



The 47th Flyer

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



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April 5, 2013

Issue 2

While the regulars on Capitol Hill call this time a *recess*, in reality, the work doesn't really stop for my staff or me. I've taken this opportunity to come home to the 47th District to hold regular district office hours and meet with as many constituents as possible.

I truly value the views and opinions of everyone in the 47th District, and I want to make sure that everyone has a chance to be heard. In just these first 13 weeks, my office has answered a total of nearly 7,000 constituent letters, faxes, emails, and phone calls. As I often say in these responses, I appreciate the opportunity to consider everyone's point of view and I genuinely value hearing the varied perspectives on so many issues.

If you haven't had a chance to visit my website, please take a minute to look over the "[How Can Alan Help?](#)" page to see just a range of the services my office can assist with. You can also send me a comment through the [website](#), via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Alan Lowenthal

Touring Schools in the District

Education has always been one of my top priorities. Getting to meet with students and teachers fills me with a great deal of satisfaction and always hammers home how much needs to be done to support education.

As a former college professor, I was excited to take a tour of two of the Coast Community College District campuses this week. I met with faculty and students at the Garden Grove Center campus of Coastline College and later in the day with faculty and students at Orange Coast College (OCC). At OCC I joined the students of Dr. Paul Asim in a forum, where I answered questions on a variety of topics. It is always a pleasure to hear the concerns and thoughts of the engaged young people.

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Survey of the Week

Women currently earn about 77 cents on the dollar compared to men who perform the same work. Who is responsible for this pay inequity?

[Click here to take survey](#)



It was also my distinct pleasure to be invited to tour the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base Sunburst and STARBASE academies this week where I met with teachers and students involved in these two important programs.

The Sunburst Youth Challenge Program is a community high school, run by the California National Guard in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education. The Academy is a 5 1/2 month long residential "military style" academy structured to promote an academic environment where students: earn high school credits; develop leadership, cooperation, and academic skills; and, improve self-esteem, pride, and confidence.

The STARBASE program is run at student academies set up on existing military bases and focuses on elementary students, primarily fifth graders. The goal of the program is to motivate these students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as they continue their education. The academies serve students that are historically under-represented in STEM. Students who live in inner cities or rural locations, those who are socio-economically disadvantaged, low in academic performance or have a disability are in the target group.



This critical program was threatened with elimination during the recent process to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

To prevent this, I wrote letters to the Senate leadership of both parties

explaining the importance of the program and asking that its funding not be cut.

In the final version of the continuing resolution that passed both houses, the funding for the STARBASE program was restored.

Visiting "Chat with Pat"

I wanted to extend my thanks to Long Beach City Council member Patrick O'Donnell for inviting me to address a contingent of his 4th District constituents at his monthly "Chat with Pat" event. It was great getting to hear from residents of the 4th District and let them know what has been going on in Washington.



Equal Pay Day and Townhall

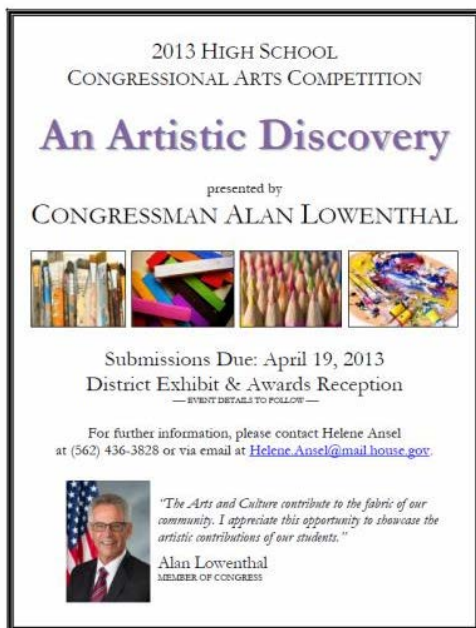
Tuesday, April 9 is Equal Pay Day, the date symbolizing how far into 2013 an American women must work to match what a man doing the same work earned in 2012. I plan to speak on the floor of the House on Tuesday to offer my support for equal pay for women. This is not just a financial issue, this truly is a matter of women's civil rights.

The next day, Wednesday April 10, from 4 pm to 5:30 pm, please join me at <http://www.facebook.com/RepLowenthal> where I will be hosting a Facebook townhall. I will answer questions about current and past equal pay legislation, general thoughts on equality, what Congress can do, and what the general population can do to promote a more all-inclusive society.

Everyone is welcome to participate. We will open the Facebook thread for questions on Tuesday, April 9th at 12:00pm.

Call For Entries in Congressional High School Art Competition

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district.



If you would like to participate in the Congressional District Art Competition, please [click here for more information](#) and to download a submission form.

The Artistic Discovery Contest is open to all high school students in the 47th District. The over-all winner of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. The exhibit in Washington will also include artwork from other contest winners nation-wide.

Results of last week's survey

How do you think we should address budget deficits and decrease the national debt?

- a. Across-the-board spending cuts to all programs, departments and agencies - 41%
- b. Across-the-board tax increases - 0%
- c. A balance of moderate cuts, closing tax loopholes, and increasing upper income tax rates - 59%

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