New California Members of the 113th Congress

The November 6th election brought over 80 new members to Washington, DC. Eleven new members will be representing California. Below are the new members from California along with biographical information describing their political and education affiliations:

Julia Brownley (D), 26th House District
In a tight race against Tony Strickland (R), Julia Brownley won with 52% of the vote. From 1994 to 2006 Brownley served on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education and eventually became Board President. In 2006 she was elected to represent her district in the California State Assembly where she chaired the Assembly Education Committee and served on the Assembly Committee on Higher Education.

Tony Cárdenas (D), 29th House District
Tony Cárdenas is the first Latino Congressman to represent the San Fernando Valley in a landslide victory against David R. Hernandez, taking 74% of the vote. Tony Cárdenas served in the California State Assembly from 1996 to 2004 where he became the first Latino to represent the San Fernando Valley in the state’s 39th Assembly District.

Paul Cook (R), 8th House District
Succeeded by Jerry Lewis (R) who is retiring from Congress after serving in various seats since 1978, Paul Cook beat Gregg Imus (R) with 57.6% of the vote to represent the Yucca Valley. Paul Cook achieved the rank of Colonel in the Marine Corps and commanded Camp Pendleton in California before retiring from the military in 1992. Cook taught Political Science and History at Cal State University, San Bernardino, UC Riverside, and Copper Mountain College. In 2006, he was elected to represent the 65th Assembly District of California. In 2011-12, Cook has served as Chair of the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee and in 2009-10, he sat on the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Jared Huffman (D), 2nd House District
Jared Huffman beat GOP candidate Daniel W. Roberts with 70.4% of the vote. He replaces Representative Lynn Woolsey (D), who is retiring from Congress after serving for two decades. Huffman served on the Marin Municipal Water District from 1994 to 2006 and in 2006 won the election to represent the 6th District of the California State Assembly and has served in that capacity until earning his seat in Congress.

Doug LaMalfa (R), 1st House District
Doug LaMalfa won his district’s race with 58.1% of the vote by beating his democratic opponent Jim Reed. LaMalfa earned an A.A. Degree at Butte Community College before graduating from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1982 with a B.S. in Agriculture Business Management. He has served in both houses of the California Legislature, as an Assemblymember from 2002 to 2010 and as a Senator from 2010 to 2012.

Alan Lowenthal (D), 47th House District
The former Chair of the California Senate Education Committee, Alan Lowenthal beat Gary DeLong (R) with 55.3% of the vote. Lowenthal started his career in 1968 as a Professor at the California State University, Long Beach where he taught until 1998. In 1992 he ran for Long Beach City Council which he
served on for six years before he was elected to represent Long Beach in the California State Assembly. Once he reached his term-limit in the Assembly, he was elected to represent the 27th California Senate District in which he served in the Legislature for another six years. In 2012 Lowenthal authored SB 1456, the Student Success Act of 2012, setting the stage to improve graduation and transfer rates at California’s 112 community colleges. Alan Lowenthal’s wife, Dr. Deborah Malumed is a member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

**Gloria Negrete McLeod (D), 35th House District**
With 55.7% of the vote, Gloria Negrete McLeod beat out the incumbent Joe Baca (D) to represent the Inland Empire. McLeod graduated from Chaffey College with an A.A. in 1975 and later served on the Board of Chaffey Community College from 1995 to 2000 and became President of the Board. She was elected to the California State Assembly from 2000 to 2006 and then was elected represent the 32nd Senate District in 2006.

**Eric Swalwell (D), 15th House District**
Thirty-one year old Eric Swalwell took the Congressional seat from the 80 year old incumbent Pete Stark (D) by 52.2% of the vote. After attending college at the University of Maryland where he obtained his J.D., he returned to his hometown of Dublin, California to work as a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. He also founded and still serves as President of the Dublin High School Alumni Association. In 2010 he was elected to serve on the Dublin City Council.

**Mark Takano (D), 41st House District**
Mark Takano won this newly created 41st Congressional seat against John Tavaglione with 57.6% of the vote. Public education is at the forefront of his political agenda. He taught English and Social Studies at the Rialto Unified School District since 1988. In 1990, Takano was elected to the Riverside Community College District’s Board of Trustees. He became the board’s longest-serving member, spending two separate terms as the board’s president.

**David Valadao (R), 21st House District**
In another newly drawn Congressional seat, David Valadao beat John Hernandez (D) with 58.9% of the vote. The 21st House District encompasses parts of the agriculturally rich Central Valley where Valadao was raised and has been active in agriculture issues throughout his life. Valadeo attend the College of the Sequoias, but did not graduate, instead became a partner in his family’s dairy farm. Prior to being elected into Congress, he represented California’s 30th State Assembly District.

**Juan Vargas (D), 51st House District**
Juan Vargas won the seat previously held by Bob Filner (D) by 70% of the vote against Michael Crimmins (R). In 1991 Vargas earned a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, where he was classmates with President Barack Obama. He was born and raised in the San Diego area and in 1993 he was elected to the San Diego City Council. Vargas served in the California State Assembly from 2001 to 2006 representing the 79th Assembly District. Following his term in the Assembly he was elected to the California State Senate where he passed Senate Bill 1264 in 2012 to add any athletic coach, assistant coach and graduate assistant involved in coaching to the list of individuals who are mandated reporters at a public or private postsecondary institution. This legislation was a direct response to the Penn State University sex-abuse scandal by holding university coaching staff accountable for reporting acts of child sexual abuse.