Dear Friend,

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful start to the New Year.

I am thrilled to be back in Sacramento fighting for the values of the 40th Senate District. This year promises to be a busy one, as we tackle important issues like affordable housing, job creation, wildfire prevention and safety, and improving access to quality healthcare and education. We also welcomed Governor Gavin Newsom and new colleagues to the Legislature. I am looking forward to working with each, and every one of them as we craft solutions to continue moving our state forward.

My team and I are currently finalizing our legislative package for the year, which includes bills addressing consumer protections, environmental justice, elder abuse and more. I look forward to hearing your input on these and other proposals as they move through the legislative process.

As always, if we can be of assistance to you in the district or the Capitol, please do not hesitate to contact my offices. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the Legislature.

Sincerely,
Ben Hueso
State Senator
40th District

Third Annual Women's March San Diego

I was proud to take part in the third annual Women's March in San Diego this past weekend alongside participants all of ages, races and genders - from our community and beyond.

The march coincided with the week-long celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's theme, "Truth to Power," was inspired by the work of Dr. King, other activists and movements that promote the power of speaking one's truths and holding accountable those in power.

It was truly an inspiring event, and I was very happy to see so many people take part in the democratic process through peaceful demonstration - just as Dr. King showed us.

Meeting with Governor Gavin Newsom
WELCOME

01/01: New Year's Day
01/01: Statutes take effect
01/07: Legislature reconvenes
01/10: Budget must be submitted by Governor
01/19: Nationwide Women's Marches
01/21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
01/27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

For the complete legislative calendar, please visit: Legislative Calendar

I was honored to meet with our new governor, Gavin Newsom, at his office earlier this month. We had a great conversation about the needs of the 40th Senate District, and pledged to work with one another to address issues such as the Salton Sea, Tijuana River Valley, and border wait times, among others. I am very grateful to Governor Newsom for taking the time to meet with me and look forward to working with him to improve the lives of all Californians.

22nd Anniversary of Toys for Joy at Rock Church
District Representative Dawn Hendon presenting a State Senate resolution to Mei Ling Starkey, Monet Love, and Margaret Diggs of Rock Church

Toys for Joy is the Rock Church's largest outreach event of the year and impacts thousands of families across San Diego County. This year events were held at three locations across the county and are estimated to have served more than 20,000 children and their families who experience difficulty making ends meet during the holidays.

The Rock Church partners with schools, businesses, community organizations and other local churches to coordinate the events. At each location, volunteers provide toys to each child in attendance, as well as free lunch, groceries, haircuts, clothing and more. There are also numerous forms of entertainment and children's activities.

Over the past 21 years, Toys for Joy has served more than 152,000 children and their families, and has evolved into a leading outreach event in the San Diego community. In honor of its 22nd anniversary, my office presented an official State Senate Resolution in recognition of the positive impact Toys for Joy has on the local community and beyond. I am grateful for the vital role it has played in improving the quality of life for many in our district, and extend my best wishes for continued success with future events.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT ...

Citizen of the Month: Ruben Torres
This month, I want to honor a true hometown celebrity, Ruben Torres. With an extensive background in the entertainment industry, Ruben uses his resources and event production experience to bring communities together to serve the less fortunate.

Since 2010, Ruben has dedicated himself to creating a do-good movement through Love Thy Neighbor, a nonprofit organization that hosts community programming, events and initiatives to provide education, resources and opportunities to the underserved members of our community. He uses his influence to bring a message of hope when speaking to kids at high schools, juvenile halls and prisons in California.

For example, Ruben and his team have come together to start a creative writing program where elementary students in Barrio Logan and San Ysidro are asked to write an essay about creating change and ending homelessness in their community. As a reward for their work, 36 of those students received free bicycles. These programs were also in partnership with local celebrities Sonny Sandoval of P.O.D., Actor Joseph Lucero, R&B star Frankie J and WWE Superstar Rey Mysterio, who all provided further inspiration for the students. Ruben also organized school assemblies with his friend Andy Vargas (singer of the band "Santana") to share his story and inspire school kids at Chula Vista High and Vista Del Mar elementary school in San Ysidro.

Ruben has launched numerous other community charity events, helping people year round working with prison art programs, feeding the homeless and the senior citizen community in San Diego. Since 2017, Ruben and his team have been delivering 500 lbs. of food each week for low-income senior citizens of National City and regularly hosts their "Ageless Beauty" events for seniors offering free haircuts, manicures, make-up, food, flowers and toiletries.

Ruben's humanitarian efforts extend across the international border into Mexico. He and his team currently provide food, clothing, medical supplies and basic needs for the growing community of
immigrants and refugees that crowd the shelters in Tijuana. They also organize annual toy drives to benefit the children in South San Diego and Tijuana, as well as children living with HIV and AIDS in Tijuana.

Recently, Ruben has organized “Coffee with a Cop” events in Chula Vista, which are designed to build bridges among the community where there may be signs of division, different viewpoints and backgrounds. Recently, Ruben was certified as a community Chaplain and continues to network with community organizations, ministries, and companies to help those in need.

Ruben has become a positive figure within San Diego, capturing the minds and hearts of the community through visions of hope to motivate others to pursue and fulfill their dreams. Thank you, Ruben, for inspiring us all!

Organization of the Month: Imperial County Farm Bureau

During the annual meeting of the California Farm Bureau Federation held in San Diego in December, the Imperial County Farm Bureau was named County of the Year. They earned this remarkable distinction for their steadfast advocacy for the agriculture industry in Imperial Valley. The award was based on a set of five criteria: policies at the local level; activities to recruit and retain members; efforts to develop local farm bureau leaders; promoting agriculture in the county and supporting agriculture education; and public outreach.

Imperial County Farm Bureau provides services to the local community such as workshops and training opportunities for its members, publishing monthly columns in the newspaper, sponsoring daily farm reports on radio, and more. In 2018, they had their most successful scholarship fundraiser to date, distributing $34,000 in scholarships to local students.

Please join me in congratulating the Imperial County Farm Bureau on this exciting honor!

WHAT'S NEW ...

Governor Newsom Releases 2019-2020 Budget Proposal
In January, newly sworn in Governor Gavin Newsom released his inaugural budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. As the budget process continues through June 2019, I will continue to work with the new administration to ensure that we can continue to maximize our State’s resources while maintaining strong fiscal health for years to come.

Under Gov. Newsom’s leadership, our State’s priorities will benefit all California residents. With additional funding in areas including education, housing, healthcare, and emergency response, California will be better equipped to maintain its role as one of the Nation’s leading economies while working towards improving the lives of all Californians.

**A Complete and Accurate Census Count Is Critical for California**

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every resident in the nation. A complete and accurate count of California’s population is essential because data collected determines the number of seats it has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities. More than 70 federal programs that benefit California, including education, health, and transportation, use Census numbers as part of their funding formulas.

The 2018 Budget Act included $90.3 million for statewide outreach to increase the participation rate of California’s hard to count (HTC) populations in the 2020 Census. The California Complete Count (CCC) Office is in charge of administering and distributing these funds. The responsibility of the Legislature is to provide oversight and to support the CCC and all stakeholders to ensure an effective campaign. For more information, visit [https://census.ca.gov/](https://census.ca.gov/)

**Help CA Census Outreach Efforts Today!**

The CCC has released requests for proposals (RFP)s seeking experienced and qualified Administrative Community-Based Organizations (ACBO)s to conduct Census 2020 outreach at the regional and statewide levels. Please share these opportunities with your networks:

- **RFP - Regional Administrative Community-Based Organizations**
  - Deadline: Jan. 31, 2019
  - Total funds: $22,950,000
  - [https://caleprocure.ca.gov/event/77601/0000011460](https://caleprocure.ca.gov/event/77601/0000011460)

- **RFP - Statewide Administrative Community-Based Organizations**
  - Deadline: Feb. 21, 2019
  - Total funds: $4,050,000
For more information on funding, visit
https://census.ca.gov/2018/11/09/funding/

Download as a pdf