



# The 47th Flyer

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



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## Voting Is A Civic Right

For more than 240 years our democracy has persevered and thrived, evolving from a collection of 13 colonial states into one of the most powerful and influential nations the world has ever seen. At the heart of this success has been the guiding voice of the American people expressed through the ballot box.

On Tuesday, November 4, the American people will again head to the polls to express their voice.

Voting is one of the most fundamental civic rights we as Americans possess.

I want to encourage every American to vote this Tuesday. Your voice cannot be heard if you remain silent.

If you have questions about voting on Tuesday, you can find much more information including details about where to vote, early voting, and ID requirements by going to the [California Secretary of State's website](#), the [Los Angeles County Registrar's website](#), or the [Orange County Registrar's website](#).

## On The Hill

### Torture Is Torture

Torture anywhere is still torture and goes against the basic character and spirit of America.

In 1994, the United States Senate approved the United Nations Convention Against Torture, an international human rights treaty which aims to prevent torture and cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment or punishment around the world.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Bush Administration wrongly re-interpreted the Convention as not applying to U.S. detention centers overseas. This interpretation created the conditions that led to well publicized abuses of detainees in U.S. facilities such as Abu Ghraib.

In 2009, the Obama Administration issued an executive order that forbade cruel interrogations abroad and made it harder for a future administration to return to the use of torture.

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Which of the following is the MOST important issue facing the nation right now?

- The economy
- Terrorism
- Ebola
- Health care
- Immigration
- Federal budget deficit
- International conflicts
- Something else
- Unsure/No answer

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

Next month in Geneva, the Administration will make a presentation to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, the international body which monitors implementation of the Convention by signatories. This week I joined more than 30 of my colleagues in sending a letter to the White House urging President Obama to stand firm in his opposition to the use of torture anywhere in the world.

The letter expresses support for ensuring the United Nations Convention Against Torture applies overseas, to all persons directly or indirectly under control of any U.S. authorities wherever they are located.

## In The 47th District

### \$2 Million STEM Grant For LBUSD

As we continue to shift from the Industrial Age into the Information Age, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education will only become more important. To remain competitive in the Information Age, we must continue to encourage, support, and promote STEM education.

This is why I was so proud to join Long Beach Unified School District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jill Baker and Barton Elementary School Principal Richard Littlejohn on the Barton campus in Long Beach this week to announce a new \$2 million U.S. Department of Education grant to promote arts, science, and math education to students in the Long Beach Unified School District.



The grant was awarded to Signal Hill-based Dramatic Results, a nonprofit education agency that specializes in curriculum that integrates art into other core academic subjects meeting California content standards and the needs of a diverse student population.

Joining us at the event to receive the symbolic check were Dramatic Results' Board Member Lissette Flores and Dramatic Results' Executive Director Christi Wilkins. Long Beach City Councilman Al Austin and LBUSD Board member John McGinnis also joined us for the presentation.

After the presentation, I was also able to tour Barton and see some of the Dramatic Results programs, such as "Math in a Basket," where hands-on basket weaving techniques are used to teach volumetric measurement, algebra and geometry to fourth graders.

It was great to meet with all the teachers and students at Barton.



### Regional Military Affairs Committee Meeting

The Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) in Los Alamitos is such an important part of the 47th District. It was my pleasure to visit the base this week to speak before the monthly Regional Military Affairs Committee (RMAC) meeting and provide a legislative update.



The RMAC meetings bring together base staff and stakeholders in the local community, especially those situated close to the base itself, to discuss issues of interest involving the base, its role in the community, and how the community and base can better work together.

At the meeting, Committee Chairman and Los Alamitos City Councilman Dean Grose surprised one of my staff members, Robin McCray (pictured below on left), with a proclamation recognizing her outstanding service working on my behalf for the Los Alamitos JFTB, National Guard and military members from all forces and veterans in the 47th District. The Department of Defense and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve also presented Robin with certificates of recognition.



Congratulations, Robin.

#### **LULAC Foundation Dinner**

It was a pleasure to attend and speak at the Orange County League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Foundation Dinner this week.



The "Standing Together for Our Community" celebration honored

distinguished members of the community and public officials for their support in advancing social programs. Among the honorees were State Controller John Chiang and State Superintendent Tom Torlakson.

Established in 1933 in California, LULAC believes that education is key in gaining economic, political and social equality. The organization places an emphasis on citizenship, maintaining cultural heritage, the extension of human rights, educational excellence and the improvement of economic conditions

## Congress U

### Apportionment

Did you know there are seven states that have only one member of the House but two Senators?

United States Senate seats are apportioned, or distributed, evenly across the nation, with each state receiving two. Fifty states times two Senate seats equals 100 Senators.

In the House, however, apportionment is different. Since 1912, the total number of seats in the House has been fixed at 435. Of these, each state gets one seat no matter what its population. The remaining 385 seats are proportionally determined by each state's population as compared to the total U.S. population, with the most populous states receiving the most representatives (like California [53], Texas [36], Florida [27], and New York [27]).

This is why the least populous states--Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming—have more Senators (2) than House members (1).

Also worth noting is that there are also five non-voting delegates to the House—one each representing American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico also elects a resident commissioner every four years. Delegates and commissioners can participate in House business just as any of the 435 state Representatives, and even introduce legislation. However, they cannot vote on the floor of the House.

## Last Week's Poll

**Same-sex marriages are now legal in nearly 30 states. How should this issue be determined on a national level?**

**55.4%** - The Supreme Court or Congress should affirm or pass legislation making same-sex marriage legal nationwide

**26.3%** - Individual states should be allowed to decide for themselves

**18.3%** - The Supreme Court or Congress should ban same-sex marriage nationwide

Thank you,



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Member of Congress

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