

Kalra Capitol Report



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Latino Heritage Month Celebration Honors Leaders Including Longtime Activist, Jorge Gonzalez

In recognition of September as Latino Heritage Month, Assemblymember Kalra hosts an annual celebration to honor Latino leaders who selflessly serve the community. Kalra hosted a virtual event this year on September 23rd, opening with a reminder of the importance of celebrating the vibrancy of the Latino community, but also recognize that even in difficult times we must take a moment to celebrate those who make this community so special.

Los Panaderos, a talented group who has performed at our past Veggie Fest events, kicked off the virtual event with a live performance that uplifted everyone's spirits. Then Kalra presented the first award of the night: the Leadership in Neighborhood Advocacy Award to Jonathan Velasquez, the President of the Seven Trees Neighborhood Association, who is active in numerous uplifting community organizations. Next, Chandra Brooks, a well-known community figure, received the Leadership in Business Award. As the Founder of The Powerhouse Academy™ & The Powerhouse Women™, a program that turns women leaders into full-time Entrepreneurs, Authors or Influencers, Chandra has made a lasting impact as a woman of color. This was apparent as many of those who joined the event had benefitted from her mentorship.

The Leadership in Education Award was then presented to Rosa de Leon with Californians for Justice, who has contributed to the efforts that have allowed black and brown youth to gain access to A-G curriculum, created pathways for youth to be included in school budgeting processes, and most recently contributed to elimination of law enforcement from ESUHS schools. Kalra then presented the Leadership in Community Empowerment Award to María Ruiz, a leader with Fight for \$15 who recently made tremendous strides during the pandemic by leading a strike at McDonald's to demand PPE and worker protections for all employees.

Finally, lifelong activist Jorge Gonzalez was presented with the Legacy Award. Jorge played leading roles in the development of the Chicano student movement and in founding of MEChA, Brown Berets, Chicano Studies, Chicano Research Center, La Verdad Newspaper, and Centro Cultural de la Raza. Jorge was also on the San Jose Unified School Board for a total of 16 years, and played a leading role in Justice for Janitors, among other grassroots community and pro labor efforts. In closing the celebration, a special guest shared a few words and congratulated the honorees. Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), who is known for her unwavering leadership for workers' rights, gave closing remarks that inspired everyone in attendance to continue fighting for a world where workers' rights and human rights are always a priority.



MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER ASH KALRA

There is no doubt that 2020 has been one for the history books, and mostly for the difficulties and challenges we have faced. From the pandemic to wildfires, our constituents and communities have endured a lot this year. We have also seen the impact in our legislative work in Sacramento, as we had to put hundreds of bills on the back-burner to prioritize bills that protect and relieve our most vulnerable communities from the consequences of COVID-19 and the wildfires that continue to ravage our great state.

As the surviving bills made their way through the Assembly and Senate, and onto the Governor's office, the month of September was one of anticipation as legislators awaited the midnight deadline on September 30th for the Governor to sign or veto bills. I was very fortunate and proud to say that six of my bills made it onto Governor Newsom's desk, with five signed into law. I am grateful for the commitment my staff put in this year to work to ensure our working families, businesses, diverse communities, and state as a whole get the resources and protections necessary during these difficult times. Of the bills I introduced, here are the five signed into law:

- **AB 1947 – Retaliation Claims Statute of Limitation:** This bill strengthens the legal rights of whistle-blowers who face retaliation, and especially helps lower wage workers attain legal representation.
- **AB 2118 – Health Insurance Market Reporting:** In an effort to combat rising premiums, this bill requires health plans to annually report changes in premiums to help us achieve the goal of bringing healthcare costs down for Californians.
- **AB 2231 – Safeguarding Prevailing Wage and Public Investments:** This bill provides clarity regarding the definition of “de minimis” for the purpose of paying the prevailing wages in public works projects, ensuring a level playing field for bidders on publicly subsidized projects. In short, it requires good wages when public taxpayer money is used to help subsidize projects.
- **AB 2542 – California Racial Justice Act:** This bill asserts civil rights in the courtroom and prohibits the state from using discriminating means to seek or obtain a conviction or sentence. This includes: explicit bias against the defendant based on race, ethnicity, or national origin, bias at trial and in jury selection, and statistical disparities in charging, sentencing, and conviction.
- **AB 2588 – Direct Patient Care Applicants for Employer-Mandated Training:** This bill supports health care professionals by ending the practice of employers imposing the costs of employer-required educational programs or training on job applicants.

Unfortunately, September 30th did end on a disappointing note as I learned my bill protecting workers during COVID-19 was vetoed. AB 3216: Right of Recall for Workers Impacted by COVID-19, would have ensured workers, in specific industries like hotels, airports and convention centers, who were laid off during the pandemic could return to their jobs and that businesses can quickly re-open. I am saddened by the news, but the fight for worker protection does not stop here. As the Chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, I am hopeful that legislation enacted into law, along with the continued work of the legislature, will help get our employees, businesses, and economy back on their feet. Our economy was going great before the pandemic hit as the fifth largest economy in the world. Our fiscally responsible budgeting over the years allowed for over \$20 billion to be in our rainy day fund, preventing massive cuts to public education and other services that would have otherwise been forced upon us.

Legislative news aside, the pandemic did not stop me or the community from hosting events (virtual of course!) in a continued effort to recognize the dedicated work of community leaders in Assembly District 27. From Veggie Fest to our annual Pride Celebration (pg. 5) and Latino Heritage Month event (pg. 1), I was honored and grateful to be able to virtually gather with my constituents and community members to celebrate great causes and continue the fight for equality and justice. As we wrap up 2020 and enter our fall recess, I hope I can take this time to look back on what we have accomplished together, and prepare for the work that we need to continue to do to combat the pandemic and ensure a just economic recovery for San José families and businesses.

Sincerely,





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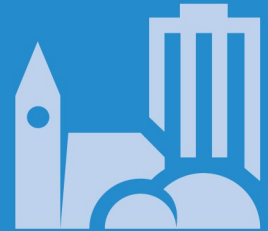
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RICARDO LARA
 INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

California Department of Insurance

Santa Clara County Health Officials Offer Guidance on How to Celebrate Halloween and Día de Los Muertos Safely and Prevent Spreading COVID-19 Among Friends and Neighbors

Commonly celebrated Halloween and Día de Los Muertos activities carry high risk for spreading COVID-19. Focusing on decorations, limiting activities to the people you live with, and virtual costume parties or contests will help keep our communities safe this season, especially our children. Together, we all need to do as much as we can to protect ourselves and those around us. These holidays are no different than the rest of the year when it comes to reducing the spread of COVID-19. Residents are reminded that [local](#) and State Health Officer Orders are still in effect. Halloween gatherings, Día de los Muertos celebrations, events or parties with non-household members are not permitted unless they are conducted in compliance with local and State Health Orders: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/mandatory-directives-gatherings.aspx>.

LOWER RISK: Stay home, keep it small

- Celebrating Halloween traditions like carving pumpkins or a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members at home.
- Visiting an outdoor pumpkin patch, while wearing a mask and maintaining distance from others.
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at least 6 feet apart while wearing masks, with a very small group of neighbors or friends. Fewer people with more distance is safer.
- Having a virtual costume contest.
- Dressing up your house, apartment, living space, yard or car with Halloween decoration or decorating homes with images and objects to honor deceased loved ones.
- Preparing traditional family recipes with members of your household.
- Playing music in your home that your deceased loved ones enjoyed.
- Making and decorating masks or making an altar for the deceased.
- Participating in vehicle-based gatherings that comply with state and local guidance like drive-in movies and drive-through attractions, or car/bike parades where participants do not leave their vehicles.
- Avoid driving in areas where there are many pedestrians.
- Spectators should watch from their homes or yards and not gather with people they do not live with.

MODERATE RISK: If you must

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to physically distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Ensure everyone is wearing an appropriate face covering and maintaining a physical distance from others.
- Everyone participating should bring hand sanitizer and use it frequently AND wash their hands immediately after coming home.
- Candy shouldn't be eaten while outside the home because that would require both removing the face mask and touching wrappers.
- Having a very small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade or movie night where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart and are wearing masks. Fewer people with more distance is safer.
- Enjoying themed outdoor dining that complies with state and local guidance or takeout.

HIGHER RISK: Please avoid

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door-to-door. Although this activity is outdoors, it is higher risk because it brings multiple people from different households together.
- Traveling to a rural fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19. Doing so can bring COVID-19 into the area and threaten the residents' lives.
- If trick-or-treating is occurring in your neighborhood and you are at home and do not want to be disturbed, you may want to post a sign or turn off your porch light.

VERY HIGH RISK or not permitted by State and Local Orders

- Attending a crowded party held indoors or outdoors. Large gatherings, even if they are outdoors, are high risk for spreading COVID-19 and are associated with many cases throughout the Bay Area.
- Sharing, eating, drinking, speaking loudly or singing amongst others outside of your household.
- Haunted houses or indoor mazes.

Virtual Pride Celebration Honors Leaders, Past and Present



Over the last six months, celebrations have taken on different forms as we navigate the new world of virtual gatherings. This August the community celebrated Assembly District 27's Annual Pride event, and like most events in 2020, the celebration went virtual. As-

semblymember Kalra dedicated this opportunity to honor LGBTQ+ leaders and organizations in the district that are doing meaningful work in the community. This year Kalra recognized four exceptional individuals and organizations: Terry Christensen for the Legacy Award, Elly Matsumura for the Leadership in Advocacy Award, Ensemble Folclórico Colibrí for the Leadership in Community Empowerment Award, and Gender Health Center for the Leadership in Service Award. In addition, with heavy hearts and tears, Kalra also recognized Silicon Valley Pride past CEO and board president, Thaddeus Campbell.

The four honorees received recognitions from Assembly-

member Kalra for the work they are doing to advocate and educate the most marginalized individuals, especially black trans lives, who are often left outside of the conversation amidst the racial reckoning that the United States is experiencing. Earlier in the day prior to the event, Assemblymember Kalra personally dropped off the recognitions to each honoree, who proudly displayed their certificates during the event.

Kalra respectfully closed the event with a tearful tribute to Thaddeus Campbell, who passed away last November. Silicon Valley PRIDE was honored at last year's celebration and Thaddeus accepted the recognition on the organization's behalf. Thaddeus is credited with bringing back the Silicon Valley PRIDE parade and making it a must-attend event during his six-year tenure. Kevin Callahan, Thaddeus' husband, then shared some wonderfully moving comments and memories.

"Although Thaddeus is no longer with us, his work and his advocacy continues through others, such as through the folks we honored at today's celebration," stated Kalra. "I am grateful for their continued fight to ensure that equality is achievable, but only if we constantly fight for it. Thank you and congratulations to our wonderful honorees, and thank you to Kevin for always being there for Thaddeus."

Virtual Veggie Fest—from Cooking Demos to Special Guests

For the last two years, Assemblymember Kalra and Veggielution have hosted the San Jose Veggie Fest, a free family event where thousands come together to learn more about sustainable lifestyles and plant-based diets. Though unable to host this year's Veggie Fest in person, the Assemblymember and Veggielution continued their tradition by hosting a virtual event to maintain the spirit of our annual celebration!

This year's event had an incredible lineup of activists, performers, wellness leaders, and special guests. Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) who represents a district to the south of AD 27 joined our celebration to share his experience as the child of farmworkers, and discuss legislation he introduced that protects and honors the people who put food on our table. After Rivas' moving testimony, celebrity chef Jacques Laventure, who has made several noteworthy appearances, did a cooking demo for vegan omelets that made vegan cooking look easy, fun, and delicious! This was followed by some powerful words from Smart Yard Co-Op, the Audubon Society, and our co-host Veggielution. Energized by the speakers and their commitment to justice and environmental advocacy, Be the Change Yoga led

us through a mindful flow that encouraged us to stay grounded as we fight for a better world.

The event also brought out a very special guest, legendary activist, Dolores Huerta. Dolores reminded us that food is medicine and that in order to combat COVID-19 we need to ensure that we eat foods that strengthen our immune system, such as veggies! As a true organizer, she also used the opportunity to elevate that the most important way to thank essential workers is by providing them with dignified working conditions, PPE, livable wages, and health benefits. Attendees also heard some insight from Chairman Valentin Lopez of the Amah Mutsun tribe who talked about the leadership of indigenous people in the fight for environmental justice. The event ended with Fast Times Band (a crowd favorite!), performing old school tunes while Kalra reminded everyone that "even online, we can still party and dance together!"

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Local UA 393, Zanker Recycling, California Nurse Association, San Jose Water Company, Valley Water, Santa Clara Family Health Plan, the Health Trust, Kaiser, Open Space Authority, VR Squad, and Councilmember Sergio Jimenez.

CA Employment Development Department: Updates and Useful Resources

ABOUT THE FED-ED: The **Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED)** is an extension which only becomes available during times of prolonged unemployment. This program will be offering **13 weeks of additional benefits** to those who have exhausted their regular UI claim, as well as any benefits under the current 13-week federal **Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation (PEUC)** extension. The EDD will be automatically filing any extensions including the FED-ED for those potentially eligible.

RETROACTIVE CERTIFICATIONS: As part of an emergency effort to help process a historically high number of unemployment claims, the EDD temporarily suspended the bi-weekly certification requirement early in the pandemic. Even though the requirement was temporarily suspended, the EDD indicated that the certifications would be eventually required. If payments were issued for weeks claimants did not certify to confirm eligibility, then certifications for those weeks must be completed by **October 5th**. If a retroactive certification is not completed by October 5, 2020, the EDD will have to make an eligibility determination based on information available and if eligibility for payment is not supported, the claimant could be required to repay the EDD. Please refer to the following link to retroactively certify: <https://edd.ca.gov/unemployment/retro-certify.htm#if>

REOPENING CLAIM: UI Online is the fastest way to reopen a claim and it's available 24/7. **Helping customers understand UI requirements:** The following links are meant to help claimants understand UI Requirements and prevent payment delays: The **Understanding the Continued Claim Certification Questions** website can help understand the questions on the continued claim form and what the answers to these questions tells the EDD. The EDD has developed a helpful **step-by-step Unemployment Insurance Claims guide** for completing the continued claim form with tips included for how to avoid some common mistakes made during this historic pandemic and avoid delays in payments.

FRAUD INFORMATION: Fraud attempts have increased during the pandemic, and individuals are exploiting the efforts of California to issue unemployment benefit payments as quickly as possible to workers impacted by COVID-19. The EDD's investigation team is working with local, state, and federal partners to stop, and hold offenders accountable.

These fraudulent schemes have triggered multiple mail items with different names sent to addresses throughout the state. **Some of these mail items may include** EDD issued debit cards. The card items can be returned to the EDD. Notices requiring additional identifying documents be provided to the EDD before the claim can be paid. Such notices are part of EDD's preventative Identity Verification process.

The EDD encourages people who have received multiple items through the mail that don't belong to them or witness other suspicious activity to take the following steps:

Report it to EDD right away – The **EDD website** features information about fraud and options on how to report it. The easiest way to report is through the online **Fraud Reporting Form**. In order to protect the confidentiality and integrity of an investigation, the EDD cannot provide those who report fraud any updates unless ordered by a court or required by law. **Provide mail evidence to EDD if at all possible**—For the most direct route to investigators, those who received potentially fraudulent mail are encouraged to send it to DD PO Box 826880, MIC 43, Sacramento, CA 94280-0225.

Watch out for scams – Californians should be aware to not provide the multiple mail items they may have received to people who may show up at their door claiming to be collecting materials for EDD. EDD representatives will not come to your home.

STATUS OF FEDERAL STIMULUS PAYMENT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: The EDD begun issuing \$300 **Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program** payments on September 7th, some claimants begun receiving \$300 in additional benefit payments being provided through the federal LWA program. California has federal approval for an initial \$4.5 billion in funding which will provide a minimum of three weeks of supplemental (\$300/week for 3 weeks totaling \$900) payments for eligible claimants. The payments will be in addition to what claimants are already receiving in weekly benefits. In order to qualify for LWA payments, claimants must meet these federal requirements: Have a minimum weekly benefit award of **\$100** or more on their initial claim and received a payment on that claim between **July 26 and August 15**. This means an individual may have received less than \$100 a week in benefits during that time due to reporting some work income but would still qualify for the extra LWA payment. Have self-attested to EDD that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions **caused by COVID-19**.

If you need assistance with your claims and are having trouble reaching EDD, please do not hesitate to contact Assemblymember Kalra's Office at (408) 277-1220.

Tenant Protections Signed into Law to Alleviate Financial Strain Caused by Pandemic, While Assisting Small Landlords



In August, Governor Newsom signed into law the Tenant, Homeowner, and Small Landlord Relief and Stabilization Act of 2020 (AB 3088), which Assemblymember Kalra co-authored. This statewide law imposes a temporary moratorium on residential evictions between March 1, 2020 and January 21, 2021 for failure to pay rent due to financial distress related to COVID-19. In order to receive this protection, tenants must provide a declaration of hardship to his or her landlord. A template of the declaration form can be found here: <https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/tenant/forms.html>.

AB 3088 covers rental debt from two different periods, March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 and September 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021. For the period of March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, tenants who have experienced COVID-19 related financial distress and have not been able to pay part or all of the rent during this time frame cannot be evicted for failure to pay rent as long as they sign and return a Declaration of COVID-19 related financial distress to their landlords within 15 days of receiving a Declaration form from their landlord.

Tenants are still responsible for unpaid rent that accrues between September 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021 and must pay at least 25% of the rent due by January 31,

2021 to avoid eviction. If a landlord initiates an eviction proceeding for nonpayment of rent before February 2, 2021, the tenant has 15 days to provide the landlord with declaration of hardship to stop the eviction process. Starting March 1, 2021, landlords may recover this unpaid rent in small claims court, which has temporarily increased the claim limit to allow landlords to recover this unpaid debt.

For affected tenants in San José, any accrued unpaid rent while the eviction moratorium was in effect must be at least 50% paid back by February 28, 2021, and the remaining unpaid rent must be paid by August 31, 2021. Landlords may not charge affected tenants any penalties, fees or interest on unpaid rent that accrued while the eviction moratorium was in effect.

This act also provides relief for homeowners and landlords who have four or fewer properties. Landlords that have a federally-backed mortgage can request forbearance to help avoid becoming delinquent on their mortgage payments. Landlords that do not have a federally-backed mortgage can contact their servicer requesting forbearance and if forbearance isn't offered, the lender must provide a detailed description explaining why the forbearance request was denied, stating the exact reason for the detail.

For more information on how AB 3088 affects tenants and landlords, please visit: <https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/faqs.html>. For more information on local resources and assistance, please visit: <https://siliconvalleystrong.org/get-help/financial-resources/rent-and-mortgage-relief/>. United Way of California has also launched a 211 service to help community members seeking housing resources, just text "RentSOS" to 211-211.

CALSAVERS IS HERE!

CalSavers is California's retirement savings program designed for the millions of Californians who lack a way to save for retirement at their job. CalSavers was created by legislation passed in 2016 requiring California employers to either sponsor a retirement plan or participate in CalSavers – an automatic enrollment individual retirement account (IRA) with no employer fees or fiduciary liability.

California's new mandate is phased in over three years, with deadlines based on employer size. Employers with over 100 employees are now less than 30 days away from the first deadline on September 30, 2020, extended from June 30, 2020 in light of the COVID-19 crisis, but any eligible employer can join today.

Learn more at CalSavers.com



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- Families must have an annual income of \$75,000 OR LESS to be eligible
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School of Arts & Culture
Mexican Heritage Plaza

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



October Feature: Bin - ID#A1094388

My name is Bin, and I am a neutered male, tan and black German Shepherd Dog mix. The shelter staff think I am about 3 years old, and I have been at the shelter since August 30, 2020.

Thanks to the humans at my work, I have become a more affectionate boy. I am a dominant dog who needs a strong leader and training. With the right person, I slowly become cuddly and affectionate. I can be distracted by the world at first, but once I bond with you, I'll always love to be around you! I am very smart and I do learn. I lived with cats for a couple of days and was nice to them, and seem to coexist with them well! I am fixed, vaccinated, chipped and ready to go home!

Want to learn more about Bin, or make yourself a new best friend for life? Then please visit the San José Animal Care Center website at www.sanjoseanimals.com, or call (408) 794-PAWS (7297). Due to COVID-19 the shelter is currently closed, but are hosting virtual adoptions. If you are interested in adopting, please write down the I.D. number of the pet you would like (example: A1234567) and send it along with your phone number to SJAdopt@sanjoseca.gov.



Contact Us!

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



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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
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California Highway Patrol	(800) 835-5247
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Child Supportive Services	(866) 901-3212
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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
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High Speed Rail Authority	(916) 324-1541
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
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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

THE CENSUS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 31ST!

After a recent court ruling in September, the Census Count has now been extended to **October 31st**.

The results of the 2020 Census is critically important to the economic and political strength of California. California cannot afford an undercount – it is critical for everyone to be counted, regardless of immigration status. Completing the census only takes about 10 minutes and will help your community!

Remember, participation is simple, quick and confidential. When you complete the census, make sure that everyone who lives in your household is counted, including all children and any extended family or friends who are living with you.

To learn more about why the Census is important, or to complete yours today, please visit www.CaliforniaCensus.org.

