



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

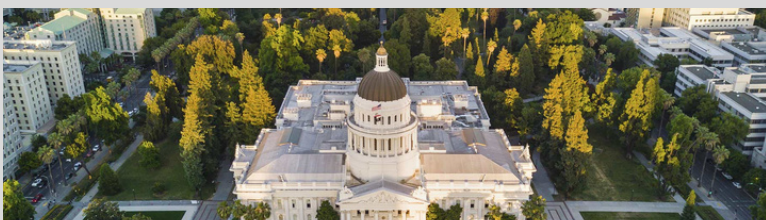
NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

After passing the second largest budget in California history, the Legislature is moving forward at full speed as the Assembly's bills are being heard in the Senate and vice-versa.

During this busy period, we also swore in a new Assembly Speaker, passed several important bills, and have continued to be active in the district during our Summer Recess. Additionally, I was appointed to Chair a Committee, which I know North Bay residents will be interested in.

I'm happy to share these updates and more with you as part of our July newsletter.



AD 12 UPDATES

Legislative Update

New Committee Chairmanship

Capitol Office Rising Star

Hearing on Wildfire Prevention

District Snapshots!

Alzheimer's Association Event



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BILLS PASSED IN THE STATE SENATE

Over the past several weeks, I have been working to pass my bills through the State Senate - the last step before they are sent to the Governor to be signed into law. I'm pleased to report that 13 of my bills have successfully passed their respective policy committees in the Senate! These bills now await a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee, which again assesses each bill's cost and either passes it to the Senate Floor or holds it on "suspense." Legislation that has no significant cost has already made its way to the Senate Floor, where it will be voted on in August or September. Below is a summary of the bills that have passed successfully in the Senate.

BILLS PASSED TO THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE:

AB 92: prohibits the sale of body armor to dangerous individuals who are also restricted from purchasing firearms (passed Senate Public Safety 5-0).

AB 99: restricts the use of toxic pesticide spraying in communities that have banned or restricted pesticide use (passed Senate Transportation 11-4-1 & Environmental Quality 5-2-0).

AB 388: expedites the allocation of wildfire grants (passed Senate Natural Resources 9-0-2).

AB 319: strengthens protections for mobile home residents (passed Senate Housing 11-0).

AB 404: streamlines organic certification for small farmers (passed Senate Agriculture 4-0).

AB 405: updates outdated registration and payment systems for organic businesses (passed Senate Health 12-0).

AB 408 (joint author): proposes a \$3.4 billion bond create more equitable and climate resilient food and farming systems (passed Senate Governance & Finance 6-2-0).

AB 620: requires health plans to cover medical nutrition therapy for metabolic and digestive diseases (passed Senate Health 11-0-2).

AB 935: strengthens enforcement for the flavored tobacco ban law (passed Senate Governance & Finance 6-2-0).

AB 953: creates a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program to reduce air pollution and deadly strikes on whales (passed Senate Natural Resources 10-0-1).

AB 998: issues a report on older biomass facilities to identify opportunities for modernization and emission reductions (passed Senate Energy 18-0).

AB 1132 (joint author): limits the fees a city or county can charge for residential and commercial solar systems (passed Senate Governance & Finance 7-0-1).

BILLS PASSED TO THE SENATE FLOOR:

AB 1109: restricts the sale of sodium nitrite to teenagers and children, who have increasingly been purchasing this dangerous chemical online and tragically using it to take their own lives (passed Senate Business 12-0-1).



NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

CHAIR OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAIRS ALLOCATION AND CLASSIFICATION

On July 3, I was officially appointed by our new Assembly Speaker - Robert Rivas - as Chair of the important Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification. As Chair, I have the opportunity to lead the examination of the inner-workings of the fair industry in California with a focus on regulatory and funding challenges, and analyzing how fairgrounds can be utilized in unique ways like emergency evacuation sites during wildfires.

This committee aims to develop innovative solutions that will ensure the continued prosperity of fairs and their invaluable contributions to our community. Fairs hold a special place in California's heritage, serving as vibrant gathering places where communities come together to celebrate, learn, and connect. They are not only a reflection of our diverse cultural tapestry but also crucial platforms for agricultural economic growth, education, and public safety during natural disasters.

As the new Chair of the Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification, I plan on engaging our community and stakeholders throughout California to gather research and to identify opportunities that can enhance the fair experience for all Californians and better utilize these sites during emergencies like wildfires. The Committee will develop forward-thinking policies and initiatives aimed at securing funding, streamlining regulations, promoting innovation, and improving public safety using our local fairs and fairgrounds.

Stay tuned for information about our first official hearing.

If you'd like to visit the Committee's website, [click here](#).

Rising Stars: Michael Dyar, office of Assemblymember Damon Connolly



RISING STAR: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL DYAR

I was proud to see that my Legislative Director Michael Dyar, was recognized as a "Rising Star" by Capitol Weekly, a Sacramento publication that informs Californians about public policy and state governance. Michael was selected out of hundreds of nominees as part of the publications "30-under-30" series, which highlights the most impressive and inspiring young legislative staffers working in Sacramento. Anyone who has met Michael knows that this recognition is well deserved.

If you'd like to read the article and learn more about Michael, [click here](#).

WILDFIRE PREVENTION HEARING

On July, 19 I hosted my first hearing as Chair of the Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention at Sonoma State University. The goal of the hearing was to get a better sense of what actions state and local entities are taking to mitigate wildfire risk.

For the hearing, we comprised a panel of experts, including representatives from Cal Fire, the California Department of Insurance, and several local and regional entities working on wildfire prevention. We also had an opportunity for public comment, where local residents shared their ideas and concerns about wildfire issues, home hardening, and preventative measures.

I look forward to holding more hearings in the North Bay as we continue to adapt and improve our wildfire mitigation efforts. If you would like to watch a video of the hearing, [click here](#).

State committee, led by Sonoma County legislator, holds 1st hearing on wildfire risk mitigation

The Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention held the first in a series of listening sessions Wednesday at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, a little over a month into fire season. | [E](#) 5





DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS!

Every year, the State Legislature has a Summer Recess, which spans for one month. This is a great time for legislators to spend time in their districts. I've had a fantastic time spending my first recess in the North Bay meeting with residents, touring local organizations, and hosting informational events. Below, are some snapshots & links from the past few weeks. We've been busy!



SMART TRAIN TOUR WITH DISTRICT INTERNS



JULY 4 PARADES IN NOVATO & CORTE MADERA



CALCARE TOWN HALL ON SINGLE-PAYER WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER ASH KALRA

Richmond coalition presents solutions to bridge congestion and pollution

July 18, 2023 351

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON THE RICHMOND-SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE

DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS CONTINUED:



TOURING RELIABLE MEDICAL



VISIT TO CLEARWATER SENIOR LIVING, SONOMA



TOUR OF NOVATO SANITATION DISTRICT FACILITY



TOURING THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER



VISITING SAN RAFAEL HOME DEPOT & LOCAL GARDENING LEGEND, CHARLIE ROSSI



ATTENDING SONOMA FARM BUREAU'S "LOVE OF THE LAND" EVENT



RESEARCH AND PROGRESS: HEALTHY AGING IN MARIN COUNTY

**A community forum hosted by
Assemblymember Damon Connolly
and Supervisor Mary Sackett**



**Thursday, August 3, 2023
1:30-3:30pm**
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive,
Room 330, Board Chambers
San Rafael, CA 94903

This is a time of unprecedented promise in Alzheimer's research and treatment. And, while Alzheimer's prevention has no definitive answers yet, research has shown that we can take action to reduce our risk of developing it. Join us to learn about the latest in research, treatment and care, and talk with community leaders about resources and needs for Alzheimer's and dementia care in Marin County.

Register at tinyurl.com/AlzResearchMarin or
contact Jessica Rothhaar at jrothhaar@alz.org



Requests for disability accommodations may be made by phoning 415.473.7354 (Voice), CA Relay 711, or by e-mail at JReinhard@MarinCounty.org at least five business days in advance of the event. The County will do its best to fulfill requests received with less than five business days' notice. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.

UPCOMING EVENT: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY FORUM

Alzheimer's is a global health problem with more than 6 million people living with the disease in the US alone. Tremendous gains have been made in the understanding of the science and basic biology underlying Alzheimer's and other dementias. These advances are leading to great strides in strategies for prevention, detection, diagnostics, and therapeutic interventions.

On Thursday, August 3, I will be joined by Marin County Supervisor Mary Sackett and the Alzheimer's Association to host an afternoon session of learning, sharing and support to explore the latest advances on prevention, dementia research and therapeutic interventions. We will also hear from a panel of local experts in the aging field regarding the state of dementia care in Marin County.

If you would like to register for the event and attend, [click here](#).

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



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