



The 47th Flyer

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



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January 17, 2014

We are now in the second week of the Second Session of the 113th Congress, and thankfully, the budget process is moving forward. On Tuesday, the House passed a three-day Continuing Resolution (CR) – a short-term spending bill – to avoid another potential government shutdown and allow time for the passage of the Omnibus spending bill, which is a combined funding bill of \$1.012 trillion for all major federal government agencies and programs. I voted “yes” on the Omnibus appropriations bill, which passed the House on Wednesday. The CR is set to expire on Saturday, when the Senate is poised to vote on the Omnibus spending bill.

While the Omnibus spending bill is not a typical spending process – Congress typically votes on 12 separate funding, or appropriations, bills – Congress is doing the right thing by coming together in a bipartisan manner to focus on a two-year budget. The proposed spending bill also restores \$45 billion in sequestration cuts, which will make up for billions in lost funding to critical infrastructure, institutions, and programs, such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I believe the Omnibus spending bill is a step in the right direction; and, it must be passed by Saturday by the Senate or the CR expires and the government is shut down once more.

CONGRESS U

Congressional Sessions

A Congressional session is the period during which Congress assembles and carries on its regular business. Each Congress generally has two regular sessions (a first session and a second session), based on the constitutional mandate that Congress assemble at least once each year.

The current Congress, the 113th, began its First Session in January, 2013. The Second Session of the 113th Congress began on January 7th, 2014.

In addition to regular session, the Constitution gives the president the authority to recall Congress for special sessions. A Special Session of Congress may be convened after that Congress has already adjourned for the close of either the first or the second regular session, but before the next session begins. Typically this is done in an emergency situation. Since the first Congress met in 1789, 27 special sessions have been held. The last was called by Pres. Harry Truman in 1948.

LAST WEEK'S SURVEY

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Do you think my small business jobs bill, the "American Unemployed Worker Investment Act," which offers tax credits to employers for hiring Americans currently receiving unemployment insurance, should be made law?

Yes - It is a good policy that will sensibly put people back to work, stimulate the economy, and save our country billions of dollars currently spent on unemployment insurance

Yes - But it should include all workers, not just those receiving unemployment insurance

Maybe - Congress needs to focus first on other forms of economic growth

No - It is too costly, and I'm not sure it will have its intended effect

Previous Poll:

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

Will expanding unemployment insurance to the 1.3 million Americans who lost their benefits at the start of the year benefit our economy?

56.9% Yes - They will be able to spend that money on food, bills, and rent as they continue their job search - which will, in turn, stimulate the economy.

4.9% Maybe - Congress must first pass legislation that extends unemployment benefits, then we will see what the economic impact will be.

36.1% No - It will cause people to lose their motivation to find a job.

2.1% I don't know

Thank you,



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