americans get screened for Hepatitis B, as it is a disease that is treatable with medication but shows almost no symptoms until it is nearly too late.

In 2009, Ma introduced a resolution declaring May 2009 Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California. The resolution supports the development of a comprehensive and statewide HBV prevention and treatment plan.

Fiona Ma speaks openly about her infection in an effort to eliminate the stigma surrounding the disease in the Asian American community and to help promote Hepatitis B screening. She has also helped launch screening and vaccination initiatives in San Francisco. Assemblywoman Ma has been credited for being a role model and as the poster child in the fight to eradicate the Hepatitis B virus by people such as Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

#### **External Links:**

<http://asmdc.org/members/a12/biography?layout=item>

<http://www.sfhepbfree.org/>

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_moICC/is\\_1\\_75/ai\\_n16598292/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_moICC/is_1_75/ai_n16598292/)

<http://asmdc.org/members/a12/biography/awards?layout=item>