

Kalra Capitol Report



Inside this issue:

Message from Assemblymember Ash Kalra	2
Tips on Reducing Your Food Waste	4
AD27 Constituent Spotlight of the Month	4
Kalra Honored Residents for Service Above Self	5
AD27 Business Spotlight:	5
Save the Date: Women's History Month Celebration	6
Kalra Leads Six-Member Assembly Delegation to India	7
Meet a New Friend at the San José Animal Shelter	7
Resources for Small Businesses	8

African American History Month Celebration Takes Place at First AME Zion Church in Assembly District 27

The month of February is recognized nationally as a time to honor the strength and resilience of the African American community. Throughout history, African Americans have long demonstrated the importance of fighting for justice and equality, and the accomplishments made by our community members today are important examples of what built the foundation San José stands upon now. In honor of these significant contributions, Assemblymember Kalra hosted his



3rd Annual African American History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 21st, at the First AME Zion Church. Founded in 1864, the First AME Zion Church houses a walk down memory lane with a museum detailing the rich culture of African Americans in history with old photos, artifacts, art, and memorabilia. Nestled in between the Naglee Park and Five Wounds neighborhoods near Little Portugal, this church was the perfect host for Assemblymember Kalra's event, filled to the brim with friends, family, and community advocates all eager to show love and appreciation to five remarkable community members.



This year, the Assemblymember had the honor of recognizing the following inspirational leaders with the following awards: Eddie Gale with the Legacy Award for his immeasurable contributions to Jazz; Reverend Jason Reynolds with the Leader in Advocacy Award for his advocacy in improving the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color; Lt. Kermit Edwards Jr. with the Leader in Public Service Award for his courage and commitment to public safety; Sandra Dailey with the Leader in Business Award for her successful career and contributions to the community, and LaToya Fernandez with the Leader in Education Award for her unyielding devotion to empowering young girls of color. These remarkable individuals illustrate a leadership that can inspire younger generations to believe that they are capable in creating meaningful change.

Also at the event was Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, who presented San Jose commendations signed by the Mayor and City Council to all the award recipients. In addition to the moving speeches, guests enjoyed catered food from Jackie's Place, a local favorite that serves authentic soul food and desserts. With hope and gratitude in the air, community members left the event feeling inspired and ready to change the world. At the end of the event Assemblymember Kalra stated "From before the birth of our nation to this very day, African American contributions have been and continue to be fundamental to American History. It is my honor to recognize a community of people who have shaped, built and inspired the beautiful country we call home."

Interested in learning more about Assembly hearings and committee meetings happening in Sacramento? Please visit <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/> to view the daily schedule and watch live recordings.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER ASH KALRA

A new legislative session has started, and with my first term under my belt, I am more energized and excited than ever to represent the constituents of Assembly District 27. This year, I have been appointed as the Chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. Although I am no longer the Chair of the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee, I am still a member, and will continue my passion for serving our growing aging population. Other committees I am currently serving on include the Education Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the Parks, Water, and Wildlife Committee. This year, I have prioritized bills that protect working families, senior citizens, education, and environmental sustainability. February 22, 2019, was the deadline for all Assemblymembers and Senators to submit their bills, so here are some of the bills I have introduced this year:

AB 35: Protecting Workers from Lead Poisoning

This is a bill I am reintroducing after it was vetoed last legislative session by Governor Brown. AB 35 would require the California Department of Public Health to report to the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) any instance where a worker's blood lead level is at or above 25 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) and would also require citations and fines imposed by Cal/OSHA to be made public on an annual basis.

AB 50: Assisted Living Waiver Program

This is another bill that was vetoed during the last legislative session that I am reintroducing in hopes of aiding our aging community by expanding the Assisted Living Waiver program from 5,744 slots to 18,500 slots to keep pace with the state's growing aging population and to ensure that participants have access to an array of community services as an alternative to residing in a nursing facility.

AB 59: College Vote Centers

AB 59 would require a polling place or vote center to be available on every college and university campus in California.

AB 403: Retaliation Claims Deadline

AB 403 is a bill I am reintroducing to protect workers by increasing the statute of limitations for filing a worker retaliation claim from six months to three years, in addition to adding the ability to seek attorney's fees for prevailing employees.

AB 418: Union Agent-Represented Worker Evidentiary Privilege

AB 418 would establish an evidentiary privilege to prohibit the disclosure of confidential communications made between an employee and their union representative. This also extends to incidences of sexual assault or harassment where an employee prefers to approach his or her union representative rather than the human resources department.

AB 454: California Migratory Bird Protection

I have been working with the California Audubon Society very closely to protect our migratory birds, and through AB 454, we hope to ensure that existing California migratory bird protections will remain in effect in the state, regardless of any reinterpretations or rollbacks made by the U.S. Department of the Interior under the current federal administration.

AB 506: Long-term Care Facilities

During my time serving on the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee, I have often heard heart wrenching stories of loved ones who faced poor care and conditions in long-term care facilities. Last May, the California State Auditor also released a report on these facilities, addressing several concerns that needed to be corrected. AB 506 updates long-term care facility citation penalties and standards for negligent care to safeguard nursing home and long-term care facility residents, in addition to adopting the auditor's recommendations on long-term care facility citation amounts to improve quality-of-care deficiencies in nursing homes.

AB 1586: Replacing Animals in Science Education Act

AB 1586 would prohibit any California private or public school in grades K-12 from allowing students to perform dissection on animals to ensure students are taught important scientific concepts in a modern, safe, engaging, and humane way through proven alternatives.

AB 520: Safeguarding Prevailing Wage and Public Investments

AB 520 would clarify the Labor Code by clearly defining when a public subsidy is "de minimis" for the purpose of determining when prevailing wage is applied to private projects. This would allow a developer, if they choose to seek and/or accept a public subsidy, to know if the Prevailing Wage Act applies to the project.

AB 572: California Deforestation- Free Procurement Act

It is no surprise that climate change is posing a threat to California and to the world, and that tropical deforestation escalates that threat. That is why I introduced AB 572, which would require state contracts comprised of forest-risk commodities, entered or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, to certify that their operations and their supply chains are not contributing to tropical deforestation. It also requires that these contracts require their suppliers to have a No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policy.

AB 647: Cosmetics Safety Data Sheet Disclosure

This is another bill I am reintroducing to protect our workers in the professional salon industry from the risks of being exposed to harsh chemicals on a daily basis. AB 647 requires manufacturers of cosmetics who are required by federal and state law to create and distribute Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to post those to an internet website in a way that is accessible to salon professionals and owners. This bill would also require that SDSs be translated into the most prominent languages spoken by salon professionals including Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese.

AB 707: Santa Clara Valley Water District Minor Public Works Contracting

AB 707 aligns Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) minor public works contracting process with other similar public agencies. By increasing the Valley Water's cost threshold above which a formal bidding process is required from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Allowing Santa Clara Valley Water District to take advantage of a commonly used informal bidding process for public works projects under \$50,000 will deliver more small projects at a lower cost, while affording more contracting opportunities for women and minority owned businesses.

AB 731: California Health Insurance Rate Review

Healthcare costs have been skyrocketing and jeopardizing millions of Californians as they struggle to pay the high premiums, while putting food on the table for their families. This is especially daunting in the Bay Area as residents struggle with high housing costs and income inequality. Co-pays and health insurance premiums have risen 249% since 2002—more than six times the increase in the state's overall inflation. That is why I introduced AB 731, which builds upon the success of rate review for health insurance premiums to enhance rate transparency and obtain information to control skyrocketing premium, co-pay, and deductible increases.

AB 980: DMV Confidentiality

AB 980 would provide enhanced confidentiality and suppression of Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records to Adult Protective Services social workers and Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator workers. These APS and PA|PG|PC workers frequently encounter abusers who are violent and unstable, at times due to their own mental illness or substance use disorders. This modest expansion of the statutory list would appropriately provide these public workers parity with their child protective services counterparts.

AB 1282: Transportation of Immigrant Detainees

AB 1282 would prohibit the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from assisting or allowing private security guards to arrest or detain individuals in CDCR custody for immigration purposes. In recent years, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has increasingly relied on private contractors to carry out its extensive enforcement operations in the state of California, including in prisons. This bill would clarify that it is inappropriate for privately contracted security services to act as an immigration officer and further protect undocumented immigrant parolees to have the right to be treated humanely.

AB 1434 SSI SSP Restoration Act of 2019

AB 1434 increases the state portion of Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) to bring the grant level to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2020. In California, roughly 1.3 million low-income seniors 65 years or older and people living with disabilities depend on SSI/SSP as a critical source of income. Today, SSI/SSP maximum grant levels are \$889 per month for an individual and \$1,496 per month for couples. According to the Federal Poverty Level, an individual must earn at least \$1,005 per month to make ends meet, and avoid "poverty."

Reduce Your Food Waste during National Nutrition Month®



Choosing nutritious foods and being mindful of food waste can make a real difference in your health and the health of the planet. For National Nutrition Month® 2019, in March, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics encourages people to make informed food choices and develop sound eating and lifestyle habits. Food waste is an increasingly important issue in food security. According to [the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service](#), 31 percent of food in the U.S. is "lost" at the retail and consumer levels, corresponding to approximately 133 billion pounds and \$161 billion worth of food in 2010. As innovations to our food systems evolve to reduce these numbers, so do discussions about what we can do to reduce food waste in institutions such as schools and restaurants, as well

as at home. Here are some tips for reducing food waste in the places where we prepare and eat meals:

Home: Try serving meals family-style — allowing everyone to select foods they want in appropriate portions. If there are leftovers, store them safely in the refrigerator or freezer to enjoy later.

Kitchen: Compost your food waste. Your food waste — such as fruit and vegetable scraps — can nourish your garden. Use any container by the sink and haul it outside when it's full.

Dining Out: Using the same strategies for portion control, such as splitting meals or having the server box up half the meal before it's served, can help reduce food waste.

School: After school, ask your children what they ate, what they liked and what they didn't like. Ask if they had enough time to eat. When appropriate, share this feedback with your school's nutrition team or principal.

For individualized nutritional recommendations and ideas on how to reduce your food waste while eating healthfully, visit EatRight.org to locate a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist near you.



AD27 Constituent Spotlight of the Month: Sandy Perry

Sandy Perry was raised as a Quaker in Massachusetts and attended Stanford University from 1967-70. He has been a lifelong community activist and justice advocate, especially after moving to San Jose in 1990. He has been blessed with a 44-year, loving marriage with Andrea Villaseñor Perry, and they have a daughter Christina, son in law Ben, and a 4 month-old grandson Max Perry Swanson.

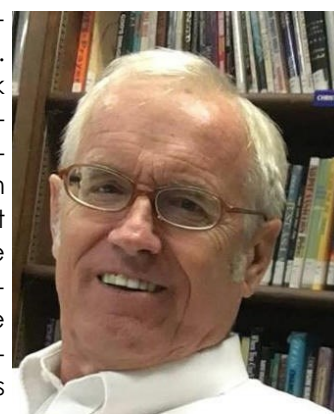
In 1991, Sandy joined both the Affordable Housing Network and what is now known as CHAM Deliverance Ministry, and has been an active volunteer in both ever since.

Over the years, CHAM helped lead and organize countless rallies, marches, demonstrations, sit-ins, speak-outs, teach-ins and building takeovers to support housing for the homeless. In 1997, Sandy collaborated with CHAM and First Christian Church to open the church as a homeless family shelter. It successfully defied City efforts to shut its doors and then helped create the CHAPP and PROGRESS pilot housing programs for the homeless.

In 2001, Sandy participated with both CHAM and Affordable Housing Network in successfully advocating for 30% of San Jose's affordable housing funds to be allocated

to previously ignored extremely low-income families. Affordable Housing Network was instrumental in the campaign to strengthen San Jose's rent control program from 2015-18, and in 2017, it helped organize low-income tenants at Sunnyhills Apartments in Milpitas to save their homes, when the owner proposed to opt out of his HUD contract, demolish the apartments, and build million dollar townhomes instead.

Sandy was a commercial roofer for 20 years and then helped manage the CHAM-First Christian Church homeless shelter from 2000-09. Recently he was active in efforts by Serve the People San Jose where he worked to oppose what he considered to be the ill-advised Google expansion into San Jose. He has also been a writer and distributor of the national political monthly People's Tribune for many years.



Kalra Kicked Off the Year Honoring Residents for Service Above Self

Ash Kalra started off 2019 by hosting a New Year Open House on January 16th to not only welcome the New Year, but also honor



Martin Luther King, Jr., who's birthday was on January 15th and celebrated nationally every third Monday of the month. He invited District 27 constituents and community members alike to come by and meet their Assemblymember and staff to tour the office and to discuss any pressing issues occurring in the community.

This year, Assemblymember Kalra had the opportunity to recognize five inspiring individuals who demonstrated service above self by improving the lives of those impacted by unfortunate situations. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life mission, Kalra wanted to recognize community members who have illustrated the same servant leadership Mr. King once did. This year, he presented accolades to Sandy Perry for the Servant Leadership Award, Kelly La for the Humble Service Award, Walter Wilson for the Good Samaritan Award, Gail Osmer for the Community Advocacy Award, and Paulina Cortes for the Next Gen Leadership Award.

After presenting the awards, Assemblymember Kalra stated, "I recognize these five remarkable individuals for their courageous actions and dedicated service they practice on a daily basis for the community, regardless of recognition." Kalra was honored to take the time to acknowledge his constituents' hard work who followed the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Amongst the guests were various recognized leaders in the community, such as staff representatives from San José City Councilmembers, State Senator Jim Beall's office, school board members from San Jose Unified School District, Alum Rock School District, Franklin McKinley School District, and many neighborhood association leaders.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you for your commitment to the community! We are honored to have such selfless residents in Assembly District 27.

AD27 Business Spotlight: WeWork Opens Second Location in San José

It is always great to see businesses invest and expand in San José, becoming a part of the fabric that makes our city great. When it comes to the



business overhead, commercial real estate space is a huge burden on small businesses and a big barrier for startups to compete in the free market. This is why we support WeWork, and WeWork Lab, where they help seed, incubate, and give new startups tools to succeed in the Bay Area. WeWork already set up location off E. Santa Clara Street (which by the way is expanding), but on February 15th, WeWork opened a second location off W. San Carlos Street, near access to lightrail and the San Jose Convention Center. The New York-based company designs and operates office spaces and rents them out to entrepreneurs and large companies for a monthly fee.

This is not only the second location in San José, but also the second location in Assembly District 27. WeWork is contributing to the innovation of the small and micro business model. Congratulations to WeWork and thank you for investing in San José!

Happy Year of the Pig! Many Asian Americans across the nation and around the world gathered in the month of February with family and friends to welcome spring and honor traditions during Lunar New Year. Known as "Tet" in Vietnamese, the San José' Vietnamese community knew how to party as they threw several Tet festivals in San José to celebrate the Year of the Pig. This included a celebration hosted by Santa Clara County Supervisors Dave Cortese and Cindy Chavez, another event hosted by UStar Productions at Eastridge Mall, in addition to another wonderful event at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Happy New Year, everyone!

Please join
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
as he honors
The Remarkable Women
of Assembly District 27

Woman of the Year

Linda Reyes

Legacy Award

Nancy Pyle

Women of Distinction

Heather Green, Tina Tien, Maria Noel Fernandez

March 23rd, 2019

11 to 1 pm

Pacific Hotel, History Park
1650 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Ash Kalra

DISTRICT 27

RSVP's are highly encouraged.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Teresa Yolotl Gomez at 408-277-1220 or teresa.gomez@asm.ca.gov.

Kalra Leads Six-Member Assembly Delegation to India to Discuss Agriculture, Technology, and Sustainability

As the first Indian American elected to the California State Legislature, Assemblymember Kalra was honored to lead the State Assembly's first-ever delegation to India in December as an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and have conversations on political, economic, and social developments in California and India. The two-week trade delegation, which was sanctioned by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, included six legislators and visits to cities including New Delhi, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Mumbai, and Punjab.

The legislators from California who were part of the delegation included Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters), Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton), Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) and Mark Stone (D-Monterey Bay).

The delegation focused on three major issue areas: agriculture, technology and resilience, and citizenship in a digital democracy. Discussions included how California's best practices in agriculture can inform India's own agricultural priorities, what the two bilateral partners can do collaboratively to advance targeted developments in tech to make communities more resilient and sustainable, and what technological changes mean for citizenship and civic engagement.

One of the most significant visits during the delegation included the visit to Amaravati, the newly created Capitol of Andhra Pradesh after their split with Telangana. Government and planning officials had the enormous

task of building a new city from the ground up, laying out the landscape and master plan of what will be a newly envisioned technologically-advanced,

green, sustainable city of the future. The legislators on the delegation were very much interested in how that process was like, and were able to tour new housing complexes that were being built. Another noteworthy meeting included one with the Speaker of the State Assembly of the State of Punjab, Rana Kanwar Pal Singh. It was the perfect opportunity to have a robust conversation of state-to-state partnerships.

California alone has a community of more than a half-million Indian Americans, making the state home to the largest Indian American population in the country. These numbers really demonstrate the need to utilize the opportunity to build a long-term relationship with India. Kalra recognizes that "there is strong interest in exploring how we can work together to ensure that, in a connected and tech-based world, democracy can still thrive."

(Personal funds were used by Assemblymember Kalra to pay for his air travel and accommodations for the delegation trip.)



Meet a New Friend at the San José Animal Care Center, and Make a Best Friend for Life!



March Feature: Johnny - ID#A1114733

My name is Johnny and I am a neutered male, white and tan Shorthaired Rabbit. My age is unknown, and I have been at the shelter since February 24, 2019.

Hi! I really need someone special to come into my life who understands me. I'm quite a sweet boy, but I've had a bit of a rough start, so I'm scared. I have a ways to go before I'm comfortable around people, even though I'm making progress here in the shelter. I'm comforted when held in a fleece blanket, whispered to, and petted tenderly. I'm highly sensitive to sudden movements and noise, so you have to go slow with me, give me lots of tender loving care, and be patient until I

can feel safe, trust you, and become more confident. All I want is to be loved and respected so I can love in return and let my magnificent spirit shine through.

Want to learn more about Johnny, or make yourself a new best friend for life? Then please visit the San José Animal Care Center located at 2750 Monterey Road, San José, 95111, or call (408) 794-PAWS (7297) or visit www.sanjoseanimals.com. Hours of operation are on Tuesday to Saturday from 11:00 am—7:00 pm, and on Sunday from 11:00 am—5:00 pm.



Contact Us!

Want to sign up for the newsletter? Please email Stacie Shih at stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
Ash Kalra
DISTRICT 27

ABOUT • COMMITTEES • **DISTRICT** • NEWS ROOM • RESOURCES •

District Map

Do you live in Assembly District 27? Visit us at www.assembly.ca.gov/Kalra to find out!



Capitol Office

State Capitol, Room 2196
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
P: (916) 319-2027
F: (916) 319-2127

District Office

100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 319
San José, CA 95113
P: (408) 277-1220
F: (408) 277-1036

State Agencies Contact Information

Administrative Law	(916) 323-6225
Aging	(916) 419-7500
Alcoholic Beverage Control	(916) 419-2500
Board of Equalization	(800) 400-7115
Bureau of Automotive Repair	(800) 952-5210
California Courts	(415) 865-4200
California Highway Patrol	(800) 835-5247
Caltrans	(916) 654-2852
Child Supportive Services	(866) 901-3212
Consumer Affairs	(800) 952-5210
Controller's Office	(916) 445-3028
Developmental Services	(916) 654-1690
Employment Development	(800) 300-5616
Fair Employment & Housing	(800) 884-1684
Fair Political Practices Commission	(916) 322-5660
Fish & Wildlife	(916) 445-0411
Food & Agriculture	(916) 654-0466
Health Care Services	(916) 445-1248
High Speed Rail Authority	(916) 324-1541
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
Motor Vehicles	(800) 777-0133
Parks & Recreation	(800) 777-0369
Public Health	(916) 558-1784
Rehabilitation	(916) 324-1313
Secretary of State	(916) 653-6814
Social Services	(916) 651-8848
Toxic Substances Control	(800) 728-6942
Veterans Affairs	(800) 952-5626
Water Resources	(916) 653-5791

Have you seen the latest edition of Access Magazine?

It's the best place to find the resources and tools you need to start, grow and build a strong small business through the Silicon Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC)! Check out Assemblymember Ash Kalra's message on pg. 4 in the Winter 2019 digital addition [here](#) on why he thinks SBDC, which is located in AD27, is important in helping our small businesses succeed.



California, which is the fifth largest economy in the world, has roughly 3.9 million small businesses, which employ 49% of the private sector workforce and generates over 40% of the California's \$152.1 billion in total exports. For more information on how to be part of that number, or on SBDC, please visit <https://www.svsbdc.org/> or call (408) 385-9800.