

# Kalra Capitol Report



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## The Year of the Dog Brings Prosperity, Fortune, and Many Celebrations in San José

Lunar New Year is considered one of the most important traditional holidays for the Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean communities. From February 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, several organizations hosted various Lunar New Year celebrations to welcome 2018, the Year of the Dog. Assemblymember Ash Kalra was thrilled to partake in the many festivities, especially with San José being so culturally diverse. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Assemblymember Kalra visited the San Jose Museum of Art which hosted a free Lunar New Year community day for families and children. This event included arts and crafts, cultural demonstrations, and live performances. Assemblymember Kalra's next stop was Little Saigon, the heart of San José's Vietnamese American community, where celebrations kicked off at local shopping centers. Opening ceremonies to welcome the Year of the Dog took place at Vietnam Town and Grand Century Mall, which provided a traditional experience with lion dancing

and lucky red envelopes. Vien Thao Media, a local Vietnamese media group, hosted the



event and was joined by several elected officials, including Congresswomen Zoe Lofgren, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo, County Supervisor Dave Cortese, and of course Assemblymember Kalra. Finally, Assemblymember Kalra was also able to stop by Eastridge Mall for another Lunar New Year event hosted by UStar productions.

"Lunar New Year is celebrated widely to bring good fortune, luck, and prosperity to all," said Kalra. "I wish everyone a successful Year of the Dog. Gong Xi Fa Chai, Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!"

## Let Us Welcome VE Art Studio to Assembly District 27!



On Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Assemblymember Kalra visited and participated in the grand opening of a new art studio located in Evergreen Village Square. VE Art Studio opened its doors with beautiful artwork sprinkled across the walls, showcasing the successes and talents of the students, who range from four year olds to adults. Lana Smeanova, owner of VE Art Studio, cheerfully welcomed visitors to check out the various paintings and drawings on the wall, some of which were created by her daughter (art definitely runs in the family!). VE Art Studio prides itself in providing a warm and friendly environment that nurtures and encourages self-expression and creativity. You can

enroll in drawing/sketching, watercolor, acrylic painting, or oil painting, no experience necessary!

"It is encouraging to see small businesses feel the confidence in opening their doors in San José, knowing that they can provide an invaluable contribution to the community," stated Kalra. "Art stimulates creativity and critical thinking, while challenging students to reach their artistic potential. I am happy to see a safe space that nurtures that potential here in Assembly District 27."

## MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER ASH KALRA

I have been so grateful and excited for everything I was able to accomplish my first year in office as State Assemblymember, and now that I have entered my second year, I look forward to all the work that still needs to be done to ensure that our communities are safe, our constituents' voices are heard, and every one of our residents protected. This legislative session, I have introduced over twenty bills, and as the Chair of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee, you will see that many of my bills revolve around protecting our aging population, especially since many are living below the poverty level. In general, I have been working hard to author bills that will protect and assist those who are most vulnerable in our community. Here are a few of my bills that I recently introduced:

**AB 2500—Consumer loans: charges:** Also known as the Safe Consumer Lending Act, this bill would extend California's current interest rate cap for consumer loans between \$2,500 and \$10,000. Under this proposed law, a \$10,000 loan with a 12-month repayment plan would carry a maximum interest rate of 20% (*please see pg. 3 for more info*).

**AB 1913—Foreign labor contractors:** This bill would provide a technical fix to SB 477 (Steinberg), Chapter 711, Statutes of 2014, which requires foreign labor contractors to register with the California Labor Commissioner. Specifically, it would ensure the proper implementation of SB 477 by requiring that *all* foreign labor contractors (FLCs), as originally intended, are required to register with the Commissioner, not just those foreign labor contractors who recruit workers through the H-2B visa category.

**AB 2034—Human trafficking: notice:** This bill would require transit employees in bus, train, or light-rail operations to undergo human trafficking awareness training by January 2020. The bill would also require the Department of Justice to develop guidelines for transit operations to assist in their training.

**AB 2233—Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program:** This bill would increase the amount of assisted living waivers from 3,700 to 10,000 over the next five years in the 15 counties where the waiver program is currently in operation. There is currently a waiting list of 2,500 low-income individuals in need.

**AB 2400—Personal income taxes: voluntary contribution fund: Alzheimer's disease research:** This bill would extend California's voluntary tax check-off for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research until January 1, 2025, which is set to expire with the 2019 state tax form.

**AB 2627—Migratory birds: Migratory Bird Treaty Act:** This bill provides for the protection of migratory birds by authorizing the state to make and enforce laws or regulations that give further protection to migratory birds, their nests, and eggs in light of the federal administration's efforts to dilute the Act so that industries that inadvertently kill migratory birds do not have to comply or be regulated.

**AB 3200—Public social services: SSI/SSP:** This bill would increase the state portion of the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) grant to the Federal Poverty Level for low-income seniors 65 years or older and people with disabilities living in dire poverty in California.

To learn more about the rest of my bills, or any other bills introduced by other Assemblymembers, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office staff for more information. On another note, one of the things I look forward to the most is coming back to San José each week to participate in different community events and gatherings. Although I spend a majority of my week up in Sacramento, I always love being back home in San José, the community in which I grew up in. If you have any events you would like me to attend, such as festivals, neighborhood block parties, community meetings, or school events, please let my District staff know. Thank you for your support, and I hope to see you out in the community soon.

Sincerely,



Ash

**Save the Date!**

**SPRING OPEN HOUSE**

**AD 27**

**Kalra Ash**

**Thursday, April 5, 2018**  
**5:00 pm—7:00 pm**  
**District Office**  
**100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 319**  
**San José, CA 95113**

**Come meet Assemblymember Kalra and staff at our District Office located in Downtown San José! For more information, please contact Stacie Shih at (408) 277-1220 or email [stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov](mailto:stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov).**

## Kalra Introduces Bill to Protect Working Families from Triple Digit Interest Rates on Consumer Loans

Have you ever suffered from pay day loans with triple digit interest rates? If so, you may have experienced firsthand being caught in an endless cycle of debt, which may have led to your car repossession, wage garnishment, or bankruptcy. Fortunately, this legislative session, Assemblymember Ash Kalra introduced AB 2500, the Safe Consumer Lending Act, to extend California's current interest rate cap for consumer loans between \$2,500 and \$10,000, meaning that a \$10,000 loan with a 12-month repayment plan can only carry a maximum interest rate of 20%. With AB 2500, Assemblymember Kalra hopes to combat financial abuses across the state and level the playing field for lenders that are providing access to safe and affordable loans. This bill will cover both unsecured and secured consumer loans, including auto title loans.

Kalra held a press conference at the State Capitol in Sacramento on February 15<sup>th</sup> to announce AB 2500, and was joined by consumer advocates, faith leader Rev. Phillip R. Cousin Jr., and Graciela Ponte Diaz from the Center for Responsible Lending. In addition, AB 2500 is supported by several community organizations including:

the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, Asian Law Alliance, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), and Unidos US, formerly the National Council of La Raza, as well as the Western Center on Law and Poverty.



"These types of loans, those with exorbitantly high interest rates, hurt hard working families the most," stated Assemblymember Kalra. "A high-cost loan may look like a solution, and more often than not, a person who is looking for immediate access to credit is in financial crisis—but really, these kinds of loans lead to long-term indebtedness." AB 2500 will be heard by the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee some time in March. For more information on AB 2500, please visit [www.a27.asmdc.org](http://www.a27.asmdc.org).

## Five Inspirational Community Leaders Recognized by Assemblymember Kalra in Honor of African American History Month

On Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, in honor of African American History Month, Assemblymember Ash Kalra hosted his Second Annual African American History Month Celebration, sponsored by the San Francisco 49ers. This momentous occasion brought together community leaders, residents, and elected officials at one of San José's finest downtown restaurants, Da Kine Island Grill. It was an exciting event with over seventy people in attendance, including San José City Councilmember Chappie Jones, Mayor Sam Liccardo, NBC Bay Area news anchor Marcus Washington, and staff from the offices of Santa Clara County Supervisors Dave Cortese and Cindy Chavez. It was an exciting and joyful afternoon to be surrounded by friends, family, colleagues, and community members to recognize five outstanding individuals in the African American community here in Assembly District 27.

Five inspirational individuals were recognized for their hard work, contributions, and dedication to San José. The following honorees were presented with California State Resolutions for five categories: Chair of San José State

African American Studies Department and Professor Dr. Steven Millner received the Legacy Award, Executive Director of the African American Community Service Agency Milan Balinton received the Leader in Community Service Award, Second Vice President of San José NAACP Hellen Sims received the Leader in Advocacy Award, Vice President Board Trustee for Oak Grove School District Jacquelyn Adams received the Leader in Public Service Award, and the Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce received the Leader in Business Award. In addition, each honoree received commendations from Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor Dave Cortese to recognize their contributions to the community. Congratulations to our amazing District 27 leaders!



*Please Join Assemblymember Ash Kalra*

### IN CELEBRATING THE 27<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2018 WOMAN OF THE YEAR & 2018 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018	
	5:30PM to 7:30PM	
	THE LOFT, 90 S. Second Street	

2018 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

*Teresa Castellanos*

2018 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

*Tinh Pham*

*Daisy Barocio*

*Mita Dey*

*Daryl Ospring*

*Marilyn Rodgers*

For more information, please contact Erika Salazar at [erika.salazar@asm.ca.gov](mailto:erika.salazar@asm.ca.gov).

## Cannabis Businesses Gather for Informational Roundtable in San José

Following the passage of Proposition 64 legalizing recreational use of cannabis in November 2016, California has seen an exponential growth and interest in the cannabis industry, creating a new market for entrepreneurs who see the potential in the new economic opportunity. While legalization has encouraged the cannabis industry to come out of the shadows, stringent, and obviously, new State regulations and requirements have created a flurry as business owners caught up and learned as quickly as possible on how to comply as operations quickly began in January 2018.

The newly established State of California Bureau of Cannabis Control has done a remarkable job in stepping up to the plate by regulating commercial cannabis licenses for retailers, distributors, microbusinesses, and testing laboratories, but most importantly, working with the cannabis industry in ensuring they have the necessary resources and assistance to succeed as a permitted business in California. The City of San José was ahead of the game when the City Council, with then-Councilmember Ash Kalra, made sure to put in place

an ordinance to regulate cannabis dispensaries and businesses, which helped create a model for other cities and counties in Silicon Valley to follow.

On Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Assemblymember Ash Kalra hosted the first-ever Silicon Valley Cannabis Business Roundtable, along with the Silicon Valley Cannabis Alliance, to bring together members of the cannabis industry to learn more about the State's regulations and requirements. This roundtable provided a great opportunity not only for industry folks, but also government, law enforcement, and legal representatives to learn the necessary steps for compliance. The roundtable had a panel of knowledgeable speakers who came down from Sacramento to engage with the participants with updates and Q&A's.

The panel included California Bureau of Cannabis Control Chief Lori Ajax, CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Division Director Richard Parrott, California Department of Public Health Chief of the Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch Asif Maan, Center for Environmental Health Assistant Depu-



ty Director Miren Klein, and Assemblymember Ash Kalra. A variety of thoughtful questions were presented to the panel from the audience, many revolving around licensing and deadlines, enforcement of non-licensed operators, taxation, and medical versus adult designation.

"San José has always been ahead of the game when it comes to the cannabis industry, but it is exciting to see that we can now bring together everyone from around Silicon Valley to share ideas, information, and ensure that this up-and-coming industry is compliant, safe, and successful," said Kalra. "I look forward to hosting more roundtable events for cannabis businesses, and it was an honor to host the inaugural one in my District."

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



#### March Feature: Houdini - ID#A1072710

My name is Houdini, and I am a neutered male, merle-red and white Australian Cattle Dog mix. The shelter staff think I am about 11 months old, and I have been at the shelter since February 17, 2018.

Hi my name is Houdini and I am a very handsome, and a little bit shy, youngster. I was brought to the shelter for my jumping qualities, so unfortunately, my name fits me very well. Yes, I can jump over a 6-foot tall fence! Sorry, I am also very jumpy while walking, but what might work is if you ignore me when I jump, and praise me when I am on the ground with all four feet. I love your attention and company. Although I haven't been introduced to other dogs, I sure love people! But possibly, another dog might keep me from escaping. I will thrive with someone who is willing to show me the way, someone who wants to make me a great companion and wants to spend time on training me!

Want to learn more about Houdini, 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](http://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](mailto:stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov).

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**  
**Ash Kalra**  
DISTRICT 27

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Do you live in Assembly District 27? Visit us at [www.assembly.ca.gov/Kalra](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Kalra) to find out!



## Capitol Office

State Capitol, Room 5160  
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

## Heart Healthy Tips When Dining Out

With busy schedules, cooking at home isn't always an option. Navigating the endless food choices in our environment can make selecting a nutritious meal seem overwhelming. It might take some planning, effort and bit of willpower, but the tips below can make your heart healthy food choices simpler:



**Go online.** Look up menu options in advance to determine if the restaurant provides a range of healthy options.



**Make smart swaps.** Choose a salad, vegetable-based soup or cooked vegetables as a side dish. Opt for grilled or roasted lean proteins in place of fried or breaded options (like grilled fish instead of fried fish). Swap whole grains instead of refined grains (such as brown rice in place of white rice).

**Decline or limit the pre-meal freebies.** Resisting warm bread or tortilla chips once they are in front of you is difficult, so politely declining them in advance is an easy solution.

**Be drink savvy.** Limit alcoholic beverages and sugary drinks. Sparkling water with a lime wedge or unflavored iced tea with lemon are some refreshing options without added sugar.

**Keep it on the side.** Request salad dressings, sauces and gravies be served on the side so you control how much you use.

**Split it in half.** Since most portions are enough for two meals, share an entrée or set aside half to take home before you start eating. Consider ordering an appetizer instead of an entrée.

For more information or to locate a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist near you, visit [EatRight.org](http://EatRight.org).