



Juana Matias

Chief Operating Officer, MassINC

Juana Matias joined MassINC in 2019, as Chief Operating Officer. In this capacity, Juana oversees the internal operations, performance, growth, development and marketing efforts of the organization. Prior to joining MassINC, Juana served as the State Representative for the 16th Essex District, becoming one of the first Latina immigrant women elected to the Massachusetts State House. During her time at the State House, Juana sponsored key legislation to make college affordable, protect immigrant rights, promote access to minority owned and women owned businesses, address inequities in our public-school systems, and expand opportunities for working class Americans. During her time as a State Representative, Juana launched a congressional race and became the first Latina to run for Congress in Massachusetts.

Juana, graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 2009, with bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice. In 2014, she received a Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School. After graduating from law school, Juana dedicated years of her career to public service by enlisting in AmeriCorps as a Justice AmeriCorps Legal Advocate. There, she sought humanitarian based immigration relief for unaccompanied children in removal proceedings.

- **Leadership Superpower:** The passion and conviction I implement behind my work and my ability to inspire others.
- **What brings her joy:** I enjoy spending time with family, seeing friends succeed and make a difference, traveling, and dancing.
- **Theme Song:** Flawless by Beyonce Ft. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie & Brave by Sara Bareilles