



# The 47th Flyer

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



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May 9, 2014

Monday night marked the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's independence, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut. With the darkness of the Holocaust still fresh in the mind of the world, the State of Israel was formed as a shining beacon of freedom and democracy.

As the son of Jewish immigrants, I am especially proud to point out that the United States was the first country to recognize the new nation of Israel.

Since 1948, Israel has persevered against threats large and small, while at the same time building a thriving, dynamic, innovative economy.

Today, we are proud of our unbreakable bonds with Israel, built on our common foundation of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Israel is without question the United States' closest ally in the region, and one of our closest friends in the world.

The Israeli people continue to be a symbol of democratic courage in the Middle East and around the world.

I am reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy, who said, "Israel was not created in order to disappear—Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom."

## In The 47th District

### **SB I-710 Connector Closing On May 10<sup>th</sup>**

As part of the nearly \$1 billion Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project, the I-710 (Long Beach) Freeway connector to westbound Ocean Boulevard on Terminal Island will be closed for approximately 30 months. The route will be diverted onto southbound Pico Avenue, then to westbound Ocean Boulevard.

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#### Do you think there should be a Select Committee on Benghazi?

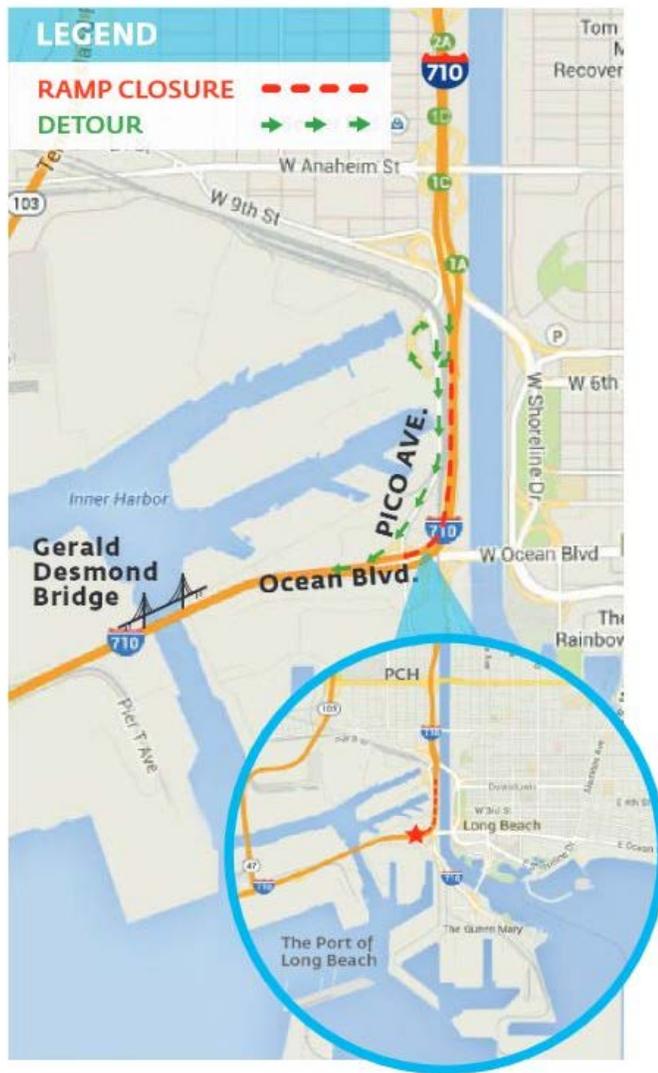
Yes - The House of Representatives needs to find the truth about Benghazi

Maybe - If it is going to be established, it must include an equal number of Democrats and Republicans working together to ensure the bipartisan review of every single piece of evidence

No - The House of Representatives has spent too much time and money investigating; we have all the answers

I do not know

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



You can learn more about the road closure and detour update [here](#).

### ***Commemorating Fallen FBI Agents***

This week, representatives from my district staff attended the 28th Annual Memorial Service at the Federal Building Headquarters in West Los Angeles that honored those in law enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

While I could not attend because votes were being held in Washington, D.C., my staff relayed to me that it was a very moving ceremony complete with bagpipes and the ringing of a bell, and a processional of family members with a picture of their loved one and a yellow rose for each of the sixty fallen law enforcement officers.

### **On The Hill**

#### ***Letting the People Draw the Lines***

On Tuesday, I spoke at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia about gerrymandering. My bill, the "Let the People Draw the Lines Act," would eliminate gerrymandering as we know it and sets clear and uniform national guidelines for redistricting that require each state to put in place independent citizen panels to draw new congressional districts every ten years.



Please click [here](#) or the picture above to watch the panel discussion

### ***The National Climate Assessment***

The White House recently released its 2014 National Climate Assessment, which calls for urgent action to combat human-caused climate change.

This is not a war on any industry, nor is this a political game. These are our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren.

The science is conclusive – climate change is happening. We must act on climate now before it is too late. I will keep fighting until Congress finally acts to curb climate change.

I encourage you to learn more about the National Climate Assessment by visiting: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

## Congress U

### **“Select Committee”**

This week, the House voted to set up a Select Committee to investigate the 2011 attacks on the U.S. facilities in Benghazi. A special, or “select,” committee is usually tasked with investigating or addressing a very specific issue, such as the attack on 9/11, the Watergate scandal, or in this case the Benghazi attacks. Select Committee members are announced by the Speaker of the House, and then the House of Representatives must vote on a House Resolution to approve the committee’s establishment.

Once approved, the Select Committee is then recognized as any other congressional committee. This means that they are allowed to hold hearings, debate, and vote on pieces of legislation related to their investigation or issue.

*(I voted against the newly-formed Select Committee on Benghazi because it did not include an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, which would ensure a bipartisan review of the evidence.)*

## Last Week’s Poll

**Should the Veterans Benefits Administration hire more staff to process the overwhelmingly large number of backlogged claims?**

**81.0% Yes** - We must do anything we can to help our Veterans

**15.2% Maybe** - The Veterans Benefits Administration should find a way to address the issue without hiring more paid staff

**0.0% No** - It will cost too much money

**3.8% I do not know**

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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