



DAMON CONNOLLY

Assemblymember, District 12

# NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with my office in both Marin and Sonoma Counties. It has been great being back full-time in the North Bay as the State Assembly has concluded its 2024 legislative session. I have appreciated being able to take this time to connect with local issues and brainstorm for the coming legislative session!

As always, I have been holding meetings, hearing from constituents, and spending time in our beautiful district.

I am excited to share these updates with you!



## AD 12 UPDATES

**My Car-Free Commute**

**AD12 Woman of the Year**

**Developing Legislative Ideas**

**Ribbon Cutting**

**District Updates**





## MY CAR-FREE COMMUTE: AD12 TO THE STATE CAPITOL!

From my front door in Assembly District 12 to the State Capitol in Sacramento, I took a car-free trip to explore the many transportation options available in our community and beyond. I left my front door in San Rafael, and traveled by bicycle to the San Rafael Transit Center alongside County Supervisor Mary Sackett. Next, I took the bus to the Del Norte Transit Center, where I hopped on BART for one stop, and arrived at the Amtrak station. I jumped on the Capitol Corridor, and rode the tracks to the train station in Sacramento. I completed the journey to my office in Sacramento by bicycle, tackling the final leg of my commute.

By biking through our beautiful neighborhoods, taking the bus, or relaxing on the train, staying connected to these local resources benefits each and every one of us. Click [here](#) to watch my journey from San Rafael to Sacramento!







## AD12 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

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I am proud to have named Donna Garske, the recently retired Executive Director of the Center for Domestic Peace, as Assembly District (AD) 12's Woman of the Year for 2024. Donna was chosen for her passion, dedication, and spirited advocacy through her work with domestic violence survivors and her tireless service to ending violence. Donna's dedication to domestic violence prevention, resources, and support has had a lasting impact on our community.

Donna contributed 44 years of service and leadership in ending gender-based violence in Marin County as the Executive Director at the Center for Domestic Peace, originally known as Marin Abused Women's Services. Center for Domestic Peace provides resources for people experiencing domestic violence, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups, legal advocacy, and counseling services.

Under Donna's leadership, the Center for Domestic Peace has successfully pioneered a variety of programs, including a 24-hour hotline for men, a three-tiered preventative approach to domestic violence, and the first transitional housing program in the country for domestic violence victims and their children. During her tenure, Center for Domestic Peace responded to the needs of more than 210,000 individuals affected by domestic violence, as well as more than 30,000 men that have been violent.

Donna's passion for preventing domestic violence has extended into the legislative realm, through her assistance in crafting the language for the Battered Women's Protection Act, her role in co-founding the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, and her service on President Clinton's Violence Against Women Advisory Committee on social norm change and prevention. Donna Garske's service has made a lasting difference, and our community is proud to celebrate her achievements.





## DEVELOPING LEGISLATIVE IDEAS

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It was great to have my full team out in San Rafael this month for a staff retreat! We had the opportunity to sit down together in the historic Marin Civic Center to collaborate on bill ideas and ways to serve the community. My offices both in AD12 and Sacramento are working hard developing legislative ideas for next year. I was glad to spend this time collaborating with the full team, gearing up for the 2025 legislative session. Together we are meeting with community groups, advocates, and individuals to craft a bill package for the coming year that best addresses the needs of the North Bay. I have greatly appreciated this past month of being in the district full-time, and I am glad to take this opportunity to hold meetings, connect with constituents, and spend time in our beautiful district.

## PETALUMA PURPLE CUPS

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Grabbing a cup of coffee or a cold drink in Petaluma? Check out the Petaluma Reusable Cup Project! When you're served a beverage in a reusable purple cup, you can bring it back and drop it in any purple return bin and it will be professionally washed, sanitized, and put back to use. This is an easy, tasty, convenient way to reduce waste! Learn more about the Petaluma Reusable Cup Project [here](#).







## CANAL ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING

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Recently, I had the opportunity to join Canal Alliance in celebrating the grand opening and ribbon cutting of their new headquarters in San Rafael! I am excited to see this incredible nonprofit find a permanent home, allowing them to continue to strengthen their services for the immigrant community. Canal Alliance is a nonprofit champion of immigrants who face sparse resources and an unfamiliar environment. To get involved with Canal Alliance and their mission of providing service, resources, and advocacy for immigrants, visit [canalalliance.org](http://canalalliance.org). It was a pleasure to speak and celebrate this great milestone!

## CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY AIRWAY FACILITY RIBBON CUTTING

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This month I also had the pleasure of joining Conservation Corps North Bay for their Airway Facility opening event and ribbon cutting in Santa Rosa! It was great to celebrate the opening of this new building, which will support CCNB's effort to train young people to restore natural habitats, reduce fire fuel, maintain trails, divert harmful waste from the landfill, and promote conservation efforts that greatly benefit the community.





# DISTRICT UPDATES:

## SNAPSHOTS

I greatly value my time at home connecting with constituents in AD12. I have had many great opportunities to attend events, tours, and productive meetings with constituents throughout the North Bay in both Marin and Sonoma Counties. Here are some snapshots of some of the meetings and events my office participated in over the past month. As always, our door is open, if you want to schedule a meeting or send an event invite, please reach out through our website by clicking [here](#).



HELPED KICK OFF THE WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



JOINED THE WEBELO CUB SCOUTS FOR THEIR MEETING IN SAN RAFAEL



PROVIDED REMARKS AT CENTER FOR SEA RISE SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP



JOINED MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING OF THE DOWNTOWN SAN RAFAEL CLINIC



TOURED AND MET WITH THE FIRST RESPONDERS RESILIENCY FOUNDATION



SPOKE AT THE GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE CITY OF SAUSALITO'S FERRY PROJECT



# DISTRICT UPDATES: CONTINUED

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DISCUSSED CLIMATE ACTION WITH THE  
MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE



PROVIDED REMARKS AT DEDICATION  
CEREMONY IN HONOR OF THE  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND  
WILDLIFE'S NEW PATROL BOAT



SPOKE AT THE GRATON RANCHERIA  
#LANDBACK CELEBRATION



KICKED OFF NATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY  
AT THE REDWOOD CREDIT UNION  
INFORMATIONAL BREAKFAST



PROVIDED REMARKS AT CALCIMA'S  
ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



TOURED LAFFERTY RANCH, CHECKING  
OUT PLANS FOR A FUTURE OPEN SPACE  
WILDERNESS PARK



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