Congressional Update

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

60th Town Hall and Mobile District Office Hour

March 3, 2018
## Hosted 60 Town Halls & Mobile District Office Hours

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<th>2015</th>
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### Mobile District Office Hours

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<th>Martinez</th>
<th>Bay Point</th>
<th>Kensington</th>
<th>Walnut Creek</th>
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Stay Tuned for Issue Specific Town Halls

Already Hosted Town Halls on the Following Topics:

- Conversation on Race Town Hall
- 3 Town Halls on Republican Tax Bill
- Gun Violence Prevention Town Hall

Vote on Upcoming Topics on Twitter: @RepDeSaulnier
Map of the Congressional District (CA-11)
Gun Violence

• Gun violence claims over **30,000 lives annually** in the United States.
• The U.S. firearm homicide rate is **20 times higher** than the combined rates of 22 comparable countries.
• Americans make up about **4.4% of the global population**, but own **42% of the world’s guns**.
• Gun industry annual net profit: **$1.5 billion**
  • Annual cost of gun violence: **$290 billion**
• Since 2003, state and local governments have given more than **$120 million in tax subsidies** to at least seven major firearms companies.

**DeSaulnier Efforts:**

• Lifetime “F” score from the NRA
• Never accepted donations from the NRA
• **Drafting bill** to create Gun Safety Board
• **Authored 2 bills and 1 amendment** to help reduce gun violence
• **Supported 34 gun violence prevention bills**
• **Joined effort** to force a vote on universal background checks
Figure 11
Gun Violence Receives Less Federal Research Funding Than Most of the Top 20 Causes of Death in the United States

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Lung disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Alzheimer disease
- Diabetes
- Influenza and pneumonia
- Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis
- Poisoning
- Motor vehicles
- Sepsis
- Gun violence
- Liver disease
- Hypertension
- Falls
- Parkinson disease
- Aspiration
- Asphyxia
- HIV
- Intestinal infection

Aviation Safety
Close Calls at SFO & Other Airports

• Our nation’s air travel system is world class. The number of accidents has steadily declined and our system is safe.

• However, the number of runway incursions increased 83% between 2011 and 2017.

DeSaulnier Efforts:

• Asked GAO to review gaps in aviation safety and make recommendations to Congress
• Pressed FAA, NTSB to investigate close calls at airports and improve airplane landing safety
• Working with pilots unions to address safety concerns
• Called on Transportation Committee to investigate aviation safety
  • Hearing was held on February 27th
Total Number of Runway Incursions
Fiscal Years 2011-2017

Source: OIG analysis
Protecting Our Democracy

Integrity of Our Elections

- **Social media bots/fake accounts**: Preventing automated social media accounts from spreading false information that can change the outcome of elections
- **Election machine integrity**: Protecting our election machines from cyber attacks

**DeSaulnier Efforts:**

- **Developing legislation** to require bot accounts on social media to be labeled and easily traceable to a human user
- **Sponsor of the Election Security Act (H.R. 5011)**, which provides financial support and enhanced security for election infrastructure
- **Requested an Oversight Committee hearing** on election machine cybersecurity, which was held in November
Immigration

• Trump-imposed DACA deadline: March 5th
  • Courts have ruled that the Administration must continue to accept renewals → This is not a permanent solution.
  • Dreamers will contribute $460.3 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product over the next decade.
• Administration has ended Temporary Protected Status for Sudan, Haiti, Nicaragua, and El Salvador – 322,000 people
• Bipartisan options in the House and Senate
• Speaker Ryan will not allow a vote on immigration reform

DeSaulnier Efforts:

• Support Dream Act to provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers
• Sent letters to ICE opposing targeted immigration raids in Northern California
Tax Bill

• Last major tax reform: 1986
  • **President**: Ronald Reagan
  • **Speaker of the House**: Thomas “Tip” O’Neill (D-MA)
  • **Senate President Pro Tem**: Strom Thurmond (R-SC)
  • Bipartisan effort in both House and Senate
  • Almost 11 months between introduction and it being signed into law (in contrast, H.R. 1 introduced 11/2/17 signed into law on 12/22/17)

• Since 1986, the U.S. tax code has gone from less than 30,000 pages to over 70,000 pages

• The amount of credits, loopholes, and deductions has increased by 44 percent, from $844 billion (2013 dollars), to over $1.2 trillion (2013 dollars)
Tax Bill

- **Adds $1.8 trillion to debt** over 10 years (CBO)
- **83% of the tax cuts go to the wealthiest 1%** (Tax Policy Center)
- Raises taxes on **86 million middle class families**
- **$1.3 trillion** (permanent) tax break for corporations
- Massive tax rate cut from **35% to 21% for corporations**
- **Repeal of the “individual mandate”**
  - Will result in 13 million people losing health coverage
  - Without the individual mandate, premiums estimated to increase by 10% per year

**DeSaulnier Efforts:**

- Called for maintaining **State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction**
- **Voted against** Republican tax bill (H.R. 1)

Richest 20%, -$225

Richest 1%, $85

Next Richest 19%, $140

Foreign Investors, -$48

Poorest 20%, -$3

Second 20%, -$13

Fourth 20%, -$43

Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, December 2017
Richest 1% of Taxpayers Receive the Largest Average Tax Cut Under the Revised Senate Plan in 2027, the Average Taxpayer in the Bottom 60% Faces a Tax Hike

Includes Impact of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal

- $+220 (Poorest 20%)
- $+200 (Second 20%)
- $+60 (Middle 20%)
- $ -70 (Fourth 20%)
- $ -180 (Next 15%)
- $ -950 (Next 4%)
- $ -50 (Richest 1%)

INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY • ITEP.ORG
Tax Bill – California Impacts

• Mortgage Interest Deduction – currently capped on debt of $1,000,000; new law reduces cap to $750,000

• Home Equity Loan Interest Deduction Eliminated

• State and Local Tax Deductions – limited to $10,000
  • Average deduction in 2015 in our district: $18,672, with 44% of households claiming the deduction
  • Pressure on states and local governments to cut taxes and cut back on services
Final GOP-Donald Trump Tax Bill Gives Larger Tax Cuts to Upper-Income California Residents in 2019, Raises Taxes on Low- and Middle-Income Residents in 2027

Tax Change as a Share of Income in 2019 and 2027, Includes Impact of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal

Poorest 20%  Second 20%  Middle 20%  Fourth 20%  Next 15%  Next 4%  Richest 1%

-1.0%  -1.6%  -1.6%  -1.4%  -0.1%  -0.1%  -0.2%  -1.0%  -0.4%

1.1%  0.5%  0.2%
What’s Next

• DACA deadline imposed by White House: March 5th
• New Fiscal Year 2018 budget deadline: March 22nd
• FAA reauthorization: March 31st
• Trump Infrastructure Package:
  • Proposes to shift costs to state and local governments
  • First hearing next week in Transportation Committee
• Higher Education Act reauthorization: Timing TBD
• Fiscal Year 2019 budget process:
  • President’s Budget: February 12th
  • Congressional budget agreement: April 15th
Leading in Congress
Congressional Actions

7 initiatives enacted into law, including efforts to:
• Streamline Head Start and protect after school programs
• Prevent student concussions
• Transparency for veterans on the benefits they have earned

13 legislative efforts passed the House and Committee including efforts to:
• Make housing affordable
• Recognize the importance of the 16 million “Rosies the Riveter”
• Expand John Muir National Historic Site

Caucuses & Initiatives:
• Future of Work Wages and Labor
• Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus, Founder & Co-Chair
• Urban Regional Studies Caucus, Founder
DeSaulnier Efforts on Cancer

- Co-founder of the bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus
- Introducing bipartisan Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act next week with Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) to improve doctor-patient communication by enabling access for more patients to cancer treatment plans
- Hosted Cancer Moonshot Event – 250 people attended
- Held a roundtable with the President of the Biden Cancer Initiative – Greg Simon to discuss cancer care in America
- Upcoming Member meeting with the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) – Dr. Ned Sharpless to discuss the future of cancer care
- Upcoming Member trip to University of California San Francisco Comprehensive Cancer Center
Inequality

Wage Vs. Profit Share of GDP

Shaded areas indicate US recessions. 2014 research.stlouisfed.org

FRED

CP/GDP (Left)
WASCUR/GDP (Right)
Campaign Finance

• The 2016 election cycle was the most expensive election on record, with over $6.9 billion spent on the Presidential and Congressional elections combined, a 120% increase over the 2000 elections.

• The cost of Congressional elections has spiked even further, with over $4.2 billion spent in 2016, a 155% increase from the 2000 elections.

• The *Government by the People Act* would encourage public financing of political campaigns to:
  • Provide citizens with a campaign contribution credit to let their voice be heard and
  • Gives candidates an incentive to seek out small donors.
Campaign Finance

Outside Spending by Cycle, Excluding Party Committees

- Independent Expenditures
- Communication Costs
- Electioneering Communications
Our Office
“Rep. DeSaulnier and his staff are to be congratulated for not only being a model for colleagues in Congress, but for helping to restore trust and faith that our democratic institutions can work.”

– Bradford Fitch, President and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation

*DeSaulnier’s office was one out of six in Congress (3 Democrats, 3 Republicans) selected for this award.
Congressman DeSaulnier's
Constituent Services By the Numbers

Assisted 3,000+
Constituents in navigating problems with a federal agency

Hosted 59
Town Halls & Mobile District Office Hours

Responded to 235,650+
Constituent inquiries

Attended 525+
Community events & meetings

27 Bills & Amendments

20 Bills Authored
7 Amendments Enacted

Helped 2,400+
Constituents secure tours of the Washington, D.C. area

445,000+
Miles flown between California & Washington, DC
Performance Standards

• The private sector uses performance metrics and standards to gauge businesses’ efficiency and effectiveness, using collected data to hold leaders accountable and perfect their business model over time

• Performance measures in the public sector are critical to ensuring that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are spent in the most effective manner
  • Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act (H.R. 3787)
  • Transportation Megaprojects Accountability and Oversight Act (H.R. 4228)

• Internal office performance metrics include:
  • **Meeting Requests:** If you request a meeting, expect to receive a response within 24-hours
  • **Correspondence:** Emails and letters received in our office will be sent a response within 5 business days of receipt
  • **Casework:** Requests for assistance through our website or by phone will receive a phone call within 24-hours
  • **Tours & Flags:** Requests submitted through our website will receive a phone call within 24-hours
Contact Our Office

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Keep the conversation going on social media using 
#DeSaulnierTownHall

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Instagram: @RepDeSaulnier

**Congressional Website:**
www.desaulnier.house.gov