



Town Hall: America's Crisis Under Republican Leadership

April 16, 2026

House Ethics: Congressional vs. Campaign Activity

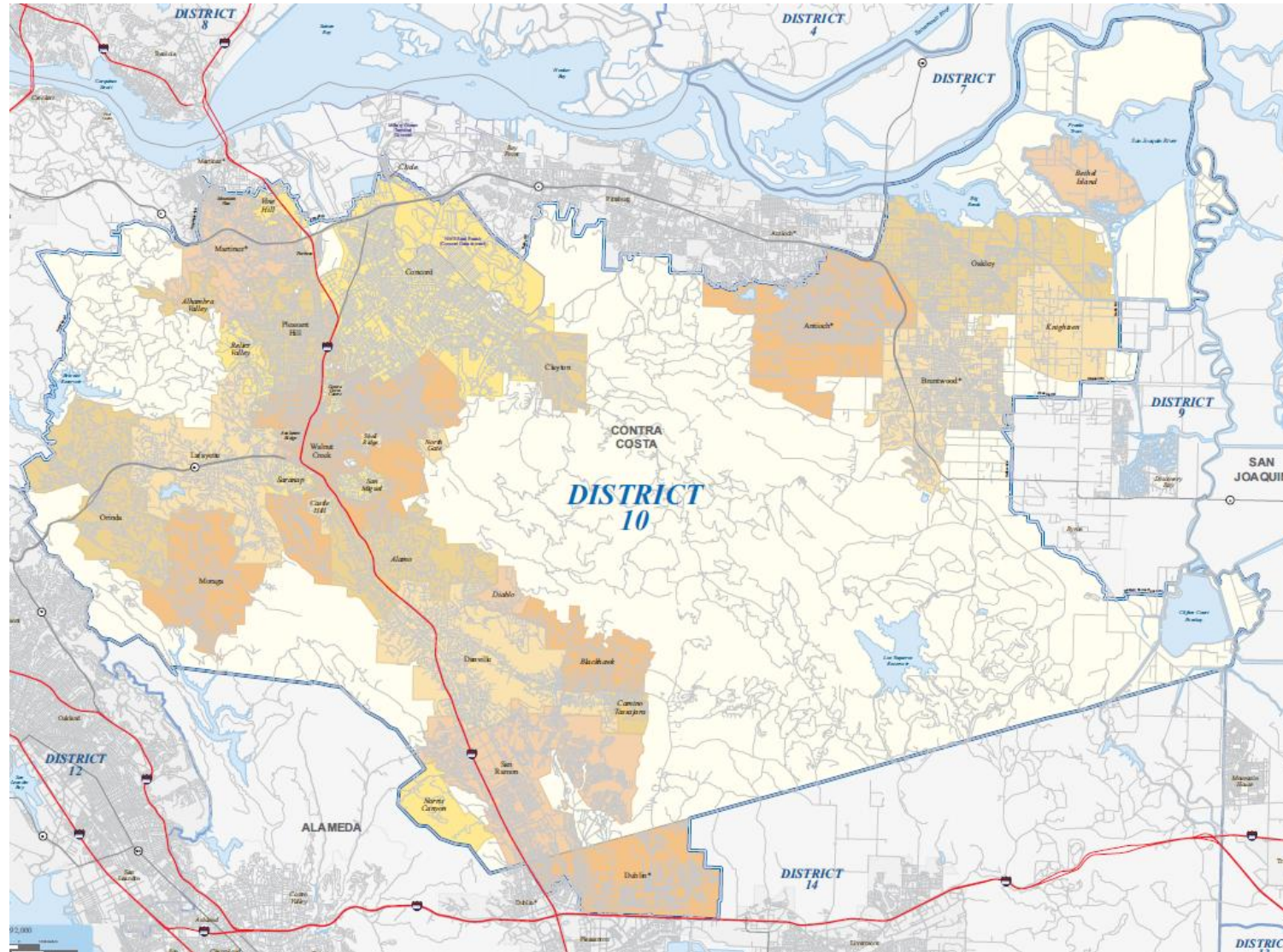
- Members of Congress are governed by the House Code of Official Conduct, which includes standards for whether, how, when, and where Members may engage in campaign activity.
 - This town hall is being hosted in my official capacity as Representative for California's 10th District, not as a candidate in a campaign. Therefore, House Rules prevent me from:
 - Solicitating, receiving, and accepting campaign contributions.
 - Making political endorsements.
 - Directing attendees to websites, resources, or events created or operated by a campaign or any campaign-related entity, including political parties and campaign committees.

You can learn more about the House Code of Official Conduct and how it relates to this event here:



California's 10th Congressional District

CA-10 includes
most of Contra
Costa and part
of Alameda
County



Committees and Caucuses

- **Ethics Committee – Ranking Member**
- **Education & Workforce Committee**
 - **Ranking Member of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee**
 - **Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development**
- **Transportation & Infrastructure Committee**
 - **Subcommittees on Highways, Aviation, Water Resources and Environment, and Railroads**
- **Member of several important and influential caucuses, including:**
 - **Congressional Progressive Caucus**
 - **Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus – Co-Chair**
 - **Urban Regional Studies Caucus – Co-Chair**
 - **Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition**
 - **Climate Jobs Task Force – Co-Chair**
 - **Gun Violence Prevention Task Force**
 - **Reproductive Freedom Caucus**



Iran War Update

- On February 28, 2026, the U.S. and Israel launched a war of choice on Iran which has so far resulted in over 2,000 deaths, including 15 American soldiers and the Supreme Leader of Iran.
- The first week of the war alone cost U.S. taxpayers as much as \$16 billion, and the Administration has requested \$200 billion in supplemental funding for the full war.
- The war has raised global fuel and fertilizer prices and disrupted high-tech supply chains.
 - Gas prices in California have gone up about 85 cents per gallon on average since the war began.
- On April 8, the U.S. and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire after President Trump threatened mass war crimes and civilian casualties against Iran.



Iran War Update (cont.)

- President Trump did not seek Congressional authorization for the war, in violation of the U.S. Constitution.
 - Congressman DeSaulnier supported multiple efforts to immediately halt the war, but they failed due to near-unanimous Republican opposition.
- President Trump and Administration officials have given varying and conflicting justifications for the war, including regime change in Iran, destroying a nuclear program which Trump claimed last year had been “obliterated,” and to preempt an imminent Israeli strike on Iran.
- President Trump’s statements have been increasingly erratic and violent. He has threatened to attack civilian infrastructure and said “[a] whole civilization will die tonight” if Iran did not acquiesce to his demands.



Removing the President

- President Trump is a threat to U.S. and global security, and he has done enormous damage to our federal government and critical alliances abroad.
- Under the 25th Amendment, the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet can remove the President if he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.
 - The House and Senate must also approve any effort.
 - Congressman DeSaulnier has called on the Cabinet to begin this process.
- Congressman DeSaulnier has also voted twice to begin impeachment proceedings against President Trump since he was sworn in last January.



President Trump Has Gone Too Far

Since taking office last January, the President and his Administration have engaged in illegal and impeachable activity:

- Implementing violent and illegal immigration enforcement tactics;
 - In January 2026 alone, 6 people died in ICE custody and 2 were shot and killed by ICE agents. The Administration has also deported American citizens and those who were under protective orders.
- Deployed the military domestically to tamp down legal demonstration activity that he didn't agree with;
- Used the Justice Department and the FBI to target political foes and critics;
- Defied court orders and unconstitutionally usurping judicial authority;
- And much more (unlawfully imposing tariffs; receiving foreign and domestic emoluments; unconstitutionally usurping local and state authority; abusing the emergency power; abusing the pardon power; etc.)



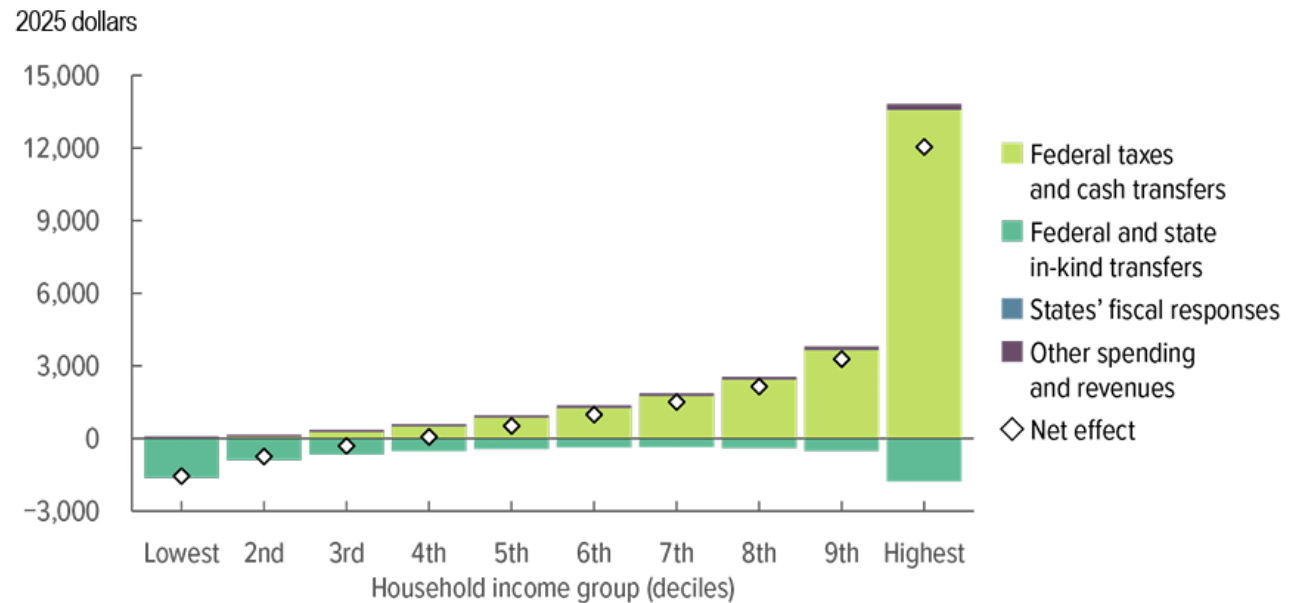
Targeting Vital Government Services

- In 2025, President Trump and Congressional Republicans rammed through a budget bill that will harm tens of millions of Americans and raise their cost of living in order to give tax breaks to the ultrawealthy. This bill:
 - Cuts \$1 trillion over 10 years from Medicaid, stripping health care from 17 million Americans;
 - Cuts almost \$200 billion over 10 years from SNAP, impacting 3 million people;
 - Takes school lunches from more than 18.3 million children;
 - Reduces or eliminates Pell Grants for 4 million students;
- In California's 10th Congressional District, over 131,000 individuals rely on Medi-Cal for health care coverage, and nearly 18,000 households rely on SNAP to prevent hunger.



- The Republican budget bill gives \$1 trillion in tax cuts for the richest Americans.
- It is the single largest transfer of wealth from working Americans to the top 1%.
- Americans in the top income bracket will see their household resources increase by \$12,000 per year, while the poorest Americans will see their household resources drop by \$1,600 per year.

Average Annual Change in Resources per Household, 2026 to 2034



Data sources: Congressional Budget Office; staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation. See www.cbo.gov/publication/61387#data.



Targeting Vital Government Services (cont.)

- Since taking office, the Trump Administration has drastically cut the federal workforce and has proposed to close hundreds of federal offices.
- In 2025, the federal workforce decreased by 10%, or a net of nearly 238,000 workers.
- The Department of Education and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) saw the biggest cuts.
 - The Education Department's staff shrank by 42.6% and USAID was all but eliminated, going from almost 4,900 employees to 370.
- Other agencies that experienced deep cuts include the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities (-56.6%), AmeriCorps (-43.6%), the Small Business Administration (-32.9%), and the National Science Foundation (-30.3%).
- These massive cuts in staffing will limit the federal government's ability to provide critical services, and in some cases, prevent agencies from carrying out requirements under law.



Contact Our Office

Walnut Creek District Office

3100 Oak Road
Suite 110
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
Phone: (925) 933-2660
Fax: (925) 933-2677

Washington, DC Office

2134 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2095
Fax: (202) 225-5609

Antioch District Office

4703 Lone Tree Way
Antioch, CA 94531
Phone: (925) 754-0716
Fax: (925) 754-0728



Facebook: RepMarkDeSaulnier



Instagram: @RepDeSaulnier



Bluesky: @RepMarkDeSaulnier



X: @RepDeSaulnier



Website: desaulnier.house.gov

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