



Rep. Grace Napolitano

Representing California's 38th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives: Industry - La Puente - Montebello - Pico Rivera - Norwalk - Pomona - Santa Fe Springs - Avocado Heights - East Los Angeles - Hacienda Heights - Los Nietos - Valinda

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Napolitano Secures Investments for Local Colleges

Rep. Grace Napolitano secures more critical investments for local colleges:

- **New training courses for Rio Hondo College's Homeland Security Training Center.** Nighttime training and live fire exercises will keep our first-responders sharp and maintain our place as the best local training center.
- **New natural-gas powered, handicap-accessible buses for Rio Hondo College.** The new bus will allow students, especially those with disabilities, to get around campus more easily. Funds remain for more buses.
- **State-of-the-art wind tunnel labs for Cal Poly Pomona.** Local students can use these facilities to get the advanced training required for engineering and aerospace jobs. Visit www.napolitano.house.gov for more info.



Rep. Napolitano discusses homeland security training issues

Napolitano Hosts Veterans Forum in La Puente

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano recently hosted a Veterans Forum at the La Puente Senior Center, along with local chapters of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American GI Forum, and top officials from the L.A. area Veterans Administration and the Long Beach VA hospital system. More than 150 veterans and their family members were able to ask questions and receive guidance on how to secure their benefits.

"Veterans of all wars deserve our continued support," Napolitano said. "We must continue to honor our heroes and assist new veterans with their transition to civilian life."

Veterans have earned medical benefits, job programs, education funding, home loans, and many other benefits. Veterans are returning home from Iraq and many are beginning to come back from Afghanistan. It is critical for their families to know what resources are available.

Visit <http://napolitano.house.gov/resources-returning-veterans> for more information.

Napolitano Acts Quickly to Rebuild Burned Overpass



The Paramount Boulevard overpass is now closed for construction

When a tanker truck exploded under the Paramount Blvd. overpass in Montebello, Rep. Napolitano immediately contacted Gov. Jerry Brown and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to elicit a quick response. Rep. Linda Sanchez and Rep. Judy Chu also signed onto the effort. Once a California State of Emergency was put in place, federal reconstruction funds were committed the day after. The overpass should be completed before fall. "We must continue to act quickly, as it is critical this overpass be rebuilt as soon as possible," Napolitano said.

Resources for Returning Vets

- **"Feds Hire Vets."** Official policy that gives veterans priority for government jobs. Visit www.fedshirevets.gov
- **"Post-9/11 GI Bill"** and **"Montgomery GI Bill"** help veterans pay for college. Visit www.gibill.va.gov
- **VA Home Loans** help veterans buy or refinance a home - visit www.homeloans.va.gov
- **Medical treatment and benefits.** Visit www.vba.va.gov for general info, or call Rep. Napolitano's office at (562) 801-2134 for help if you have a VA case.
- **"Coaching into Care"** helps family and friends assist with mental health issues. Call 1-888-823-7458 or visit www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/
- **Post-Traumatic Stress** - Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit www.ptsd.va.gov for free assistance.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury** - Call 1-866-966-1020 or visit www.dvbic.org to learn about resources for TBI.
- **Assistance for Homeless Vets** - Contact Vet Hunters at info@vethunters.org



ART CONTEST

Student artists - talk to your art teacher about this year's **Congressional Art Contest!** First place winner will be flown to Washington, D.C. for an award ceremony with other young artists from across the U.S. The winning art piece will be displayed in the halls of the Capitol. **Requirements:**

- Students must be enrolled in a 38th Congressional District high school
- Art must be 2-dimensional but can be any medium (paint, charcoal, photography, drawing, etc.)
- Submissions will be shown locally and judged in April. First place travels to Washington, D.C.
- For more information visit napolitano.house.gov and click on "Art Contest."



Talk to Your Art Teacher Today!

Local Youth Suicide Prevention Program Celebrates 10 Years



Napolitano discusses mental health issues and local education with one of her constituents

Pacific Clinics' Youth Suicide Prevention Program celebrated its ten-year anniversary with local students, families, and teachers. The program was started with a federal earmark secured by Rep. Napolitano in 2001. She has continued to support the program as it has expanded into 15 local schools.

"This program has provided critical care and healing for many students and their families for the last decade," she said.

Pacific Clinics partners with local school districts to put on-site mental health professionals in the schools to assist students, train staff, make home visits, and raise awareness about mental health issues.

"My experience was life changing. I learned to focus on the good things in my life instead of one bad experience," said Kristina, a student. "It's the best thing I ever did." Visit www.napolitano.house.gov and click "Mental Health in Schools Act."

Napolitano Calls for More Investment in Clean Water and Jobs

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano spoke about the importance of developing new sources of water, and the implications for businesses and potential job growth, at the University of La Verne's annual water conference:

"As we develop new technologies to provide clean water, like water recycling and desalination, the partnership between researchers, businesspeople, and employees will be more important than ever," she said. "New technologies will create reliable, inexpensive water to counter drought cycles, while also supporting new jobs."

Pres. Obama recently signed Napolitano's Water Desalination Act of 2011 into law, which will provide funding for research and development of better desalination technology that converts ocean saltwater into drinking water. When perfected, this technology would



Napolitano discusses water issues at a briefing in Washington, DC
provide additional water for Southern California, and also create more good paying jobs. A study by the Economic Roundtable showed that water infrastructure creates more jobs than any other kind of government investment. It is also critical to create a stable water supply that can support all of California.

New Relief for Struggling

Homeowners on the Way

Napolitano supported the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice's recent \$25 billion national agreement with the country's largest banks to allow affected homeowners to refinance their homes and receive financial relief. Lawmakers demanded restitution for robo-signed loans and other errors made before the 2008 housing meltdown.

"This agreement will provide some measure of long-overdue relief for the many people who deserve mortgage assistance from the banks," she said.

For more info and to see if you qualify, visit oag.ca.gov online and click on "housing settlement."

Representing Asian Pacific Americans in Congress

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), led by Rep. Judy Chu (CA-32), has welcomed Rep. Grace Napolitano as one of ten new Associate Members to join its ranks.

"I am glad to become a part of this hard-working caucus," Napolitano said. "As an enthusiastic supporter of the Asian-American community in my district, I look forward to continuing to advance the cause of minorities as part of CAPAC."

CAPAC has 40 members in the House of Representatives who work to ensure that Asian Pacific American priorities are represented in Congress. Napolitano has also long been a member of the progressive Tri-Caucus, which supports African-, Asian-, and Hispanic Americans.

Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy Provides Opportunity for Teens

Enrollment is open at Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy, a free and accredited education program that allows youth who have dropped out of high school to voluntarily join a rigorous six-month residential program and earn their GED.

The Youth ChalleNGe program is run by the National Guard in 32 states. Napolitano is a long-time supporter of Sunburst and is currently working with her colleagues in Congress to create a caucus to support and expand the Youth ChalleNGe program.

For more information about Sunburst Youth Academy, visit www.ngycp.org or call Hector Elizalde in the Santa Fe Springs office at (562) 801-2134.



A recent class of graduating Sunburst cadets

Fighting for Railway Safety

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano has fought to prevent Congressional efforts to delay or remove a critical new railroad safety system called “positive train control” (PTC), which prevents trains from colliding with each other. Railroads nationwide were first required by federal law to install PTC systems after a 2008 Metrolink accident in Chatsworth, California killed 25 people.

“Positive train control can save lives,” Napolitano said. “Had PTC been installed on the trains that collided head-on during the 2008 Chatsworth accident, we would have averted a tragedy that not many people will soon forget.” House transportation bill H.R. 7 includes a provision that would delay PTC for passenger rail by five years and permanently waive deadlines for freight trains carrying toxic-by-inhalation hazardous materials. Napolitano has vigorously opposed these efforts and proposed alternative legislation to maintain safety. Approximately 20 crashes since 1990 could have been prevented by PTC.

Hundreds of trains going to and from our ports pass through L.A. County every day. Metrolink has voluntarily committed to install PTC in all of its trains by 2015, but the weakening of PTC provisions would affect all other railroads.



More than 160 trains travel through the 38th Congressional District every day

Napolitano Protects Payroll Tax Cuts and Unemployment Insurance

Napolitano voted to reduce payroll taxes and extend unemployment insurance for the millions of families still struggling in this economy.

- The payroll tax cut gives the average worker \$40 per paycheck (\$1000 per year)
 - Unemployment insurance funds immediately return to the economy as people spend it on necessities
 - Without the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance, U.S. economic growth could drop by half a point (according to Moody’s Analytics economists)
- “Millions of people are unemployed through no fault of their own, through layoffs or business closures, and they are still looking for work and struggling to put food on the table,” she said. “Many others are underemployed, and have had their savings and home values hurt by the recession. It is critical for Congress to focus its attention on job creation and getting the U.S. economy back to work.”

Hoover Dam Bill Powers Local Cities



Rep. Napolitano and Sen. Reid look on as Pres. Obama signs the Hoover Power Allocation Act, which sends power to California cities

Pres. Obama signed Napolitano’s Hoover Power Allocation Act into law, ensuring that several states and many local cities like Azusa, Pasadena, and L.A. can continue to receive the Hoover Dam’s low-cost electricity through 2067. Napolitano initially introduced the bill in 2010.

House Bids Farewell to Gabby Giffords



Rep. Napolitano and Sec. Hilda Solis greet Rep. Gabby Giffords at the State of the Union. Congresswoman Giffords chose to resign so she can focus on continuing her remarkable recovery from the 2011 shooting in Tucson, AZ.

“Tweet Chat” Gets Word Out on Mental Health

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hosted a mental health chat on Twitter in January. People all across the country joined an online discussion on mental health issues and what resources can help. “Mental health is an issue that people are quietly working to improve in every part of the country,” Napolitano said. “We must raise awareness and elevate the issue. Using Twitter can help us all communicate.”

Follow Grace on Twitter @gracenapolitano

Common warning signs of mental health issues: Self-harm, extreme behavior & mood changes, withdrawal from family and friends. For help call 1-800-273-TALK

Free Export Fair Helps Local Businesses Create Jobs

Rep. Napolitano held a free business export workshop with the City of Pico Rivera and the Chamber of Commerce to show business people how to increase sales to foreign markets and create local jobs. “These federal experts can help local businesses increase their revenues and create new employment,” Napolitano said. “We can create jobs by exporting our American-made products worldwide,” said Philip Ramos Jr., CEO of Santa Fe Spring’s Philatron International Inc. “This is a much-needed event because it helps us do that.”

Coming Events

April: Art Contest (See front page)
Women of the Year Awards

May: Job Fair and Veterans Health Expo

June: Housing Clinic

Sign up for email list at www.napolitano.house.gov or [facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano](https://www.facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano) to receive updates on coming events (emails are no more than once or twice per month)

Updates from Congress

Contact us:

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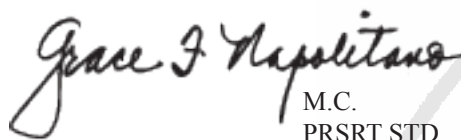
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Napolitano Fights to Protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano has fought to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits during recent debates in Washington, D.C. "Seniors and working families are still struggling in this economy, and we cannot afford to make deep cuts to the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits they rely on," she said. Actions include:

- Voted against turning Medicare into a voucher program
- Voted against the debt-ceiling package that could cut Medicare
- Voted to boost Medicaid funding for families and seniors
- Voted for a cost-of-living-adjustment for Social Security
- Joined 46 other Members of Congress on a letter pledging to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits from cuts

Mark Ballas of *Dancing with the Stars* to Help with Mental Health in Schools Act

Mark Ballas has signed on as the latest member of Rep. Napolitano's Mental Health in Schools Act Task Force.

Mark lost his uncle to suicide and



Rep. Napolitano discusses mental health issues with professional singer and dancer Mark Ballas. Visit www.napolitano.house.gov for more info.

Visit www.napolitano.house.gov or call (562) 801-2134

38th Congressional District Constituent Survey - Share Your Views

Survey can also be taken online at www.napolitano.house.gov

What do you think is...

The top issue facing America? Write-in: _____

The most useful government service for you or your family? Circle one:

A) Medicare B) Medicaid C) Social Security D) Public Schools E) Transportation F) Other: _____

The best way to bring down the deficit? Circle one:

A) Raise taxes on wealthy B) Cut government services C) Other: _____

Your opinion on the recent Citizens United Supreme Court decision allowing unlimited money to be spent by corporations on political elections? Circle one:

A) Agree B) Disagree C) Other: _____

The best way to describe your view of the Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform)? Circle one:

A) Support B) Oppose C) Wish it included public option D) Waiting to learn more E) Other _____

Note: more information available at www.healthcare.gov

Any additional comments or views: _____

Thank you for your participation!

Please mail survey to: Rep. Grace Napolitano, 1610 Longworth Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515

OR, take survey at [napolitano.house.gov](http://www.napolitano.house.gov)

EMAIL ADDRESS - write below to receive the results of this poll, e-news, and other updates:



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