

Third District Community Forum

Accessing Your Government

Do you have questions about how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will affect you?

Snapshot of the bill:

- Requires most U.S. citizens and legal residents to obtain and maintain healthcare coverage
- Creates a new way to purchase coverage called Health Insurance Exchanges
- Expands the current Medi-Cal program to provide opportunities for more individuals to be eligible
- Bars insurance companies from discriminating against those with preexisting conditions

What is California doing to prepare for the change next year?

California was the first state in the nation to enact legislations under the ACA. Covered California is the state agency responsible for implementing the healthcare reform. While the California Department of Healthcare Services continues to be the state agency for Medi-Cal, Covered California will provide the healthcare exchange where individuals and families can go to compare insurance plans and sign up for benefits online. The healthcare exchanges serve to create a competitive market for health insurance, provide a choice of health plans, establish common rules regarding the offering and pricing of health insurance, and allow customers to sign up for coverage. Individuals who make \$46,960 or less and families of four who make \$94,200 or less may qualify for financial assistance.

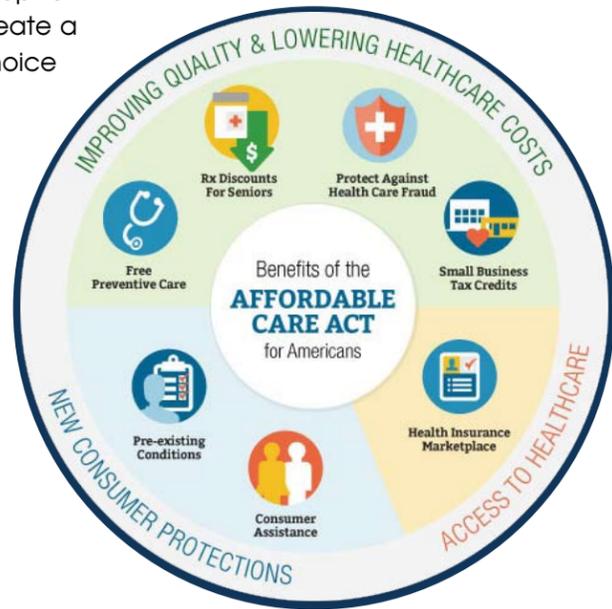
Starting March 1, 2014, those without healthcare coverage will be subject to a penalty of 1% of a family's income. This penalty will increase to 2% in 2015 and 2.5% in 2016 but limits the dollar amount of the penalty.

To learn more, please visit www.coveredca.com.



Oak Glen Apple Season

Come to Oak Glen for some delicious fresh apple cider! Oak Glen is situated above Yucaipa in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains. You can explore the beautiful landscape of the Wildlands Conservancy, visit the historical Oak Glen School House Museum, and feed the animals in the animal park. There are many unique shops and restaurants where you can get a souvenir and a fresh apple pie. Make sure to grab a bag of locally grown apples for the road! Come enjoy the fresh crisp air and witness the beautiful change of seasons in Oak Glen. For more information, please visit www.oakglen.net



Governor Brown signs California Bobcat Protection Act into law

On October 11th, Governor Brown signed into law AB 1213, the California Bobcat Protection Bill. This legislation ensures the protection of bobcats by establishing a no-trapping buffer zone around

Joshua Tree National Park as well as other national parks and refuges in California. The bill also requires trappers to have written permission from a landowner before catching a bobcat on their private property.

Supervisor Ramos was also thrilled to learn of this news today. "I want to thank Governor Brown for his support to San Bernardino County and the area of Joshua Tree. This legislation provides crucial protection for our bobcats in and around Joshua Tree National Park. I would also like to thank my constituents for their hard work in bringing this legislation forward."



Big Bear Valley Attractions

Looking for something to do on the weekend? Please visit my website to check out my latest video segment for information on recreational activities in the Big Bear Valley!

Tom O'Key, a resident of the Morongo Basin and a key advocate for this legislation, was elated to hear the Governor signed this bill into law. "I am very pleased with the result. I love the idea of a community coming together to work on an issue that has an intrinsic meaning everyone understands. I read the letter Supervisor Ramos sent to the Governor and I was pleased he took a stance in support of this legislation."

If you would like to submit a story or event to The Ramos Review, please send an email to SupervisorRamos@sbcounty.gov or call 909.387.4855. Due to limited space, we may not be able to accommodate your request.



San Bernardino Office: 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., Fifth Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110.



Supervisor Ramos Around the District

Coffee with the Supervisor in Barstow

On September 16th, Supervisor Ramos held a Coffee with the Supervisor event in Barstow. These are open forums meant to provide both the Supervisor and his constituents face-to-face interactions. "I feel these events are crucial to ensuring the people's voices are being heard especially in communities farther out from San Bernardino," stated



Supervisor Ramos. "Being able to get out in the field and interact with my constituents allows me to get a better sense of the community needs. I appreciate those who attend these events and take the time to share their concerns with me." The Supervisor will continue to hold these events around his district.



Make sure to check out my newly redesigned website for more information on events throughout the County, latest news, and additional resources.
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/bosd3/default.aspx>



The wolves at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo were excited to see Supervisors Rutherford and Ramos on their visit to Big Bear! The two Supervisors took a tour with the museum curator and learned more about the how the zoo staff nurse these injured animals.



Phil and Ginny Cisneros pose with the Supervisor at the Pioneer Days Parade in 29 Palms

Riding in the Loma Linda Community Parade!



High Desert Opportunity Conference

The High Desert Opportunity Conference brought together the cities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia and Victorville for the largest business conference in the region and drew business leaders from all over California. Attendees learned about the High Desert's growing and expanding cities and what they have to offer. Supervisor Ramos joined Supervisor Lovinggood and Rutherford for a casual conversation about the current business climate and how the County is working with local businesses. Supervisor Ramos highlighted the need for educational opportunities and a well-trained workforce ready to hire by businesses looking to set up shop in the County.



For more information about High Desert Opportunity visit www.highdesertopportunity.com.



Progress in the Third District

Rail to Redlands Working Group Second Meeting

What role does Omnitrans play in the Redlands Passenger Rail project? This question was answered during a presentation from Omnitrans Interim CEO/General Manager Scott Graham at the Rail to Redlands Working Group's second meeting on October 30th.



Members of the Rail to Redlands Working Group

Omnitrans is the public transit provider for the San Bernardino Valley. It offers many different services including the soon to be completed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) which will provide an express bus line that will travel down E Street through San Bernardino. Mr. Graham and his staff informed the group of the efforts by Omnitrans to increase efficiency of the bus routes which will be utilized by those who will ride the future Redlands Passenger Rail. The working group's discussion centered around how Omnitrans can provide connectivity options for commuters living a greater distance from the potential rail stops.

The next working group meeting is scheduled for February of next year.



DRECP Public Hearings Held in Desert

On September 6th and 7th, two public Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan meetings were held in Lucerne Valley and Yucca Valley. These public hearings were a result of a request by Supervisors Lovinggood and Ramos to have meetings held in the rural communities most affected by solar development. During the meeting, community members provided their input about ideal locations for these types of projects.

Supervisor Ramos feels the "DRECP will be the most important planning process for our desert in the foreseeable future, shaping over 22 million acres in the California desert. With the focal point in my district, I have pushed for a plan that protects our irreplaceable landscapes, American landmarks like Joshua Tree National Park and Route 66, while also preserving our vibrant and growing tourism economy surrounding them."

To learn more about the DRECP, visit www.drecp.org.



Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park Advisory Commission Swearing In



Morongo Basin MAC Members from Left: Max Rossi, Mike Lipsitz, David Peach, Mark Lundquist, Elizabeth Karman, Larry Parrot, Jack Dugan and Gayl Swarat. Mary Helen Tuttle could not attend.

Photo Credit: Rebecca Unger, Desert Trail Newspaper