



# The 47th Flyer

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



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September 16, 2013

I think most people would agree that Congress is not working to its full potential. Partisanship and posturing have created an environment in Washington, D.C., where collaboration and cooperation -- the hallmarks of my approach in the California Legislature -- are seen as negatives. But I want you to know I'm working hard every day to change the culture here in Washington and have quickly found allies on both sides of the aisle -- particularly among the freshman class -- who are focused on solutions to big problems, regardless of political affiliation.

## Diplomatic Moves On Syria

The latest details of the situation in Syria seem to indicate that a diplomatic solution is possible. What remains to be seen, however, is whether such a solution is workable. Like President Obama, I have always believed that a diplomatic solution is the preferred outcome.

On the use of force question, I remain undecided. I await a satisfactory answer to the question of what happens if we do attack. What are the dangers not only to the U.S., our international allies, and our friends in the Middle East, but also to the Syrian civilian population as well.

The use of chemical weapons in Syria is unacceptable and horribly tragic. If these diplomatic efforts can ultimately lead to the elimination and destruction of these universally-condemned weapons, it deserves serious consideration. Details remain to be seen, but there must be thorough oversight, there must be strict compliance, and there must be implacable verification.

As diplomatic efforts move forward, I will continue to review all options available, including a military strike, listen to the views of my constituents, material from intelligence briefings, and from consultations with other members of the government.

## Food Programs Threatened

Federal hunger relief programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance program (TEFAP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), have enabled millions of Americans and their families to live healthy lives in difficult economic circumstances.

Next week, the Congress is likely to take up a measure that could cut \$40 billion from the SNAP program over the next 10 years.

I have serious concerns with how cuts to these programs would adversely affect the millions of men, women, and children who have benefited from

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**The Secretary of the Treasury says that the government will not have enough money to pay all of its debts and keep all existing government programs running unless Congress raises the debt ceiling by October. What do you think will happen if the debt ceiling is not raised?**

- A financial crisis
- Major problems, including downgrading of US credit
- Minor problems, including decreased government services
- No problems at all
- Unsure

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hunger relief programs. I firmly believe that we must work to reduce our federal deficit, but especially in this time of economic recovery, we cannot balance our budget on the backs of those who need assistance most.

I will continue to support programs like SNAP, TEFAP, and WIC and work to make sure that we keep encouraging and empowering healthy families and communities.

### **Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture**

Last weekend, I had the privilege to greet festival goers at the 22nd Annual Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture (FPAC) at Point Fermin Park in San Pedro, an area I served for six years as a member of the California Assembly. I am proud of my record supporting the Filipino American community and now as a member of Congress, I proudly represent the westside of Long Beach which is home to one of the oldest and largest Filipino American communities in the United States.

It was great to be able to meet with so many members of the Filipino American community at the FPAC and I was humbled by their kind recognition of my work with the community.

The Filipino American community has a long history of contributions to the building of California and our great nation, from the first Filipinos who arrived by Spanish Galleon in Morro Bay to the thousands of Filipino farmworkers who helped feed our nation through their labor in the fields of Central California, to initiating the great Delano Grape Strike in 1965. We must also not forget the brave service of the 250,000 Filipinos who served in World War II, and those that continue to serve and contribute to the fabric of American life today.



First published in 1873, the Congressional Record is the printed account of what is said and what takes place on the House and Senate floors. Printed each day while Congress is in session, each daily issue of the Congressional Record is broken into four sections, including the House section, the Senate section, the Extensions of Remarks, and, since the 1940s, the Daily Digest.

The House and Senate sections contain the daily proceedings of each chamber. The Extension of Remarks section contains speeches, tributes and other extraneous words that were not actually uttered during open proceedings.

Located in the back of each issue, the Daily Digest summarizes the day's floor and committee activities and serves as a table of contents for each issue.

At the end of each Congressional session, a bound volume containing each issue of the session's Congressional Record issues is printed.

In 2011, members of Congress were asked if they preferred receiving multiple printed copies of the daily Congressional Record, or access to an online version. Most congressional offices, including ours, opted out of the paper record in exchange for the [digital version](#).

### **Last Week's Survey**

What should the United States do following the now-verified chemical weapons attacks by the Syrian government on its own people?

- 8.8% Install a no-fly zone over Syria
- 51.2% Work with the international community to take action
- 10.1% Attack government military installations
- 8.7% Attack only chemical weapons sites/facilities
- 30.1% Bring war crimes charges against government leaders
- 32.1% The U.S. should stay out of the conflict

Thank you,



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