



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

We've just completed our first major legislative deadline by passing our bills through their first Policy Committees. Some of our bills have received great local press coverage! At the same time, we've been voting on important legislation, negotiating the state budget, holding district events, and more. I also have some updates about state funding allocated to great projects in the North Bay, which I'm excited to announce in this newsletter.

I look forward to our continued work together and as always, feel free to call and email me or my staff - *we're here to serve you!*



AD 12 UPDATES

Legislative Update: bills passed

Bill Highlight - AB 1464

Honoring Dolores Huerta

Denouncing the Actions of the
Tennessee Legislature

New District Funding

In the District!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BILLS PASSED THEIR FIRST POLICY COMMITTEES

Friday, April 28 was the State Assembly's deadline to pass bills out of policy committee, meaning last week Legislators had to get thousands of bills over their first *real* hurdle. I'm thrilled to share that 17 out of our 21 bills have passed their first committee. Next stop: the Assembly Appropriations Committee will assess each bill's cost and either pass it to the Assembly Floor or hold it on "suspense." The process is certainly named accurately - we are waiting eagerly (and anxiously) to see which bills will pass to the Assembly Floor! Here is an update on our bills that have passed their respective committee's and now await a vote in Assembly Appropriations, or have already made it to the Assembly Floor!

BILLS IN APPROPRIATIONS

AB 92 - body armor prohibition for violent felons
passed Public Safety Committee (7-0-1)

AB 99 - pesticide spraying restrictions
passed Transportation Committee (10-4-1)

AB 319 - protecting mobile home residents
passed Housing & Community Development Committee (8-0)

AB 388 - expediting fire prevention grants
passed Natural Resources Committee (11-0)

AB 404 - streamlining organic farming certification
passed Agricultural Committee (8-0-3)

AB 405 - modernizing organic certification applications
passed Agricultural Committee (8-0-3)

AB 406 - expanding grants for organic farming
passed Agricultural Committee (8-0-3)

AB 582 - wildfire tax credits for home hardening projects
passed Revenue & Taxation Committee (11-0)

AB 620 - expanding health care coverage
passed Health Committee (14-1-0)

AB 838 - water utility bill transparency
passed Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee (9-0)

AB 935 - flavored tobacco ban enforcement
passed Governmental Organization Committee (16-4-2)

AB 953 - marine life & whale vessel protections
passed Natural Resources Committee (11-0).

AB 998 - biomass facilities long-term planning
passed Utilities & Energy Committee (15-0)

AB 1232 - strengthening resilient farms & ranches
passed Agriculture Committee (8-0-3)

AB 1464 - reducing traffic: Richmond San-Rafael Bridge
passed Transportation Committee (15-0)

BILLS ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR

AB 1109 - teen suicide prevention
passed Health Committee (15-0), awaiting vote on Assembly Floor

AB 1132 - solar permit fees
passed the Assembly Floor (79-0-1)

Press Coverage

Some of our bills have received a lot of attention in local news, which has inspired great feedback and conversation around important issues in the North Bay. In case you missed them, here are some of the articles that were written over last month:

Freshman assemblymember pushing hard for constituents' concerns

By Nikki Silverstein | May 23, 2023



Bill aims to ease morning congestion on Richmond-San Rafael Bridge

April 25, 2023



THE RICHMOND STANDARD





BILL HIGHLIGHT

AB 1464: RICHMOND SAN-RAFAEL BRIDGE

I wanted to take a moment to highlight one of my bills that has garnered a lot of local interest, including in the press - AB 1464. Everyone in the North Bay knows how bad traffic on the Richmond San-Rafael Bridge has gotten, and according to recent studies, it's expected to get worse. AB 1464 seeks to address the severe traffic congestion on the Richmond San-Rafael Bridge. by directing the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to consider reopening the third westbound lane on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to motor vehicles in a manner that accounts for expanding multimodal transportation, preserving pathways for bicyclists, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Each workday, approximately 18,000 Bay Area residents cross the Richmond San-Rafael Bridge. During peak hours, commuters face approximately 16 minutes of gridlocked, stop-and-go traffic, which is predicted to grow to 24 minutes in the next three years, according to a study conducted by the Transportation Authority of Marin. This congestion disproportionately affects traditionally disadvantaged communities located in the City of Richmond.



According to air monitors, the morning freeway backup has become the largest source of non-wildfire air pollution in the City of Richmond, even greater than the emissions from the local oil refinery. Recognizing the importance of this bill, I'm proud to report that the Assembly Transportation Committee passed AB 1464 unanimously - 15 YES votes, including bipartisan support! The bill now awaits a vote in the Appropriations Committee, and then a full vote on the Assembly Floor.



HONORING DOLORES HUERTA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

I had the honor of celebrating with civil rights legend Dolores Huerta for her 93rd birthday. The State Legislature & Governor also proclaimed April 10th as "Dolores Huerta Day." Around 100 supporters, volunteers, and legislators came together at the California Museum to celebrate Huerta, her life and her many accomplishments.

Co-founder of the United Farm Workers Association, Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta is one of the most influential labor activists of the 20th century and a leader of the Chicano civil rights movement.



In 1973, Huerta led the historical boycott of grapes that resulted in the ground-breaking California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which allowed farm workers to form unions and bargain for better wages and conditions. Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Huerta worked as a lobbyist to improve workers' legislative representation. During the 1990s and 2000s, she worked to elect more Latinos and women to political office and continues to champion women's issues, and other, still to this day at 93 years old.

DENOUNCING THE ACTIONS OF THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

Like many of you, I was appalled by the actions of Tennessee Republicans to expel two young African American men - Justin Pearson and Justin Jones - from their State Legislature because of their protest against gun violence.

In response, my colleagues and I have authored Joint Resolution 5, which officially denounces the actions of the Tennessee House of Representatives from the California State Legislature and the Governor.

As the North Bay's representative, I will *always* speak out against injustice and actions that threaten our democracy. I hope you'll join me.



DISTRICT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Over the past four months in office, I have been advocating for bringing important State investments back to the North Bay to fund important projects throughout the district. It's important that our communities get their fair share. I'm thrilled to share some of the funding we've secured and the positive impact these dollars will have in Marin and Sonoma.



SONOMA OPEN SPACE - \$3 million

As a member of the Assembly's Budget Committee, I voted to approve \$3 million in State funding for four Park Ranger positions and four new vehicles to manage the open space park lands within the Sonoma Developmental Center. This funding will help keep the SDC area beautiful and protect its precious ecosystems.



LIBRARY FUNDING - \$9,089,031

Exciting news - over \$9 million in State funding is coming to four North Bay libraries to help construct new facilities, perform greatly needed renovations, improve safety, and expand access. The funding is broken down as follows: Larkspur Library, *pictured above* (\$5,232,582), Pickleweed Library (\$1 million), San Rafael Carnegie Library (\$1 million), and Petaluma Regional Library (\$1,856,449).



HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING INVESTMENTS - \$15 million

Homelessness and affordable housing that makes sense for the North Bay continue to be primary issues throughout our district. I'm thrilled to have secured over \$15 million for new affordable housing projects, housing assistance, and immediate response efforts.



IN THE DISTRICT!

I've enjoyed seeing many of you at local events throughout Marin and Sonoma. Here is a quick recap of what I've been up to in the district - it's been a busy month! I hope to see you at more events in the summer.



SENIORS FOR PEACE

I met with members of the Mill Valley Seniors for Peace at The Redwoods, then joined them for an Earth Day rally!



MILL VALLEY TOWN HALL

On April 30, I hosted a town hall in Mill Valley to discuss my legislative priorities with constituents. Most importantly, it was a chance to hear from many of you about the issues that matter most to the community.



STUDENTS & CLIMATE ACTION!

Sonoma County students and teachers stop by the Santa Rosa District Office to drop off postcards urging support for climate action legislation.



PETALUMA BUTTER & EGGS PARADE

We joined the ever-memorable Butter & Egg Days Parade in Downtown Petaluma. It was great to see thousands of Petaluman's come out to celebrate and enjoy the spring weather.

As always, my door is open and my staff are available to assist you. Feel free to contact me through my website, or by calling one of my offices.

With gratitude,

Damon

Damon Connolly
Assemblymember, 12th District



Capitol Office

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0012
Tel: (916) 319-2012
Fax: (916) 319-2112

San Rafael

County of Marin Civic
Center Building
3501 Civic Center Drive,
Room 412
San Rafael, CA 94903
Tel: (415) 479-4920
Fax: (415) 479-2123

Petaluma

Petaluma City Hall
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
Tel: (707) 576-2631
Fax: (707) 576-2735

Santa Rosa

Rattigan State Building
50 D Street, Suite 301
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel: (707) 576-2631
Fax: (707) 576-2735