



The 47th Flyer

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



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Moving To A New DC Location

At the start of each new two-year Congressional session, office vacancies created by some House Members retiring and some losing re-election, affords each returning and new Member the opportunity to select newly-vacated office space via a House lottery (see Congress U below for more details on the actual lottery).

When I joined the House for the 113th Congress, I selected room 515 in the Cannon House Office Building, the oldest of three House office buildings on Capitol Hill. Known as "the freshmen attic," the fifth floor of Cannon was added to the building in 1913 and all of the fifth floor offices have a much smaller footprint than offices on the other four floors of Cannon.

While my staff and I made efficient use of the space in 515, it was often a challenge offering constituents and others ample room when meeting with them.

Following the office lottery for the upcoming 114th Session, I selected 108 Cannon and I am pleased to announce that we have fully moved into our new office.

So, if you are ever in Washington, please stop by, or drop me a letter; our new Washington, D.C. address is 108 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.

On The Hill

A New Surgeon General

I want to applaud the President for nominating and the U.S. Senate for confirming Dr. Vivek Hallegere Murthy as the new Surgeon General of the United States.

An attending physician and instructor at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Murthy is also the co-founder and president of Doctors for America, a national group of U.S. physicians and medical students with a stated goal of improving affordable health care access.

Dr. Murthy received a B.A. from Harvard University, an M.B.A. from Yale School of Management, and an M.D. from Yale School of Me.

In addition to being the federal government's leading spokesperson on matters of public health, and the principle public health and science advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Surgeon General is also the overall head of the Commissioned Corps, a 6,500-member group of health professionals who are on call 24 hours a day, and can be dispatched by the Secretary of HHS or the Assistant Secretary for Health in the event of a public health emergency.

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How should the United States retaliate against countries that launch cyber-attacks on U.S. companies and U.S. interests?

- Enact financial sanctions
- Launch counter-cyber-attacks
- Pursue these nations in International Court of Justice

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

Dr. Murthy's appointment and confirmation was supported by the nation's preeminent health and physician groups, including the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Diabetes Association, and over 50 other organizations.

The Surgeon General position had been vacant for more than a year and this is why in October, I joined with more than a dozen of my House colleagues in sending a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell urging them to expedite the confirmation of Dr. Murthy.

I am tremendously pleased that the imminently qualified Dr. Murthy can now begin his work as the nation's leading public health official providing the American people with sound advice and helping to combat health misinformation.

In The 47th District

Protecting Our Groundwater

It was truly an honor to be asked by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) to speak at the dedication of an expansion to WRD's Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility in Long Beach.

The state-of-the-art Vander Lans facility supplies recycled water to use as a barrier to protect the groundwater in the Central Basin from seawater contamination. The upgraded facility will reduce the region's reliance on imported water.

I have been a longtime proponent of the facility and fought hard to get funding for it when I was in the California Legislature.



The facility treats effluent water from the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County's Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant using microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet--considered the best technology currently available. Now that the expansion project is complete, it will be able to recycle 92 percent of the effluent water.

Currently, about 2.7 million gallons of near distilled-quality water are produced daily at the facility. This is blended with imported water and pumped into the Alamitos Seawater Barrier, one of three seawater barrier systems within the WRD service area that prevents seawater from intruding into the region's groundwater basin.

The expansion project will increase the facility's output to nearly 8 million gallons per day. This will allow the WRD to curtail purchases of expensive imported water to blend with the facility output.



At the ceremony, the WRD kindly recognized my support of the project over the years by naming a short stretch of road within the facility "Alan Lowenthal Street."

Congress U

House Office Lottery

The 435 Members (and five Delegates) of the U.S. House of Representatives each have offices in one of three buildings which are all located across Independence Avenue just south of the U.S. Capitol. These buildings, from east to west (and also from oldest to newest), are Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn.

At the start of each two-year Congressional session, the House holds a lottery to determine the allocation of vacated offices. It is not mandatory for any Member, other than incoming freshmen, to participate in the lottery. Current Members who wish to move to a different office can only do so by participating in the lottery.

The lottery works by seniority. Those who have served the longest have first choice of available offices. A separate drawing is held for each Congressional Session class, for example, the 110th (2007-09), the 111th (2009-11), the 112th (2011-13), and the 113th (2013-15), with the most senior class going first. The last drawing is for incoming freshmen Members.

The actual drawings are held in large rooms where all the Members from that particular class (or a member of their staff) gather. The Members are called up alphabetically by last name and each Member comes to the front of the room to pick a numbered metal disc out of a large container.

Tradition states that each Member should do a small dance or other expression of

'good luck' before drawing their number. Some do and some don't. The lowest number in each group gets first choice of still available offices. What is and isn't available is updated minute to minute during the selection process on an internal House website.

Once a Member selects a number, they have 20 minutes to decide on one of the available spaces, or if they are returning Members, decide they like none of the available spaces and choose not to move.

This 20 minute time frame leads to a lot of running around the three buildings, with Members trying to physically see their top choices before having to make a decision. Members can only select one choice.

Once a Member selects one of the available offices, they then have 24 hours to ruminate on the selection and decide whether or not to move.

As I explained above, in the most recent office lottery, I selected to move to 108 Cannon, where I am glad to say, we are now fully moved in.

This will be the 47th District's little slice of Washington, since the space each Member occupies technically belongs to the constituents of their district.

Last Week's Poll

Should the environment and climate change be a priority for the Congress in 2015?

41.7% - Yes, it should be a top priority

27.6% - Maybe, but there are many other more important issues

30.7% - No, it should not be a priority

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

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