



# The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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January 24, 2015

## The State of the Union Address

This week, I was honored to be in the audience during the [President's State of the Union address](#) and hear the President describe how far we have come from the devastating economic crisis that began in 2007. Listening to the address, I believe the President really spoke from his heart.

"Tonight, after a breakthrough year for America, our economy is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999," the President said. "Our unemployment rate is now lower than it was before the financial crisis. More of our kids are graduating than ever before; more of our people are insured than ever before; we are as free from the grip of foreign oil as we've been in almost 30 years."

While being positive about how far we have come is good, I am glad the President not only acknowledged that we still have much work to do, but he laid out specific steps to move us forward.

Many of these steps involve offering more opportunity for all Americans.

I agreed with everything he talked about in terms of universal child care, tuition-free community college for hard working students, and getting more money in the hands of the middle class.

## On The Hill

### Round-up of the 113th Congress

In addition to my website, my weekly e-newsletter, and my almost daily social media postings, I like to send out an update twice a year in the form of a graphic to give constituents an opportunity to see some of my office's milestones that I am proud of.

As we move into the two-year session of the 114th Congress, I wanted to look back at the entire two-years of the 113th Congress and share with you some of these accomplishments.

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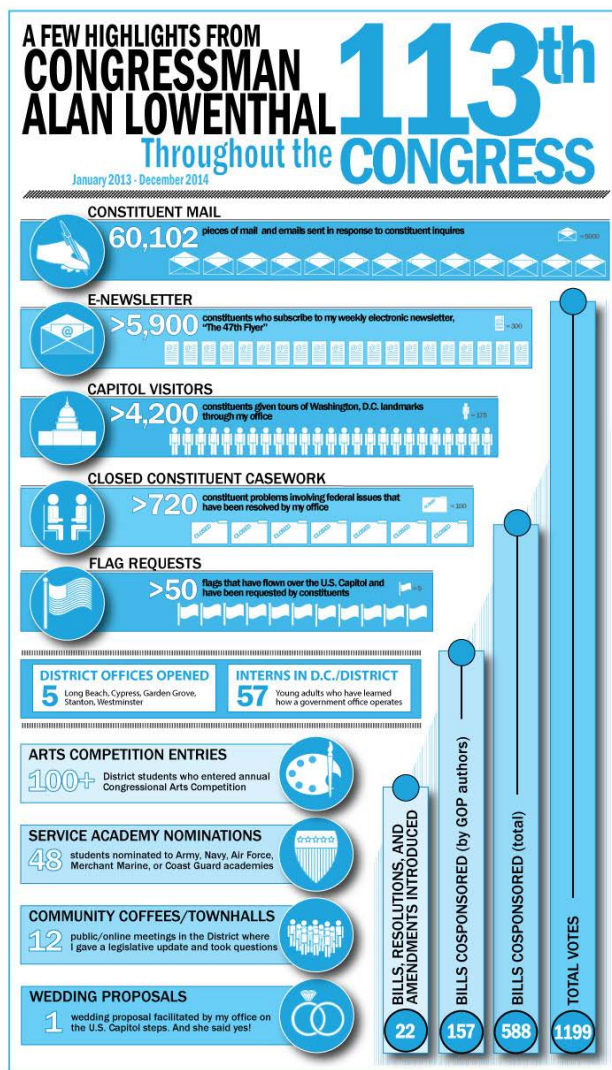
**Should students who work hard and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA be able to attend community college tuition free for two years?**

Yes - An educated population is better for everyone

Maybe - But those that can afford it should still pay

No - The Constitution says nothing about free government provided education

[If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window](#)



### Record Warmth Means More Flooding

Last weekend, an opinion piece that I co-authored with Michael Shank of Climate Nexus on the impacts of climate change ran in USA Today.

Here is a brief excerpt. You can read the whole op-ed by [clicking here](#).

*In the coming years, thanks to a rapidly warming climate, sea level rise and flooding will become a frequent occurrence on every coast of the North American continent.*

*While Southern California will suffer from some of the most significant sea level rise, no coastal community will be exempt. A recently published report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows just how frequent and dire the predictions are becoming.*

*Today, it is already five to ten times more likely, than it was fifty years ago, for flooding of one to two feet above high tide. And for many coastal communities, every inch matters.*

*But in the coming forty years, America's densely populated coasts will witness over 30 days of this type of flooding each year.*

### Speaking Up For Women's Health

This week, I participated in what is informally called a "Conga Line" on the floor of the House.

A "Conga Line" is a way for a large number of Members from one party to take a vocal stand on a bill without taking allocated time away from their side during a floor debate. One after the other, Members ask for unanimous consent (approval) to insert a statement into the Congressional Record.

There is a very formal way that these requests must be made on the floor, and each must begin with, "I ask unanimous consent to insert my statement in the Record that..." followed by a brief description of the issue.

The "Conga Line" I participated in this week was to point out that the House Majority, instead of voting for bigger paychecks and better infrastructure as outlined by the President in his State of the Union address, called a vote to attack women's health. The bill in question was H.R. 7, which would deny health care through federal and state exchanges to millions of women.

My actual statement I gave on the House floor was, "I ask unanimous consent to insert my statement in the Record that the House should vote for bigger paychecks and better infrastructure instead of attacking women's access to health care."



### **Long Beach Mayor Visit**

This week, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and members of his staff stopped by my DC office for a visit.

It is always a pleasure to have visitors from the district in Washington and I was delighted to sit down with the Mayor to discuss universal preschool, the Long Beach City College Promise Program, the ecosystem restoration study the city is working on in partnership with the Army Corp of Engineers, as well as other key issues throughout the city.

I look forward to working with Mayor Garcia as we continue to find ways to build an even stronger Long Beach.



Mayor Garcia was also in town, along with more than 200 other mayors from across the nation, to participate in the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual Winter Meeting. On Thursday, Vice President Biden spoke to the group and on Friday, Mayor Garcia and the others met with President Obama to discuss economic issues.

## In The 47th District

### Helping Those In Need

This week, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, more than 600 volunteers from local high schools and other organizations in Orange County turned out for the Orange County Food Bank's annual MLK Day event. It was great to pitch in with so many wonderful and excited volunteers.



On a service day like this, the OC Food Bank is able to box and ship out around 7,000 boxes of food for the needy. I have always been a big believer in public service. It is amazing the things we can accomplish when we work together.

### Selecting Nominees to Our Service Academies

This past weekend, I joined with my Service Academy Nomination Panel –

composed of military veterans and academy graduates – to review the almost two dozen service academy nomination requests my office has received.

Entrance to four of the five U.S. service academies--West Point (Army), Annapolis (Navy), Colorado Springs (Air Force), and Kings Point (Merchant Marine)--requires nomination by a Member of Congress or the Vice-President. The United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, does not require a nomination.

Final decisions will be made by the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force, and Merchant Marine Academies as they consider each of these talented and dedicated nominees from the 47th District for admission. The Academies base admission on many factors, including: the applicant's grade point average and class rank; extra-curricular activities; SAT scores; motivation; and performance in the interview with my Service Academy Nomination Panel.



I will be announcing the nominations very soon, but I wanted to thank Army Corps of Engineers Brigadier General Mark Toy and the rest of the members of my panel for their hard work on the review process.

## Congress U

### "State of the Union"

The State of the Union is an annual address by the President of the United States to both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The annual address reports on the condition of the nation and allows the President to outline his priorities for the next year.

The State of the Union is actually constitutionally mandated under Article II, Section 3: "[The President] shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as [the President] shall judge necessary and expedient."

Several interesting facts:

- Starting with Thomas Jefferson and until the administration of Woodrow Wilson, almost all Presidents communicated the State of the Union to Congress in writing.
- Prior to FDR first officially calling it the "State of the Union" address, the written or verbal address was generally known as "the President's Annual Message to Congress."
- In political circles and the political media, the address is often called the 'SOTU,'

which is pronounced 'sew-too.'

## Last Week's Poll

**The 2010 Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation increased the oversight of derivatives, reduced the systemic risk large banks posed, and created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.**

**Should the consumer protections under Dodd-Frank be scaled back?**

**15.7%** Yes - They are no longer needed, the market will self-regulate

**22.2%** Maybe - But each regulation within Dodd-Frank should be considered separately

**62.2%** No - The law helps to prevent another financial collapse

Thank you,



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