



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

News Release

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State Treasurer Fiona Ma to Receive Honorary Doctorate

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Fiona Ma will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) during the school's 2023 Academic Convocation on Friday, May 12, in Rochester, New York. Treasurer Ma graduated with an undergraduate degree in accounting from RIT's Saunders College of Business in 1988.

"It's such an honor to be recognized by RIT," said Ma. "The school holds a special place in my heart and was critical in developing me into the person I am today. I look forward to being on campus again and getting to experience the energy and optimism of this year's graduates as they set out to pursue their dreams."

While at her alma mater, Ma will tour the campus and meet with administrators, faculty and students. Ma, who played tennis at RIT, will also reconnect with her former coach, Ann Nealon.

Others receiving honorary degrees at the ceremony include astrophysicist Thomas Zurbuchen, artist Charles Gaines, entrepreneur and philanthropist B. Thomas Golisano, and entrepreneur and philanthropist E. Philip Saunders. They will be recognized alongside more than 4,000 graduates.

Founded in 1829, Rochester Institute of Technology is a diverse and collaborative community of engaged, socially conscious, and intellectually curious minds. Through creativity and innovation, and an intentional blending of technology, the arts and design, they provide exceptional individuals with a wide range of academic opportunities, including a leading research program and an internationally recognized education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

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Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was first elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history and reelected on

November 8, 2022. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Presently, her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion—a significant portion of which is beneficially owned by more than 2,200 local governments in California. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.

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