



Senator John Laird

District 17 - Democrat

Counties Represented:

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and portions of San Luis Obispo (Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, El Paso de Robles, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo)

About John Laird:

Prior to his Senate service, Laird served as Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency under Governor Jerry Brown from January 5, 2011 until January 7, 2019. Laird also served as a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008 to 2009. In 2002, he was elected to the State Assembly to represent the 27th District, which included portions of Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, and was reelected in 2004 and 2006. While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law. Prior to serving in the State Assembly, Laird was elected as a member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2002. In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988, making him one of the first openly gay mayors to serve in the United States. The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1972. He has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research, and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

- Member, LGBTQ Caucus; Member,
- Aviation Caucus; Member,
- Central Coast Caucus; Member,
- Bay Area Caucus; Member,
- Environmental Caucus; Member,
- Mental Health Caucus; Member,
- Outdoor Sporting Caucus; Member,
- Rural Caucus; Member,
- Tech & Innovation Caucus; Member,
- Native American Caucus; Member,
- Lake Tahoe Caucus

Member Priorities & District Issues

Member Priorities

- Racial Justice;
- Healthcare;
- Education;
- Affordable Housing

Committee Membership

Standing Committees

- Budget & Fiscal Review
- Select Committee Student Success
- Member, Judiciary Committee
- Member, Labor, Public Employment & Retirement
- Member, Natural Resources & Water Committee
- Member, Rules Committee
- Member, Select Committee on Student Success

Joint Committees

- Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Committee on Rules
- Member, Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Subcommittees

- Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education

Legislative Contact Information | <https://sd17.senate.ca.gov/>

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