



# Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

OCTOBER 13, 2020

**UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**



# Trump Administration's Failure to Address the Coronavirus Pandemic

- ▶ The United States accounts for just 4% of the world's population, but 21% of coronavirus cases and 20% of coronavirus deaths.
- ▶ More than 215,000 lives in the U.S. have been lost as a result of the coronavirus, almost 1,000 per day.
  - ▶ In California, more than 16,500 people have died.
- ▶ There have been **over 7 million confirmed coronavirus cases** in the U.S., and there currently are **twice** as many new cases **each day** than at the beginning of the summer.
- ▶ The **economy lost 22 million jobs** in March and April, only half of which have been recovered.
- ▶ More than **12 million** people have lost employer-provided health insurance during the pandemic.
- ▶ **40 million people are at risk of losing their homes.**
- ▶ Nearly one-fourth of adults report that their family has received assistance from unemployment insurance, SNAP, or charitable organizations since the start of the pandemic.
- ▶ **More than 20% of small businesses remain closed** as a result of the coronavirus and 4 million businesses are estimated to close permanently this year.
- ▶ GDP decreased **31.4%** in the second quarter of 2020, **wiping out five years** of economic growth.

# Action to Address the Coronavirus Crisis

- ▶ On March 4, the House passed the **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act**, **\$8.3 billion** in emergency funds to provide funding for prevention, preparedness, and response efforts; for the development of treatments and a vaccine; and for low-interest SBA loans to support small businesses that have been affected. – **Signed into law**
- ▶ On March 14, the House passed **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**. This legislation works to address the economic impacts being felt by Americans; it ensures that testing for coronavirus is free, provides for emergency paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave, ensures the availability of unemployment insurance, and secures access to nutrition for children, seniors, and low-income families. – **Signed into law**
- ▶ On March 27, the House passed the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** to provide further economic assistance to families facing lost income and industry sectors whose employees are bearing the brunt of this public health crisis. – **Signed into law**

# Action to Address the Coronavirus Crisis For The People

- ▶ On April 23, the House passed the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act** to provide additional emergency small business relief and funding for hospitals, health care workers, and testing. – **Signed into law**
- ▶ On May 15, House Democrats passed the **HEROES Act** to provide critical funding to state, local, and tribal governments; establish hazard pay for frontline workers; expand testing, treatment, and tracing; and provide additional financial relief to Americans.

After the HEROES Act passed, the House permitted proxy voting.

- ▶ On October 1, House Democrats passed the **Updated Heroes Act**, a \$2.2 trillion compromise relief package including the restoration of the \$600 supplemental unemployment payment; an increase in the amount of time unemployed workers can receive unemployment benefits; new supports to assist renters and homeowners make monthly rent, mortgage, and utility payments; An expansion of the PPP program; and another \$1,200 payment per taxpayer and \$500 per dependent.

# Support Our Local Community

- ▶ The Updated Heroes Act included **\$436 billion** for state, local, territorial and tribal governments.
  - ▶ **Contra Costa County** would receive **\$323,369,224** in federal relief funding, including funding for our cities and towns such as:
    - ▶ Concord - \$34,238,872
    - ▶ Martinez - \$9,049,722
    - ▶ Pittsburg - \$19,124,061
    - ▶ Richmond - \$25,956,738
    - ▶ Walnut Creek - \$18,434,468

# Status of Coronavirus Relief Negotiations

- ▶ Democrats, led by Speaker Pelosi, have repeatedly offered to work with Republicans to pass a coronavirus relief package.
- ▶ In the last few weeks, Speaker Pelosi has been negotiating with Secretary Mnuchin to try to find a compromise that will be in the best interest of the American people.
- ▶ The White House continued to push back on aid to state and local governments, expanding unemployment insurance, funding for a child tax credit, and developing a national coronavirus testing strategy.
- ▶ On October 6, **President Trump ended negotiations with Democratic leaders on a new stimulus package** even as the Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell called for more spending to avoid damaging the country's economic recovery.
- ▶ The White House has returned to the negotiating table, but their offers so far have been insufficient and do not provide a strategic plan to crush the virus.

# White House Coronavirus Outbreak

## ADMINISTRATION



## OTHERS



## Where Are We Now?

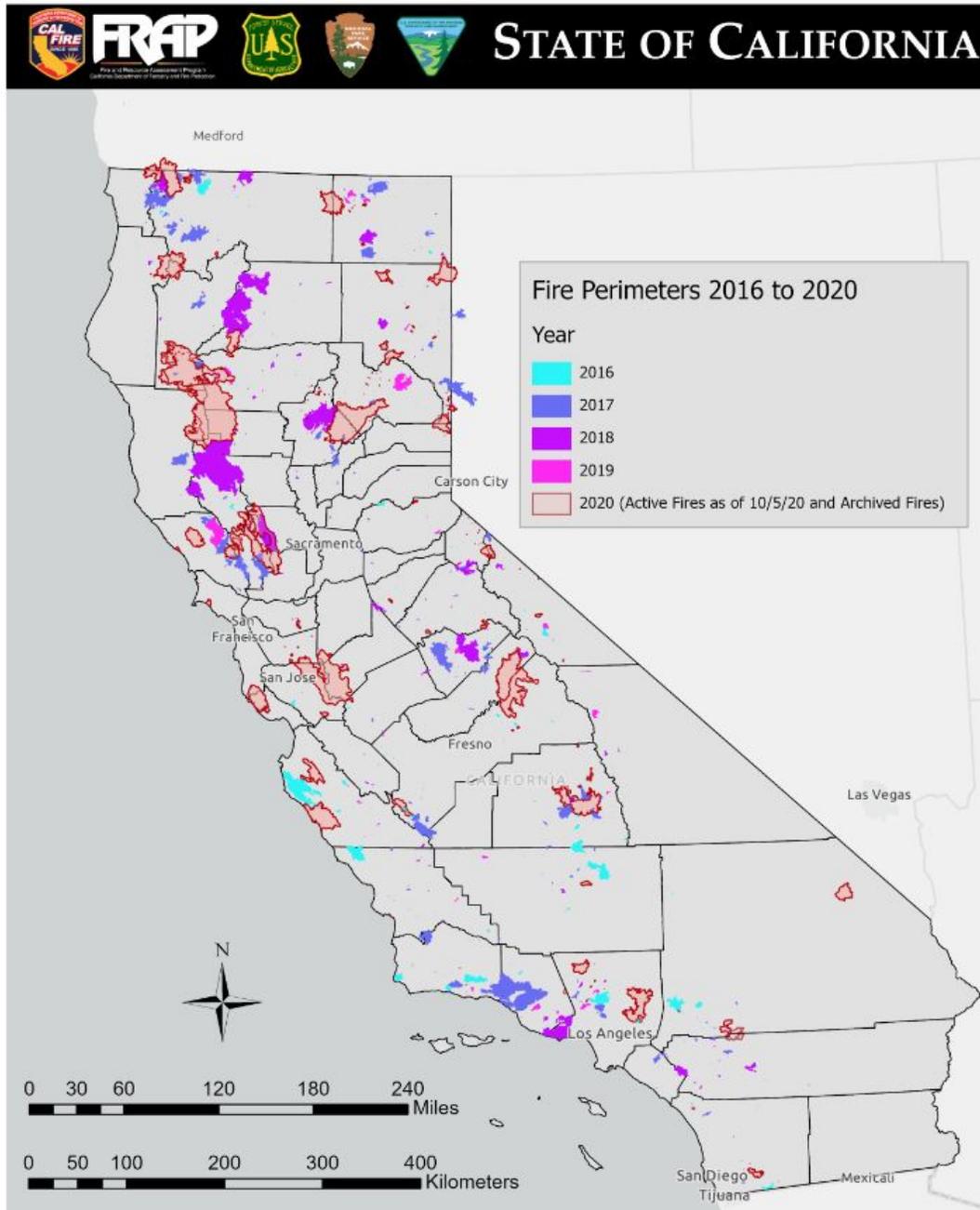
More than 20 people who had been in contact with the President or attended White House or campaign events the week of September 28 have tested positive for coronavirus.

I sponsor a bill to create a **Commission on Presidential Capacity** to Discharge the Powers and Duties of Office, to help ensure effective and uninterrupted leadership if a President is physically or mentally incapacitated.

# Where Are We Now? – The Supreme Court

- ▶ Despite Senate Leader McConnell's refusal in 2016 to hold a vote on President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, he committed to ram through a new nominee before the election.
- ▶ **Senate Republicans say they will hold hearings on Judge Barrett's nomination by Oct. 12, send her nomination to the full Senate by Oct. 22, and confirm her as soon as Oct. 26, eight days before Election Day.**
  - ▶ 2 of the Senators on the Judiciary Committee have coronavirus.
- ▶ President Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, has already indicated through her judicial record and public statements that she would **dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA)** and **overturn Roe v. Wade**.
- ▶ Democrats in the Senate will do everything possible to delay the process, and will make federal court reform part of their upcoming agenda.
  - ▶ I sponsor the **Supreme Court Term Limits and Regular Appointments Act** (H.R. 8424) to institute an **18-year term limit for future justices** with a new justice added, and another rotating off, every two years.

# Historic Wildfire Season



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## Where Are We Now? - Wildfires

With more than **4 million acres burned to-date**, there are over **100 million acres remaining** that could potentially be impacted by wildfire in California.

# Where Are We Now? – Postal Service

- ▶ United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General Louis DeJoy **reassigned 23 postal executives** and proposed a hiring freeze, early retirements, unit realignments, and regional downscaling as part of a structural overhaul of USPS.
- ▶ The Postal Service has warned that **voters may be disenfranchised in 46 states and in Washington, D.C.**, even if they send in their ballots by state deadlines, because of the Postmaster General's manufactured delays.
- ▶ While Postmaster General DeJoy announced he was suspending policies responsible for mail delivery delays until after the November election, **he stated that he would not reverse what had already been done.**
- ▶ Sponsored and voted in favor of the **Delivering for America Act**, which would **prohibit** USPS from making any changes to the operations or level of service it had in place on January 1, 2020, until the coronavirus pandemic has ended, provides **\$25 billion in new funding**, and requires that USPS treat all **official election mail as First-Class mail.**
- ▶ On September 17, a federal judge blocked the USPS Postmaster General DeJoy from USPS policies or protocols ahead of November's presidential election.

# Senate Inaction

	Passed House	Passed Senate		Passed House	Passed Senate
HEROES Act	✓	✗	Heroes Act Update	✓	✗
Protecting and Expanding Health Coverage	✓	✗	Legislation to Support Veterans	✓	✗
For the People Act	✓	✗	Bills Blocking Drilling in Coastal Communities and ANWR	✓	✗
Voting Rights Advancement Act	✓	✗	Legislation to Protect Public Lands	✓	✗
Equality Act	✓	✗	FAIR Act	✓	✗
American Dream and Promise Act	✓	✗	Corporate Transparency Act	✓	✗
Paycheck Fairness Act	✓	✗	Insider Trading Prohibition Act	✓	✗
Bipartisan Background Checks Act	✓	✗	Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act	✓	✗
Enhanced Background Checks Act	✓	✗	NATO Support Act	✓	✗
Climate Action Now Act	✓	✗	Venezuela TPS Act	✓	✗
Legislation to Secure Our Elections	✓	✗	United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act	✓	✗
VAWA Reauthorization and Debbie Smith Act	✓	✗	BURMA Act	✓	✗
Raise the Wage Act	✓	✗	Resolution Opposin the President Abandoning Allies in Syria	✓	✗
Butch Lewis Act	✓	✗	Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act	✓	✗
Save the Internet Act	✓	✗	SAFE Banking Act	✓	✗
Consumers First Act	✓	✗	Farm Workforce Modernization Act	✓	✗

# Committees

## ▶ **Education & Labor**

- ▶ Ensure that Americans' needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy

## ▶ **Transportation & Infrastructure**

- ▶ Maintain and improve the transportation and infrastructure in our country to best ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, and ideas

## ▶ **Oversight & Reform**

- ▶ Main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives

# Mark's Actions Since Coming to Congress

**28 initiatives** enacted into law, including efforts to:

- ▶ Expand John Muir National Historic Site
- ▶ Rename post office in Richmond after the site's first African American postmaster
- ▶ Empower pharmacists to fight the opioid crisis
- ▶ Create and fund statewide family engagement centers to help families participate in their children's education

**27 legislative efforts** passed the House and Committee including efforts to:

- ▶ Instructing the Navy to exonerate the Port Chicago 50
- ▶ Require states to be notified of disinformation campaigns interfering with state elections

## **Caucuses & Initiatives:**

- ▶ **Future of Work Wages and Labor**
- ▶ **Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus, Founder & Co-Chair**
- ▶ **Urban Regional Studies Caucus, Founder**
- ▶ **Working Group on Saving Local News**

# Legislation Our Office Has Introduced

- ▶ **Community Services Block Grant Enhancement Act (H.R. 7328)** – would make temporary changes to a federal program designed to address poverty to help communities recover from the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ▶ **Protection and Advocacy in Education Act (H.R. 8187)** – Ensures the rights of students with disabilities are upheld by providing Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) direct funding for their education work.
- ▶ **Equitable Transit Oriented Development Support Act (H.R. 5783)** – Creates loans for affordable housing and developments in underserved communities near transit hubs;
- ▶ **Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 5611)** – Creates policies to protect student athletes who may have concussions;
- ▶ **Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act (H.R. 5569)** – Identifies and funds mental health interventions for students in Head Start programs;
- ▶ **Preventing Vape Use Act (H.R. 5005)** – Recalls all vape devices until they undergo pre-market review by the FDA;

# Legislation Our Office Has Introduced - Continued

- ▶ **Clean Federal Fleet Act (H.R. 5554)** – Ensures that federal vehicle fleets comply with low greenhouse gas emissions standards;
- ▶ **Gun Safety Board and Research Act (H.R. 4177)** – Establishes a gun safety board to research and address the epidemic of gun violence;
- ▶ **Saving Local News Act (H.R. 3126)** – Creates a new pathway for local news organizations to gain non-profit status;
- ▶ **Exonerating the 50 African-American Sailors Court-Martialed by the Navy After the Port Chicago Explosion (H.Con.Res. 49)** – Recognizes the sacrifice of the sailors who died in the explosion at Port Chicago and exonerates the 50 sailors convicted of mutiny;
- ▶ **Deportation Relief for Isabel Bueso and Her Family (H.R. 4225)** – Provides permanent status for Isabel Bueso to continue receiving life-saving medical treatment;
- ▶ **Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act (H.R. 4107)** – Creates funding to support programs for young children with disabilities in schools;
- ▶ **Bots Research Act (H.R. 2860)** – Establishes a task force to study the effects of bots on social media, public discourse, and elections.

# Democracy Awards

- ▶ **Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation Award – 2019 Winner**
  - ▶ *“The office believes Americans deserve an efficient and effective government that works on their behalf each and every day. **In order to build public trust, Congressman DeSaulnier and staff strive to be transparent and accountable to constituents by providing a higher-level of customer service.**” – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation*
- ▶ **Constituent Service Award – 2018 Finalist (1 of 3 Democrats)**
  - ▶ *“**Constituent service has been the hallmark of Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11) and his office since his election in 2015...**To keep constituents informed, Representative DeSaulnier uses Facebook Live to explain hot button issues happening in Washington in real time, and maintains an impressive four-day response time for constituents who send questions or concerns regarding his congressional activity. ” – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation*

# Reminders: Census & Voting

## ▶ Voting in California has begun!

- ▶ All vote-by-mail ballots come with return envelopes that have pre-paid, first class postage and a unique barcode that you can track.
  - ▶ See where your ballot is after you mail it in: <http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov>
  - ▶ Or return it to a secure drop box! See the list of Contra Costa County locations: <http://cocovote.us/drop-boxes>
  - ▶ Ballots must be postmarked by 11/3 and received by 11/20 or returned to a drop box by 8pm on 11/3.
- ▶ Voting Early In-person: Contra Costa County has Regional Early Voting sites that give you flexibility in casting your ballot. These locations are open the Friday, Saturday, and Monday prior to Election Day.
- ▶ Voting on Election Day: To locate your designated polling place, use the [My Voting Information](#) tool or check the back cover of the Voter Information Guide mailed to you. The polls are open from 7am until 8pm.

## ▶ The 2020 Census Continues

- ▶ The deadline to fill out the Census is **October 31**.
- ▶ California ranks #16 with a 69.3% self-response rate.

**SHAPE  
YOUR  
FUTURE**

**Respond to the  
2020 Census  
AT HOME!**

**[my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov)**

# Contact Our Office

## Walnut Creek

3100 Oak Road  
Suite 110  
Walnut Creek, CA  
(925) 933-2660

## Richmond

440 Civic Center Plaza  
Second Floor  
Richmond, CA  
(510) 620-1000

## Washington, DC

503 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC  
(202) 225-2095



Facebook: [/RepMarkDeSaulnier](https://www.facebook.com/RepMarkDeSaulnier)



Instagram: [@RepDeSaulnier](https://www.instagram.com/RepDeSaulnier)



Twitter: [@RepDeSaulnier](https://twitter.com/RepDeSaulnier)



Website: [desaulnier.house.gov](http://desaulnier.house.gov)