

I am not going to Sacramento to do things to you but to do things for you that you can't do for yourself.

I am not going to Sacramento to make you do things I think you should do but to let you do things for yourself that you want to do IF they don't interfere with another's right to do the same.

I am not going to Sacramento to solve problems a certain way but to enable you to use your vast talents and innovation to solve your problems.

I am not going to Sacramento to create new and different ways to take more money away from you but to find new and different ways to allow you to make more money for yourself.

I am not going to Sacramento to further reduce your freedoms but to return those that have been taken away by misguided and well meaning egotists.

I can say these things because that is exactly what I've been trying to do in Sacramento for the past 40 years. But, because I was one of you and not one of "them", the task was far more difficult to achieve than it will be with a voice and a vote in the Legislature.

In fact, though, I did get injustices to our children relieved; local control of local issues partially protected; taxes stabilized and specific unfair taking stopped. I did participate in amendments to, or the defeat of, dozens of pieces of unfair legislation in the past five years, including laws to force previously convicted criminals into your neighborhoods against your will, water regulations that threatened not just your landscaping but your health as well and efforts to end local control of the design and character of our communities. I worked very hard and influenced the reduction of State mandates, called RHNA numbers, requiring us to provide for, and have to accept, unfair amounts of low income housing in our local communities. In fact I was able to thank Lynn Jacobs, the Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development, for that rare piece of common sense again last Thursday in San Jose.

I have been doing similar things in government decisions in the fields of energy, resources, housing, agriculture and taxation for individuals, businesses and groups of citizens for over 3/4 of my life. I still want to achieve even MORE in that regard!!! It has been an up hill battle and I've made some mistakes along the way. I think the Three Strikes concept needs to be tweaked. I think term limits has more of a down side than a benefit because of the loss of institutional knowledge. I think prevailing wage regulations discriminate against communities

that are small, rural or remote from major metropolitan areas. They must be changed or eliminated. I think your tax dollars and your share of bond money should be spent to benefit YOU. It should not be taken from you and given only to the big cities as it frequently is in specific situations!

We have many very serious problems to address on a regular basis in California. Unfortunately, we tend to get focused on whatever is the media's flavor of the week. This seems to be especially true during political campaigns.

At the League of California Cities I've spent four of the past five years actively participating on the Revenue & Taxation Policy Committee, including a detailed sub-committee on the Standardized (National) Sales & Use Tax which California is monitoring for possible membership and all five years on Policy Committee regarding Housing, Community and Economic Development. On that committee I represent all of the cities in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. I also served on special subcommittees on AB32 and SB375, homeless shelters and made the motion which created the League's Water Task Force, on which I subsequently served.

We reviewed over 250 bills during that time and addressed changes to a few dozen. Conference calls with specific legislators revealed which ones were truly participating and which had very active staffs that wrote their bills and negotiated for them. One of the most prominent Democratic senators didn't even know the content of sweeping legislation that bore his name. This is wrong and should not happen.

In the process of dealing with the State and its requirements of local government and its people I have submitted written comments on implementation plans and policies. Many of these can be found on the State web site under my name and most were addressed.

As is true in most cases, the devil tends to be in the details. It is imperative to stay on top of each important issue. I have been doing that regarding land use, public resources, transportation, prison reform, budget and cash flow policies, taxation many social issues.

Sacramento is a confusing place, to say the least, it has been a long and difficult learning experience but one which I hope will serve you well in the legislature.