



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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April 17, 2015

Breathing Easier

When it comes to air quality for many people in Southern California, a simple test is whether they can see the mountains or what color the sky is on a given day.

If it seems that the mountains appear more visible recently, or that there seem to be fewer days of brown skies, science is backing up what your eyes are telling you.

A [new nearly 70-page study](#) by the California Air Pollution Control Officers' Association (CAPCOA) shows that the number of bad air days in Southern California are decreasing--this despite an ever larger number of residents and vehicles in the state.

According to the report, between 1990 and 2014, California's population increased 29 percent, registered vehicles increased 32 percent, and the state economy grew by 83 percent.

Statewide during the same 24-year-period, emissions of smog-forming pollution have decreased more than 50 percent. In addition, since 1990, emissions of toxic air contaminants and the resulting cancer risk to residents has been cut by 80 percent.

The report also notes that the California Air Resources Board estimates that 63 percent of Californians now reside in areas that meet the federal air quality standard for ozone (a respiratory irritant and inflammatory), compared to only 24 percent in 1990.

In addition, a recent study by University of Southern California scientists found that lung growth improved significantly as air pollution declined over the past 20-years for children aged 11 to 15 in five Southern California communities.

The CAPCOA report makes clear that these reductions are due to years of environmental measures being put in place to tackle the many component parts and sources of the state's air pollution.

While reports like these should make every Californian breathe a little easier, there is still so much more to do. Southern California still needs to dramatically reduce its levels of ozone and particulate matter to meet new federal rules.

Stricter emissions controls are imperative, both at the local, regional, state, and federal level.

We are seeing the tangible benefits of our long fight to improve our air quality, but we need to continue the struggle for the health and welfare of every American.

On The Hill

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In 2012, the state of California banned so-called "gay conversion" therapy, which claims to use different techniques to 'convert' homosexual people into heterosexual people. Recently, President Obama suggested that the controversial practice should be banned nationwide. Do you think a ban like that in California should be expanded nationwide?

Yes - The practice is harmful to people and based on junk science
No - It is a personal choice of the person seeking treatment
Maybe - But it should be left to the individual states to decide

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

Standing Up For Comprehensive Immigration Reform

For years, the Republican leadership in Congress has failed to address our broken immigration system by passing comprehensive immigration reform. Fortunately, President Obama has acted – following precedents established by every president since Eisenhower – to focus on commonsense priorities in immigration enforcement, strengthen our economy, and ensure that our resources are not squandered. Now is the time to empower millions of hard-working, law-abiding families to remain together and contribute to our great country. I am proud to support these efforts and join my colleagues in ensuring the President has the tools needed to improve our economy and keep families together.

That is why I have joined with 180 of my Congressional Democratic colleagues in filing an amicus brief supporting the Obama Administration's appeal in the Fifth Circuit case of Texas v. United States. The case has reached the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals following a federal district court ruling that granted a preliminary injunction that temporarily blocks the Secretary of Homeland Security from implementing the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program and expanding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The Obama Administration's Immigration Executive Actions are designed to restore sanity and accountability to our broken immigration system. The Executive Actions are commonsense steps that enhance border security, prioritize deporting felons not families, and require certain undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows, pay taxes, and pass a criminal background check.

In The 47th District

2015 Congressional District Art Competition

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district.

The Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students in the 47th District. The over-all winner of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol along with other winners from around the nation. First place winners also get to travel to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony. Second-place recipients will have their artwork hang in my Washington, D.C. office for a year, and the third-place recipient artwork will hang in my District Office for a year.

2015 HIGH SCHOOL CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

“Through the Eyes of an Artist”

presented by

CONGRESSMAN ALAN LOWENTHAL



Submissions Due By: Monday, April 20, 2015

Artwork entered in the contest may be up to 28 inches by 28 inches (including the

frame) by up to 4 inches in depth (and cannot weigh more than 15 pounds). The art work may be: paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor; drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers; collage; prints - including lithographs, silkscreen, and block prints; mixed media; computer generated art; and, photography.

All entries must be an original in concept, design and execution.

Visit [my Congressional Art Competition web page](#) for addition details and a submission form. Submissions are due by April 20, 2015. Winners will be selected at a reception on April 24th at the Long Beach Art Museum.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

NOAA Panel On Port Program

Concerned about the effect of marine transportation, safe navigation, commercial shipping, ocean policy, stewardship, and the overall effect of our changing environment, I recently met with the Hydrographic Services Review Panel, a Federal Advisory Committee to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration this week. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles provide thousands of jobs, and billions of dollars in trade and goods movement annually, these are the busiest container ports in the country. Since we want them to remain economically vibrant, their operations need to be safe, efficient and reliable that is why we need Hydrographic Services.



These services give real-time reliable information about weather forecasts and climatic conditions which help crews and pilots navigate huge ships safely and

efficiently in and out of our ports. The Precise Navigation Pilot Program in the ports is working to make that information available, and it will add to the efficiency of our busy ports operations. These services help protect lives and property, and also help conserve and protect our natural resources while contributing to the economic development of our country.

Forum On Environmental Justice

Congressman Raul Grijalva, a ranking member of Natural Resources, hosted an Environmental Justice Forum earlier this week. I took the opportunity to share my experience working in Long Beach for many years on improving air quality in the ports. I also spoke about the severity of climate change, the need for precautions and emergency response to avert or minimize the severity of natural disasters cause by climate change cannot be over-emphasized. The forum was attended by former Senator Tom Hayden who also spoke at the forum, reps Norma Torres, Grace Napolitano, Linda Sanchez, Maxine Waters, Judy Chu alongside various individuals and interest groups concerned with environmental justice.



Defending Workers At Long Beach City Council

Last week, I was proud to attend the Long Beach City Council meeting to speak out in support of a Citywide Project Labor Agreement (PLA) between the City of Long Beach and Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and the signatory Craft Councils and Local Unions. This agreement is for all covered projects over \$500,000, for a period of five years. The measure, which passed the City Council, would require workers on all contracts over \$500,000 to be paid wages equivalent to the prevailing union wage, whether or not they belong to a union.



Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office Renaming

I had the great pleasure to attend the renaming of the North Long Beach Post Office in memory of Juanita Millender-McDonald, who passed away in 2007. Juanita was a trailblazer, both in the barriers she broke and the issues she tackled. She was the first African-American female elected to the Carson City Council and as a member of the House of Representatives she was the first African American female to chair a standing committee. She brought critical issues such as reducing pollution and providing solutions to the air quality problems in Long Beach to the forefront. She was also instrumental in securing funding for the Gerald Desmond Bridge. Juanita was a true leader in our community and her legacy continues to be an inspiration to current and future leaders in our area.



CSULB Environmental Science And Policy Club

I spent nearly three decades as a professor at Cal State Long Beach. It was great to be back on campus last week and have the opportunity to share my experiences with CSULB's Environmental Science and Policy Club (ESPC). The ESPC serves to spread awareness, education, and appreciation of the environment as well as promote sustainability on/off the CSULB campus. They are active within our local community and sponsor numerous events such as coastal clean-ups, hikes, plant-restoration projects, Earth Week and Earth day, festivals, conferences and guest speakers. These students are the environmental policy makers of the future and I was delighted to see these students' commitment to leave our environment in better shape for generations to come.



Congress U

Recording A Vote

The House of Representatives can vote on various motions, bills, and resolutions in several different ways.

One way is by a voice vote where the Speaker calls for verbal yea-and-nay votes from the Members on the floor, and after calling for each, decides which side had a greater number of voices. Individual votes for each member are not tabulated nor recorded.

However, the Constitution requires that yea-and-nay votes be taken and recorded when requested by one-fifth of the members present. At the request of a Member, the Speaker of the House calls a voice vote on the desire for a recorded vote and determines whether one-fifth of the members present agree with the request. In practice, the Speaker provides a recorded vote whenever a Member requests such.

As the name suggests, recorded votes are counted, and how each individual Member votes is recorded. These can be handled in three ways:

- **Calling the roll:** The Speaker may ask the Clerk to call the roll of members. However, this procedure is reserved for formal votes, considering the amount of time consumed by calling the name of over four-hundred Members.
- **Teller vote:** Although an archaic practice today, the House can hold what is called a teller vote, in which each member signs a green card for "Yea," a red card for "Nay," and an orange card for "Present" (an abstention), and hands it to a Clerk, who counts the votes.
- **Vote by electronic device:** The most common way for a recorded vote to be tallied is by electronic device. Members vote by inserting a plastic voting card, which doubles as a photo ID, into terminals located on the backs of seats in the House chamber. The member presses a red button to vote "Nay," a green button to vote "Yea," and a yellow button to vote "Present." Members' names are displayed on a blue, backlit panel above the Speaker's chair, and when a member votes, a red, green, or yellow light appears adjacent to his or her name. Displays on the side walls of the chamber display a running vote total.

Last Week's Poll

This week, the P5+1 nations agreed to a framework with Iran to limit enrichment of uranium; to reduce significantly the number of centrifuges; to convert its facilities at Fordow to only be used for peaceful purposes; and, to agree to regular inspections of all of Iran's nuclear facilities. It does not yet spell out the final timeframe for sanction relief. What do you think?

37.7% I support the framework and believe it is a good deal for the United States and our allies, and will prevent Iran from getting the bomb.

19.1% I have misgivings about provisions in the framework, but believe it is better than the alternative, which is likely to be another war in the Middle East.

12.7% I have serious concerns about provisions in the framework and think the United States should increase sanctions and force Iran to give up more of its nuclear enrichment activities.

30.5% I oppose the framework and think it will allow Iran to remain a nuclear state, give the regime greater resources to support terror and spark a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Thank you,



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