



Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano's
Community Newsletter

Summer 2010

Representing California's 38th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives

Napolitano Hosts Home Rescue Fair with Community Groups

On Saturday, June 5, Rep. Grace F. Napolitano co-hosted a foreclosure prevention fair for 450 homeowners with the Alliance for Stabilizing our Communities and local community banks at La Puente High School.

"Everyone here should take full advantage of the services being offered," Napolitano said. "Having a sound plan is critical for preventing foreclosure, and the knowledge shared here can help people hold onto their homes."

"My home is almost going into foreclosure," said Carol Rico of La Puente. "I've been talking to a credit counselor here and I've already received a lot of information, so it's been helpful."

The fair featured counselors approved by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, a foreclosure avoidance workshop, info on avoiding scam artists, and loan specialists from Chase, CitiMortgage, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo. Resources were also provided by the East L.A. Community Corporation and the Los Angeles Center for Foreclosure Solutions.

For info, go to www.hud.gov and click "Avoid Foreclosure"



Congresswoman Napolitano discusses housing policy and government resources with attendees at foreclosure prevention fair

Napolitano Honors 'Unsung Heroines,' 2010 Women of the Year



On May 15, Rep. Grace F. Napolitano honored 23 women nominated for exemplary service by volunteer organizations at the Montebello Senior Center. "It is essential we pay tribute to these women who volunteer their time to improve their communities, and who have never been publicly thanked," Napolitano said. "Today, we say thank you -- your example is an inspiration."

Pictured above, front row, left to right: Rosa Perez, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, Marichuy Gomez, Garfield High School JROTC, Maria Garcia, Pomona Unified School District, Ethna Garcia, Pio Pico Woman's Club, Olga Enterios, Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic, Lori Crial-Peterson, Soroptimist International of Santa Fe Springs, Nancy Cowardin, Fo Guang Shan Hsi Lai Temple, Mary Beas,

Montebello Friends of the Library, Christine Ader, City of Pomona Police Department, Lela Acosta, Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol & Drug Abuse. **Back row, left to right:** Rebeca Zazueta, Eastmont Community Center, Darlene Villar, Bassett Park, Ruey-Ming Tang Sparks, Buddha's Light Hsi Lai School, Adriana Pinedo, City of Pomona, Rosa Perez, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, Antonieta Paez, Norwalk Lions Club, Nora Morales, Pico Rivera History and Heritage Society, Ann Martayan, Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral, Jennifer Ludwick, Norwalk Elks #2142, Lupe C. Lopez, Shade Lane Seniors Club, Thelma Jimenez, Washington Park Community Center, Kristie Hernandez, East L.A. Residents Association, Dora Granizo, Happy Years Senior Club, Beatrice Gonzalez, Silver Years Club

State Program Offers Housing Assistance

The California Housing Finance Agency has received \$700 million in federal funds to help homeowners avoid foreclosure by:

- Helping homeowners rescue their underwater mortgages with up to \$50 thousand of assistance over three years
- Temporarily subsidizing half of mortgage payments for the unemployed, up to \$1,500 a month for up to six months
- Settling up to \$15 thousand of past arrears for former unemployed who now have jobs and can make modified payments
- Sending up to \$5000 in relocation assistance to homeowners who gave up or short-sold their house instead of foreclosing

Visit keepyourhomecalifornia.com or call (916) 373-2585

Help with Federal Services

Community Casework Fair,

Saturday, Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation at 401 N. Garfield Ave, Montebello

Get help with:

Social Security Veterans Administration

US Immigration Services IRS

Hosted by Rep. Napolitano. For more info visit www.napolitano.house.gov



Napolitano Hosts Job Fair with Local Employers

On May 14, the office of Rep. Grace F. Napolitano hosted a Veterans-and-Youth job fair at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex in conjunction with the California Employment Development Department, City of Norwalk, SELACO Workforce Investment Board, SASSFA WorkSource, and Hearts of Compassion.

Over 600 people attended the event, which included 54 private employers, 34 youth and veterans service provid-

ers, training sessions in resume writing, a dress-for-success workshop, a veterans benefits workshop, free haircuts, a food giveaway, and health screenings from the Veterans Administration's mobile clinic.

The job fair offered services aimed at veterans and young people but was open to all interested job seekers. All private employers participating were hiring.

"I'm hoping that a door opens and I can get my foot in there so I can provide for

my girls, I'm a single mom," said Cynthia Lopez, a resident of Norwalk.

"Everyone here is hiring now, that's the best part," said Vincente Castillo, who had been actively looking for 3 months. "I think my future is looking pretty good."

"This job fair is an opportunity for anyone looking for work," Napolitano said. "Many qualified and hard-working people continue to look for a chance to provide for their families."

Napolitano Visits Los Altos, Calls for Math & Science Funding



Rep. Napolitano discusses education issues at the Los Altos Academy of Engineering

On May 8, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano visited the students and teachers of the Los Altos Academy of Engineering at their fifth annual open house to view their amazing technical accomplishments and discuss renewing the **America COMPETES Act**, a bill that increases education funding for math and science.

The students displayed several clean energy transportation projects, including a new internal combustion engine that runs on hydrogen.

"I commend these young men and women for their remarkable achievements," Napolitano said. "Their future work will keep America competitive. It is critical we continue to support science education – when our kids are this resourceful, just imagine what they can accomplish with the proper support."

America COMPETES passed the House in May and now awaits a vote in the Senate.

Stimulus Funds Build Projects, Hire Local Workers

Since 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has funded projects and hired workers across the 38th District.

Norwalk has repaired its transit vehicles and is upgrading its bus shelters and Metrolink park-and-ride station. LA County has repaved Reis Street in Hacienda Heights, Graves Avenue in Bassett, Valinda, and West Puente Valley, and is repaving Clark Avenue in Industry and Colima Road in Rowland Heights. Pomona has repaved San Antonio Avenue and is improving Towne and White avenues, Santa Fe Springs has resurfaced Marquardt Avenue, Excelsior Drive, and Mica Street, La Puente has reconstructed Hacienda Boulevard and Glendora Avenue, and Montebello has repaired city sidewalks. Santa Fe Springs funded a youth intervention program to prevent crime and Pico Rivera has made city air conditioning and heating more efficient. City projects meant much-needed improvements and created jobs.

Local school districts received more than \$100 million to prevent hundreds of layoffs. Cal Poly Pomona, Western University of Health Science, and community colleges also received grants.

Local nonprofits Foothill Family Services, House of Ruth, and Southern California Alcohol and Drugs Programs hired staff and

provided food, childcare, education, job placement, and housing.

Allcomp in Industry and Maxwell Sensors in Santa Fe Springs used stimulus funds to hire new people for federal contracts.

Montebello completely renovated the Chet Holifield library. Pomona used funding to prevent homelessness for 110 families, rehabilitated 9 properties that will be resold to needy families, and removed lead paint at 54 properties and trained 62 people in lead paint removal. LA County completed new bike trails in "Emerald Necklace" parks and on the LA River.

"Putting people to work on long-awaited projects is essential to our community," Napolitano said. "Without these new jobs and public works, our area's economy would have been worse off."

Projects for Summer and Fall

Montebello: Upgrading Whittier Boulevard and purchasing new natural gas buses. **Santa Fe Springs:** installing a new police communications system, more efficient heating and air conditioning units. **La Puente:** upgrading traffic signals and lighting to LEDs. **Pico Rivera:** Improving Beverly Boulevard and new recycled water line. **Pomona:** New streetlights.

Cal Poly Broncos Win Title



Rep. Napolitano discusses physical education issues with Austin Swift of the Cal Poly Broncos. Napolitano recognized the **Cal Poly Pomona Men's Basketball team's Division II national first place finish** in a congressional resolution.

Veteran Uses GI Bill for Four-Year School

Bernatrice Pezzi of Pomona enrolled in school using the new Post 9/11 GI Bill as a five-year veteran of the California National Guard. Soon after, the Veterans Administration informed her she was not entitled to GI Bill benefits due to an administrative error, meaning that she would have to pay her own way -- after she had already taken on thousands of dollars of school debt. Pezzi asked Congresswoman Napolitano for advice, and caseworker Steven Espejel helped her work with the Veterans Administration and Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner. Several months of hard work and communication later, the VA realized its mistake and corrected the error. Pezzi received the \$10,842 she was owed from the GI Bill, letting her pay off her debts and putting a college education within reach. Problems with federal government agencies take time to solve, but Napolitano's office can always offer assistance. The back page of this newsletter lists the services offered and the office contact numbers.

Timeline for Health Care Reform

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as health care reform, was signed into law March 30, 2010 but most changes will come later. For a full list, visit www.healthcare.gov

Now: \$250 checks for seniors in the “donut hole;” see article “Health Care Reform Fixes Donut Hole” below.

■ National insurance pool allows access for people with pre-existing conditions.

Starting Sept. 23 2010: Children can no longer be denied health insurance for a pre-existing condition.

■ Health care companies not allowed to drop people from coverage once they get sick.

■ Free preventive care, such as mammograms to detect breast cancer, without extra charges or co-pays.

■ Tax credit to small businesses for up to 35% of health insurance costs.

■ Young adults can stay on parents plan to age 26; see article “Health Insurance Expanded for Youth” below.

Jan. 1 2011: 50 percent prescription drug discount for seniors in “donut hole” and free preventive care; see article “Health Care Reform Fixes Donut Hole” below.

■ Lowering premium costs by requiring 85% of premiums collected by insurers go to services instead of profits.

March 1 2012: New tracking of ethnic, racial and linguistic data to help identify which groups need assistance.

Oct. 1 2013: Increased funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Jan. 1 2014: Establishes health insurance exchanges where anyone can shop for the same private insurance options that members of Congress have access to. Most individuals who can afford it will be required to buy insurance or pay a fee. If affordable coverage is unavailable they will be eligible for an exemption.

■ Small business tax credit increases to up to 50% of cost of providing insurance for employees.

■ No discrimination or loss of insurance due to pre-existing conditions or gender.

2020: Medicare “donut hole” completely closed; see below

Health Care Reform Fixes ‘Donut Hole’ for Seniors

As part of the recent health care reform law, seniors who fall in the donut hole coverage gap in 2010 will automatically receive a one-time tax-free \$250 rebate check. Beginning in January 2011, seniors in the donut hole will receive a 50% discount on brand name drugs. By 2020, the donut hole will be completely closed.

Any senior whose prescription drug costs exceed \$2,830 per year falls into the “donut hole,” at which point they lose coverage and must pay 100 percent of drug costs until they hit the catastrophic threshold at \$6,440. Last year, roughly 382,000 Medicare beneficiaries in California fell into the donut hole, according to the Health and Human Services Administration.

Other Medicare improvements for seniors will start in 2011: free preventive care services, new support for community-based and in-home health care services to keep seniors out of nursing homes, and tracking hospital statistics like heart attacks, pneumonia, and infections and rewarding those hospitals providing the best care for seniors. **To learn more visit healthcare.gov**

Health Insurance Plans Expanded for Youth to Age 26

Under the new health care reform law, young people will be able to stay on their parents’ insurance plan until age 26, in school or not. The new rule officially takes effect on September 23, but many California insurers including Kaiser Permanente, Aetna, and Cigna have agreed to comply early. Before the reform measures, youth lost coverage at age 19 if out of school or at age 23 if still in school. To learn if your child can be covered, contact your insurance provider and then follow up with your employer.

Napolitano Promotes Mental Health



Rep. Napolitano discusses mental health issues with federal officials

On May 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution authored by Rep. Grace F. Napolitano designating May as Mental Health Month. Napolitano held three briefings in Washington, D.C. with staffer Ane Romero during Mental Health Month, covering children’s mental health, mental health programs in the military, and the impact of suicide prevention programs on high school students.

“Mental health is an issue that has been ignored for decades because of stigma,” Napolitano said. “It is time we acknowledged that untreated mental illness continues to cause suffering among our friends, family, soldiers and veterans.”

Napolitano has secured more than \$2 million in government funds over 9 years for a mental health program she established in 11 local schools in her district. Her Mental Health in Schools Act (HR 2531) seeks to establish similar pilot programs in other schools across the country.

Recent research by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration showed that behavioral and emotional problems decreased among 31 percent of young children within the first 6 months of using a mental health care program.

“We have to invest in our children, because they are our future leaders,” Napolitano said. “Preventive mental health programs are inexpensive and help our kids succeed.”

Hoover Dam Bill Ensures Local Electricity Delivery



Rep. Napolitano discusses her new bill at the Hoover Dam

On June 8, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Napolitano’s bill H.R. 4349, the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2010, which will allow the Hoover Dam to continue providing power to current customers through 2067 and grants new access for Native American tribes and other entities that were previously excluded.

“This bill allows the Hoover Dam to continue serving the 29 million people in California, Arizona, and Nevada who rely on it for inexpensive, renewable energy,” Napolitano said. “For another 50 years, LA County will be able to rely on this critical resource.” The bill was sponsored by Rep. Grace F. Napolitano.

The Hoover Dam supplies electricity for the cities of Los Angeles, Glendale, Pasadena, Burbank, Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Colton, Riverside, and Vernon, as well as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Southern California Edison Company, and entities within Arizona and Nevada. The Senate will vote on their version of the bill soon.

Updates from Congress

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*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Constituent Services Guide

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- **Academy Nominations:** Students interested in an appointment to U.S. military academies should contact us their freshman year of high school or as soon as possible.
- **Flags:** Purchase an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, on a specific day, if given two weeks notice.
- **Immigration/Naturalization:** Assistance with visas, work permits, legal residency and naturalization.
- **IRS:** Help with difficult tax problems and obtaining copies of old tax returns.
- **Military:** Assist active personnel with hardship discharge, extension of leave, compassionate reassignment, and medals.
- **Passports:** Expediting the passport process.
- **Presidential Greetings:** Presidential greetings for your event must be requested at least one month prior.
- **Seniors:** Assistance with Medicare, Social Security, disability, and Supplemental Security Income issues.
- **Small Business:** Guidance with SBA loans, government contract opportunities, seminars and information.
- **Veterans:** Information about VA hospitals, pensions, benefits, education, home loans and military records.
- **Capitol Tours:** Help plan your trip to Washington, D.C. **Call at least 6 months in advance for a White House tour.**
- **Workers' Comp:** Assist individuals with their benefits claims from the Office of Workers' Compensation Program.

Students - Important Selective Service Info

Young men must register with **Selective Service by age 26** to be eligible for the following jobs and services:

- State or federal student financial aid: Pell Grants, College Work Study, and other government education loans
- Qualifying for U.S. citizenship (registration necessary if a man immigrated before his 26th birthday)
- Federal job training programs
- Many jobs in federal agencies and the post office require applicants to be registered in order to apply

To register, go to www.sss.gov or ask for a Selective Service form at a post office. Don't wait, 23% of Calif. men already excluded



Use Your Water Wisely

California's main water sources have been severely impacted by recent dry years. Winter rains have helped, but the situation is still serious and we all need to cut back:



- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks and save up to 150 gallons each time
- Fix leaky faucets – drips can waste hundreds of gallons/yr
- Run your washing machine and dish washer only when full
- Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth
- Shorten your showers – just one minute less can save up to 5 gallons per day
- Check your sprinklers for leaks and drips
- Upgrade your home with water efficient showerheads and toilets



38TH DISTRICT CONSTITUENT SURVEY

Congresswoman Napolitano values your opinion and wants your input on important legislation. Please take the time to fill out this survey and mail it back to: Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, 1610 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please include your email below to receive poll results.



1. Which statement do you most agree with:

- The government should try to boost jobs and jumpstart the economy, even if that means higher short-term deficits
- Deficits should be reduced now, even if that means less economic growth and higher unemployment
- Neither

2. Which of the following statements best describes your view of the new health care reform legislation?

- I strongly support the new law
- I support the new law but wish it had a "public option"
- I have some concerns but waiting to see how it turns out
- I oppose the new law
- Other: _____

3. Do you believe that our current immigration system is:

- Broken and in need of reform
- Needs only minor changes
- Working fine
- Other: _____

4. Which of the following new health care reforms will help you the most?

- More affordable health care for individuals and businesses
- Being able to buy insurance even with pre-existing condition
- Being safe from losing coverage when you get sick
- Being able to keep health care coverage if you change jobs
- Other: _____

Comments: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS - write below to receive poll results, e-news, info on coming job fairs and more: _____