



The 47th Flyer

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



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February 7, 2014

February is nationally recognized as Black History Month. This year's theme is "Civil Rights in America," focusing on the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This landmark piece of legislation, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson, outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, including barring discrimination in all facilities open to the public, thereby ending the Jim Crow era. Despite the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the strides we have made since, there is much more work that needs to be done to protect the rights of all Americans, especially their voting rights.

In early 2013, the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. This critical component of the Act provided voting protection to areas of the country where racial discrimination against minority voters was still prevalent. Congress must recommit its efforts to renew and strengthen the protections of the Voting Rights Act that guard Americans' right to vote. Voting rights, just like civil rights, are fundamental to a vibrant democracy.

On The Hill

Our national public lands generate \$646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year, another \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue, and are tied directly to more than 6.1 million jobs. All of this is threatened by the steadily worsening reality of climate change.

On Wednesday, the House voted on the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act," which claims to preserve our nation's public lands. However, the Act would actually impair federal management of these lands and undermine important existing public land and environmental laws, rules, and processes. The bill is shortsighted and does not, at any point, address any climate change mitigation strategies.

This is why I cosponsored an important climate change amendment to the Act.

The amendment allows the Secretary of the Interior to consider the detrimental effects of climate change when making decisions related to recreation and conservation on public lands. Unfortunately, the bill passed the House without the amendment by a vote of 268 to 154. Despite the climate change amendment being defeated, I will continue to fight for policies that address climate change head-on. It is, in my opinion, a matter of national security.

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Should climate change policy play a larger role in the conservation and preservation of public lands?

Yes - It is critical for us to address climate change now so as to protect public lands for future generations

Maybe - Climate change policy is good for public lands, but it will not affect public lands in our lifetime

No - Climate change policy will hurt our public lands

I don't know

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

In The 47th District

Last weekend, I was proud to take part in the annual Tet Parade in Westminster. As many of you know, this is one of the most attended cultural events in the district, and it was an honor to help ring in the Vietnamese Lunar New Year with thousands of constituents from the community.



Marching in the annual Tet Parade in Westminster

I also visited with a few of the Vietnamese media outlets in Westminster during the Lunar New Year celebrations. We discussed human rights, the Lunar New Year, and ways for us to work together in the future.



At Viet Bao Daily News, delivering chrysanthemums -- a popular gift in the Vietnamese community.

Congress U

Amendments

An amendment changes the text of an existing bill or of another existing amendment. Members of Congress can offer amendments either in committee sessions or on the House floor. Amendments can be offered to add text, remove existing text, or remove existing text and replace them with substitute language.

Another kind of amendment is a Constitutional amendment, which makes formal changes to the U.S. Constitution. These amendments require a 2/3 supermajority of both the Senate and the House to be sent to the states for ratification. Three-quarters of the states must then approve a Constitutional amendment for it to be ratified. There have been 33 Constitutional amendments and all but six have been ratified. Interestingly, four of these six unratified amendments, some dating back to the 1700s, are technically still pending before state lawmakers.

Last Week's Poll

What did you think about the President's State of the Union address?

- 20.7%** It was inspiring, and he laid out a clear vision of where we are and where we have to go
- 25.9%** The speech was good, but I did not hear everything that I was hoping to hear
- 46.5%** The speech was not good, and I did not agree with his vision

6.9% I did not get a chance to watch it

Thank you,



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