



Mikaela Cuaresma (SFSU 2022)

Ethnicity: Hmong

Place of Birth: Stockton, CA

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Highest Elected Position:

Mayor of Oakland, CA (2023-now)

Other Positions:

Oakland City Council, District 4
(2018-23)

Sheng Thao

(b. 1985)

Sheng Thao is the seventh of ten children in a family of Hmong refugees who fled Laos. Her parents met in a Thailand refugee camp before immigrating and settling in Stockton, California. Sheng Thao grew up in poverty and depended on social services for housing and food. As a single mother, she fled an abusive relationship and relied on public service for support and higher education. In 2018, Sheng Thao became the first Hmong American elected to Oakland's City Council. Five years later, she made history again by becoming the first Hmong American mayor of a major US city (Oakland). Sheng Thao champions issues and legislation around affordable housing, homeless services, family development, and marginalized youth, all of which reflects her own upbringing and experiences.