



# The 47th Flyer

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



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It is always great to be back in the district.

This was a very busy week being back in the district, and it was great to connect with so many people back home.

Before I delve into this past week, I want to take a moment to join with Americans around the country in recognizing June as LGBT Pride Month. It is a time to remember the riots at the Stonewall Inn and the regrettable policies that have so blatantly violated the human rights of countless Americans.

Never again shall a country as free as ours suppress the rights of Americans because of their sexual orientation. One of our greatest strengths as a nation is our diversity, and we must always strive to honor and respect that diversity no matter where, or in whom, we find it.

Because there is still much work to be done in the name of full equality for all Americans, I echo President Obama's call to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and I stand with dozens of my colleagues in Congress who urge for the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would ban employers from discriminating against workers based on their sexual orientation.

## In The 47th District

### Welcoming Home the Troops

I have the highest respect for our nation's service members; we owe them the deepest debt for their service. While we must maintain a strong global presence, I stand with President Obama and his desire to wind down the number of American soldiers in Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base, I was honored to join families and members of the community in welcoming home nearly 100 soldiers of the California Army National Guard's 216th Mobility Augmentation Command. The unit was returning home from their nine-month deployment to the Ghazni Province in Afghanistan where they were tasked with maintaining roadways and searching for improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Many of the returning soldiers were Long Beach residents.

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### Should the federal government regulate greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants?

Yes - We must do everything we can to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

Maybe - Each State should decide emission levels for their coal-fired power plants.

No - Coal-fired power plants have enough regulations as is.

I do not know

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



It was such a privilege to meet these brave soldiers, who went into harm's way every day on the battlefield, as well as their families, who sacrificed so long without their loved ones on the home front.

### **My Visit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

This week I participated in a tour of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFW) Law Enforcement Office in Torrance.

During the tour, I had the opportunity to meet with the dedicated USFW staff that ensure prohibited items, such as pelts or clothing from endangered species and trafficked wildlife, stay off the market.

As a lifelong defender of our wildlife, it was inspiring to see the dedication of USFW staff and their commitment to protecting endangered species and the public.



*Here is what a typical USFW seizure might entail – figurines made out of ivory*

The tour gave me a direct insight into the important and difficult tasks given to USFW enforcement offices nationwide. It also gave me a greater understanding of the role Congress, such as the Natural Resources Committee I sit on, should play in providing strong support to the USFW.

### **Long Beach's Unemployment Rate**

According to the California Employment Development Department, Long

Beach's unemployment rate is at a six-year low of 8.4 percent – the lowest since the Great Recession.

Although there is still much work to be done, both in Long Beach and across the country, Long Beach's approach to economic and business development stands as a strong testament to the innovative approaches that are putting our citizens back to work and getting our communities and country moving again.

Read more about the unemployment numbers by clicking [here](#).

## On The Hill

### Foster Youth Shadow Day

This was my second year participating in Foster Youth Shadow Day, organized by the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. I was joined this year by a young man named Patrick.

Patrick was placed into the foster care system when he was about 9 years old. As a Long Beach resident, Patrick, now 20, participated in last week's Foster Youth Shadow Day to share his experiences with me and to help me better understand the perspective of foster youth throughout our nation. Patrick's advocacy further inspires me to ensure that we protect our foster youth and ensure that they have the tools they need to succeed.



### Regulating Coal-fired Power Plants

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, 70 percent of Americans believe the federal government should require limits to greenhouse gases from existing power plants.

With Congress unable to face and take action on the reality of human contributions to climate change, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed crucial steps to cut carbon pollution from power plants, which will combat climate change.

You can watch his remarks by clicking [here](#) or on the picture below:



I'm proud to see the president take action on climate change when many in Congress won't agree that we even have a problem. The President has taken a big step under the Clean Air Act, but to comprehensively address this problem Congress will need to show the same leadership.

### Ending Gerrymandering For Good

For nearly a year I have been trying to enact legislation in Congress that will end the unfair practice of gerrymandering. Common throughout the nation, gerrymandering allows elected officials to draw congressional district boundaries, often to their benefit and that of their party.

Last week, I had a great phone interview with the Washington Post about the need to end gerrymandering once and for all. There is such distrust in government today, this would be one small step of a long journey to reestablish that trust.

I encourage you to read the full article on the Washington Post by clicking [here](#).

## Congress U

### “Committee Repository”

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee Repository is a collection of all of the committee and subcommittee hearings that are held on Capitol Hill. Whether it is the Committee on Veterans' Affairs holding a hearing on VA staffing, or the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development holding a hearing on appropriate funding levels, the Committee Repository serves as a resource for staff and the public to learn about the daily, weekly, and monthly hearings on Capitol Hill.

I encourage you to visit the Committee Repository website, which is open to the public, by clicking [here](#).

## Last Week's Poll

### Do you think Congress should enact a National Ocean Policy?

**57.8% Yes** - It is critical for the protection and maintenance of the many uses of our oceans

**6.0% Maybe** - A National Ocean Policy is critical, but States should decide their ocean policies

**33.7% No** - A National Ocean Policy is an overreach of the federal government, and it will hurt our economy

**2.4% I do not know**

Thank you,



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Member of Congress

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