



# The 47th Flyer

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



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April 4, 2014

Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and the House Republicans just released their budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2015.

Every year, the President and the House Majority, in this case the Republicans, release their own proposed budgets for the Congress to consider. Each of these separate budget proposals represents a unique perspective on the current status of our country, as well as a unique vision of its future. The budget process, while arduous at times, is a critical part of governing the United States; and each respective proposal deserves attention, debate, and analysis.

While I strongly disagreed with Rep. Ryan's budget proposal last year, and supported the Democratic budget, in the end, the Congress adopted a compromise budget. I am hopeful that the spirit of compromise will continue into 2014.

Chairman Ryan's Budget proposal can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

President Obama's Budget proposal can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

## In The 47th District

### Student Creativity

There is only one week left to submit your artwork to the 47th District Congressional Art Competition! Please spread the word to your kids, friends, and neighbors! This is a great opportunity for high school students to showcase their talents. [Click here to learn more](#).

## An Artistic Discovery

presented by

CONGRESSMAN ALAN LOWENTHAL



Submissions Due: Friday, April 11, 2014

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How do you think Congress should consider the two separate budget proposals?

Congress should work together to find a compromise between the two proposals

Congress should pass the President's proposed budget

Congress should pass Chairman Ryan's proposed budget

I do not know

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

## District Techies

This year marks the first annual Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academic Competition, the “House Student App Challenge.”

Established by Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013, this competition is a nationwide event that allows high school students from across the country to compete by creating and exhibiting their software application, or “app,” for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice. Throughout the completion period, participating students will be provided opportunities to engage with various STEM educational partners located within the community to mentor and assist them with their app development. This competition is designed to engage student’s creativity and encourage their participation in STEM education fields.



The “House Student App Challenge” is open to all high school students in the 47th District. Students entering the competition must submit their app’s source code online during the Competition Submission Period between 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on February 1, 2014, and 8:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on April 30, 2014, as well as provide a YouTube or VIMEO video demo explaining their app and what they learned through this competition process.

Learn more by visiting my website: [Congressman Lowenthal Official website.](#)

## On The Hill

### Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Call For An Immediate Vote

Last week, I signed a discharge petition on H.R. 15, a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill. The bill is based on S.744, the bipartisan bill passed by the U.S. Senate in June, 2013. H.R. 15 secures our borders, creates an earned clear pathway to citizenship, and increases economic opportunities for all Americans. Furthermore, passing this bill will save our country \$900 billion over the next two decades. This is why I spoke on the House floor in support of the discharge petition, which could bring the bill to the House floor for an immediate vote if it reaches 218 signatures. As of Wednesday, there were 190 signatures.





Watch my full floor speech by clicking the picture above or by clicking [this link to visit my official YouTube page.](#)

### Healthcare Enrollment Reaches 7.1 Million

More than 7.1 million Americans signed up for private insurance on the health insurance marketplaces set up by the Affordable Care Act during the first enrollment period that ended March 31. The law may not be perfect, but it is working and helping millions of Americans. I am so proud of the enrollment numbers, and I look forward to making the Affordable Care Act work even better.



Watch the President's remarks on the enrollment numbers by clicking the picture above or by [watching it on YouTube.](#)

### Supreme Court Rules On Campaign Money

Regrettably, in this week's *McCutcheon vs. FEC* decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of big money in politics. The floodgates have now been opened even wider than before – giving corporations and the wealthiest few the green light to pour even greater amounts of money into political campaigns. This is a serious blow to our democracy.

Now, more than ever, Congress needs to redouble its efforts in passing campaign finance reform, including Congressman John Sarbanes' "Government by the People Act" and a constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* decision.

## Congress U

### Proposed Budgets vs. Continuing Resolutions

Each year, the President releases a proposed budget, where it is then given to Congress for their review. Congress then creates several separate bills, called appropriations bills, that authorize government spending that could be similar or completely different from what was in the President's proposed budget.

If Congress cannot agree to spending levels in either the President's proposed budget or in their appropriations bills, then they vote on a Continuing Resolution (CR), which is a short-term bill to fund the government. The CR is temporary measure that keeps the current level of funding so that Congress has time to work out a longer term spending plan. To keep the federal government running in the event of a failure to pass a full budget, Congress must pass the CR, or the government risks being shut down.

### Last Week's Poll

**Do you think the President should utilize his executive authority on issues that are unable to be decided upon by Congress?**

**47.7 % Yes** - Congress is currently too divided to pass effective legislation, therefore the President must act whenever and wherever he can

**10.1 % Maybe** - He should only use his executive authority when it is a matter of national security

**41.1 % No** - It is an overreach of his Presidential duties

**0.0 %** I do not know

**1.1 %** (NO RESPONSE)

Thank you,

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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