

#### DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with my office in both Marin and Sonoma County.

This April newsletter, the 28th issue, covers the past month serving as the North Bay's State Assemblymember. This opportunity is the privilege of a lifetime, and I look forward to the work we will accomplish together.

For this issue, I am excited to share updates on legislation, major investments secured for wildfire mitigation, our follow-up Legislative Forum on SSU, the Butter and Egg Days Parade, my 'There Ought to be a Law' contest, and new district updates. I hope you enjoy and stay tuned!



# AD 12 UPDATES

**Bill Updates** 

'There Ought to be a Law' & AB 1

**Major Investments Secured** 

Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention

Sonoma State University Follow-Up Legislative Forum

**Butter & Egg Days Parade** 

Local Resources

**District Updates** 

**Capitol Updates** 

HTTPS://A12.ASMDC.ORG/

# **BILL UPDATES**

May 9<sup>th</sup> marks the State Assembly's deadline to pass bills out of policy committees, and my legislative package has already made significant progress toward clearing this first hurdle. I am proud to share that so far 20 of my 21 bills have passed through their first committee, with a hearing for the remaining bill coming in the second week of May. Here is an update on my bills that have passed through their first policy committee, and the legislation that is still awaiting a hearing.





AB 937 helps farmers transition to organic farming. **PASSED** out of the Assembly Agriculture Committee



AB 947 enhances the Healthy Soils Program, which incentivizes farming practices that improve soil health.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Agriculture Committee



AB 599 improves local notification of hazardous waste changes.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee



AB 491 codifies nature-based solutions into law, harnessing natural and working lands for climate action.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee



AB 393 protects civil service physicians and psychiatrists working in prisons. **PASSED** out of the Assembly Public Employment and

**Retirement Committee** 

AB 419 expands awareness of educational and civil rights for immigrant students. **PASSED** out of the Assembly Education Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee

# **BILL UPDATES**





AB 1 strengthens the Safer from Wildfires program to offer insurance relief to those hardening their homes against wildfire.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Insurance Committee



AB 1151, the winning 'There Ought to be a Law' idea, helps seniors receive a replacement photo ID when they give up their driver's license.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Transportation Committee



AB 846 streamlines wildfire preparedness permitting.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee



AB 540 clarifies and reforms civil procedure to make civil courts more efficient.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Assembly Floor



AB 384 removes delays to patient care during mental health and substance abuse emergencies.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Health Committee



AB 674 improves the Clean Cars 4 All program, which helps lower-income consumers replace older, high-polluting vehicles with cleaner transportation.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Transportation Committee and the Assembly Natural Resources Committee



AB 472 (joint authored with Asm. Rogers) supports offshore wind energy development.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee and the Assembly Natural Resources Committee

# **BILL UPDATES**





AB 1177 improves CalFIRE staffing, so they can better respond to emergencies. **PASSED** out of the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee



AB 929 protects wetlands and small community water systems.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife



AB 1096 streamlines lead testing in schools. **PASSED** out of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee



AB 806 requires mobilehome park owners to allow cooling devices. **PASSED** out of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development



AB 1140 authorizes a pilot program for safety improvements in prisons by utilizing single-occupancy cells.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee



AB 258 increases future funding for fairs to improve operation and emergency response.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee



AB 754 improves water quality and prevents pollution.

**PASSED** out of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee



AB 456 protects mobilehome owners when looking to sell their property. Awaiting first hearing



# **'THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW'**

It was my pleasure to host the winner of our 'There Ought to be a Law' contest, Gary, and his wife Anne this month at the Capitol! Gary's winning idea, which was inspired by his mother-in-law and is now known as AB 1151, will streamline the process for seniors to receive a replacement photo ID when they give up their driver's license. AB 1151 passed out of the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and will next be considered by the Assembly Appropriations Committee!

## AB 1

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, I presented AB 1 to the Assembly Insurance Committee, where the bill passed with unanimous and bipartisan support. AB 1 will require the California Department of Insurance to review and consider updates to the Safer from Wildfires regulations every five years, to ensure that the regulations continue to reflect the needs of consumers and the industry and provide the largest benefit to homeowners.

Rising insurance costs is an issue near and dear to communities up and down the state. In areas where wildfire risks are high, insurance is increasingly unaffordable and absent, and the Safer from Wildfires program is the only avenue open to consumers to receive direct discounts for hardening their homes and neighborhoods.

As new and safer building materials come to market and wildfire prevention methods evolve, it is important that we periodically revisit the Safer from Wildfires regulations to ensure that as much relief as possible is being offered to community members who are hardening their homes against wildfire.

Votes					
Date	Result Location	Ayes	Noes	NVR	Motion
2025-04-02	(PASS) Asm Insurance	17	0	0	Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations]



## MAJOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION INVESTMENTS SECURED

This month, the North Bay/North Coast Legislative Delegation helped pass a funding bill allocating \$185 million to advance wildfire mitigation projects across the Golden State.

The wildfire funding will directly support State Conservancies vegetation management and fuel treatment programs across California. This funding, which was approved by the Legislature on April 10<sup>th</sup>, includes a major investment of \$33.5 million for the State Coastal Conservancy, which has funded dozens of wildfire mitigation projects throughout the North Coast region over the past several years. In addition, we partnered with the Karuk Tribe to secure \$10 million in state funding to build a regional Fire Training Center in northeastern Humboldt County.

The \$185 million is part of the state's multi-pronged commitment to investing in expanding firefighting resources across the State and investing in making communities more wildfire safe through critical mitigation work.

The funding will be disbursed to six land conservancies across the state, including:

- \$33.5 million to State Coastal Conservancy (represents the North Bay & North Coast)
- \$33.5 million to San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- \$33.5 million to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- \$25.5 million to Tahoe Conservancy
- \$25.5 million to San Diego River Conservancy
- \$33.5 million to Sierra Nevada Conservancy



### SELECT COMMITTEE ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, I was appointed chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention. The committee covers issues related to wildfire prevention and resilience by bringing together experts, community members, state agencies, and government officials to discuss wildfire-related challenges and solutions.

In recent years, Californians have faced devastating losses from increasingly frequent and intense wildfires. I look forward to leading this committee with urgency, transparency, and a deep sense of responsibility to harden our communities against wildfire and protect our natural resources for generations to come.

The Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention, which I have chaired since its creation during the 2023-24 legislative session, covers rebuilding efforts in areas affected by wildfires to prevent and mitigate risk from future wildfire events. The committee is tasked with issues related to wildfire prevention including infrastructure, home hardening, defensible space, community resilience, and wildfire mitigation programs.

The Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention will engage my legislative colleagues, particularly those with districts that are impacted by the Los Angeles fires and other areas within the state that are at high risk, and include participation from relevant state agencies, including CalFIRE and Cal OES. The committee will host informational hearings on wildfire mitigation and community preparedness, with a focus on efforts to rebuild the affected communities in areas that have already been impacted by wildfires. The Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention will provide the California State Legislature with the opportunity to focus on vital elements of wildfire issues, and collaborate on how California can best rebuild to prevent future wildfires.



### SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FOLLOW-UP LEGISLATIVE FORUM

On April 14<sup>th.</sup> the North Coast Legislative Delegation hosted a follow-up public forum to examine Sonoma State and the CSU Chancellor's office plan for our university's future. I was proud to co-chair this forum with Senator Cabaldon (D-West Sacramento), as well as Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire and Assemblymember Chris Rogers (D-Santa Rosa). In the first forum, we asked for a positive turnaround plan with a set clear timeline. SSU and the CSU System released their plan titled "A Bridge to the Future." My colleagues and I made it clear that this plan needs more specifics, detailed benchmarks, and stronger action focused on supporting our students and faculty. We also demanded that the CSU Chancellor's office step up and provide more support for SSU. We are continuing to work on this issue in the State Legislature and will keep the community updated as we keep the pressure on and fight for a better path forward for SSU and the community.

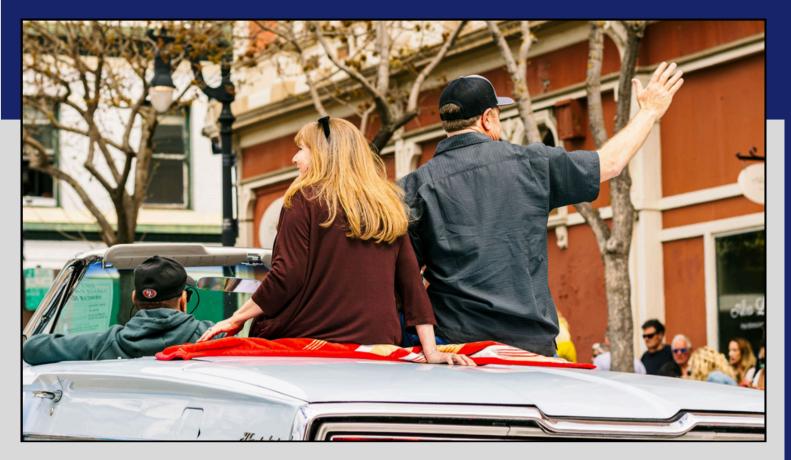
To watch the forum, click here.

I stood in community in Santa Rosa and San Rafael at the <u>#HandsOff</u> rally on April 5<sup>th</sup>, protesting the federal administration's attack on our rights, freedoms, and democracy. Thank you to our AD12 community members for coming together to advocate for the protection of individual rights!

# HANDS OFF RALLY







# **BUTTER & EGG DAYS PARADE**

The Butter and Egg Days Parade is an annual display of the rich history and pride in Petaluma, celebrating the heart of our incredible community. From recognizing local organizations to celebrating our diverse agriculture, the festivities honor the magic and charm of our historic town. I am always honored to participate!







# LOCAL RESOURCES



NAMI Marin County & NAMI Sonoma County provide resources and advocacy for those struggling with their mental health Crisis Line: 988

(415) 444-0480 (800) 950-6264



Legal Aid of Marin & Legal Aid of Sonoma provide low income and vulnerable residents with access to high quality, effective legal services. (628) 253 - 575(707) 542-1290



<u>Canal Alliance</u> provides affordable and comprehensive immigration legal services in Marin County. (415) 306-0437



The Multicultural Center of Marin provides resources to prepare community members to assert their rights. (415) 526-2486



Marin Housing Authority & Marin Health and Human Services assist residents in finding affordable housing. (415) 491-2525



Latino Service Providers provides a variety of resources to Latinx residents in Sonoma County. (707) 837-9577



Center for Domestic Peace provides refuge, resources, and support for those experiencing domestic violence. (415) 924-6616



<u>Community Action Marin provides services to help residents meet basic needs.</u> (415) 526-7500



Community Action Partnership Sonoma County provides multi-generational support for families. (707) 544-6911



Marin Center for Independent Living provides peer-led, person-centered, one-toone care navigation and other social services. MARIN CIL (415) 459-6245



Enterprise Resource Center is a mental health drop-in center providing immediate assistance to individuals facing mental health challenges. (415) 457-4554

### DISTRICT UPDATES: SNAPSHOTS

Even though I'm staying busy up in Sacramento during the week, 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 <u>here</u>.



JOINED MARIN COALITION TO GIVE A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



JOINED A ROUNDTABLE WITH NATURALLY NORCAL, STRAUS FAMILY CREAMERY AND LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS



TOURED THE ROSELAND LIBRARY IN SANTA ROSA



JOINED THE GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER FOR THEIR LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

# DISTRICT UPDATES:



DISCUSSED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES WITH THE CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM



GAVE A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS AT THE LAS GALLINAS LIONS CLUB MEETING



HONORED VILLA MARIN WITH A RESOLUTION AT THEIR 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



MET WITH MARIN COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES TO DISCUSS WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH

### CAPITOL UPDATES: SNAPSHOTS

It's especially exciting when I have the opportunity to meet with constituents from AD12 lobbying out in Sacramento! Here are some snapshots of some of the meetings and events my Capitol 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 <u>here</u>.



DISCUSSED REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD CALIFORNIA ACTION



HONORED SOFIA PEREIRA, PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, ON THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR



CONNECTED WITH CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT POLICY CENTER AND FIRST 5 MARIN



MET WITH THE SONOMA MENDOCINO LAKE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE SAN FRANCISCO MARIN MEDICAL SOCIETY



JOINED CALCAPA TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY ACTION ON THEIR ADVOCACY DAY



MET WITH ALIADOS HEALTH REPRESENTATIVS FROM AD12

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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### Santa Rosa

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