

## **JIM BEALL**

Jim Beall was elected in November 2012 to the California State Senate to represent District 15. Beforehand, he served six years as representative for the State Assembly District 24.

Beall has lived in District 15 his entire life. He attended San Jose State University, where he focused on Urban Planning and Public Finance, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

He and Patricia F. "Pat" Lafkas were married in 1983. He has two stepsons, Gregory and Mark.

### **Local government**

Beall served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors from 1994 until 2006, prior to which he served 14 years on the San Jose City Council. Beall, who sworn in as a city councilman at the age of 28, holds the distinction of being the youngest person to be elected to the council.

As a councilman and county supervisor, Beall served two decades on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, where he lobbied commissioners to select the extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system to San Jose as a top priority project, enabling it to eventually receive \$900 million in federal funding. In the spring of 2012, Valley Transportation Authority and BART officials broke ground on the extension.

In 1984, Beall and other local leaders united to support Measure A, a one-half cent sales tax for transportation tax that was passed by voters. As scheduled, the tax stopped after its mandate 10-year life but not before it had funded the construction of State Route 85 in San Jose, the widening of Highway 101, and the upgrading of State Route 237.

State Route 87, which connects North and South San Jose, was proposed by Beall, who served as the chairman on the Route 87 task force that oversaw the upgrading of the Guadalupe Parkway from Highway 101 to Coleman Avenue.

As the San Jose region grew in the 1990s and early 2000s, escalating housing prices and rents, Beall's tenure on the Board of Supervisors witnessed increased homelessness – especially among families and children.

To address this dire problem, Beall spearheaded the county's commitment to create a public-private, non-profit partnership, the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County, to increase affordable housing units as well as helping eligible purchasers break into the high-priced Silicon Valley housing market. The trust, which began in 2000, has made more than 2,000 loans to new buyers, developed nearly 2,700 new units, and has assisted more than 2,600 homeless households in gaining housing. The trust also helps families grapple with foreclosures to stay in their homes.

Beall's concern for children made him the driving force behind Santa Clara County's decision to launch the Children's Health Initiative in 2001, a first-in-the-nation campaign to get every uninsured child enrolled into a health coverage plan. The initiative has helped more than 200,000 children apply for insurance under Healthy Kids, Healthy Families, or Medi-Cal, and it has greatly reduced the number of children's school absences.

### **State Assembly**

On November 7, 2006, Jim Beall was elected by 65% of the electorate to represent the 24th Assembly District. Beall was appointed Chair of the Assembly Committee on Human Services. In addition, he has served as a member of the Committee on Budget; Committee on Taxation and Revenue; Committee on Higher Education; the Committee on Jobs; Economic Development; Committee on Public Safety; Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and Budget Sub Committee #1 - Health and Human Services.

Beall chaired two other Assembly panels-- the Select Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the Select Committee on Foster Care.

Beall introduced Assembly Bill 12, legislation that extended benefits to foster youth from age 18 to 21. The bill also realigned California's Kinship Guardian Assistance Program with federal guidelines to make it eligible for federal funding, saving the state millions. The bill, signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010, is designed to improve college graduation rates for foster youth while reducing incidences of homelessness, incarceration, unwanted pregnancies, and substance abuse.

In 2012, Beall convened hearings to investigate the overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system.

He has attacked other social issues ranging from hunger, autism, and protecting seniors.

Working with state food banks in 2008, Beall uncovered \$1 million that had been languishing in a state fund and had it redirected to feed hungry families. The funds were divided among food banks throughout the state. The share for Santa Clara and San Mateo counties was enough to buy at least 390,000 pounds of produce.

In 2011, Assembly Bill 69, introduced by Beall, was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. Under the bill, the state and counties would be able, with the cooperation of the federal government, to identify seniors who would be eligible for food stamps through the use of the Social Security Administration; a method to put more food on the tables of seniors by using available federal dollars during a period of state deficits.

He also expanded the power of dependent adults and seniors to obtain protective orders against their abusers. In mid-2012, Beall worked with a task force of Santa Clara County Superior Court judges, local attorneys, and others to evaluate potential reforms to prevent excessive conservatorship fees.

To help families with children with autism, Beall, acting with Senate President Darrell Steinberg, worked to get Senate Bill 946 passed and signed into law in 2011. The legislation requires health insurers to cover the costs of autism treatment. Beall has also introduced legislation to require insurances cover occupational, physical, and speech therapies for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Recognizing that disorders of the mind can be as debilitating as any other illness or injury, Beall has introduced multiple bills mandating that health insurers cover mental illnesses and substance abuse equivalent to their coverage offered for physical maladies. Four versions of mental health parity bills introduced by Beall were approved by the Legislature but vetoed each time by Gov. Schwarzenegger.

At the state level, Beall continued to seek transportation remedies to help Santa Clara County. Notably, he gathered support to get his legislation – Assembly Bill 57 – approved to update the 40-year-old membership of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to reflect San Jose’s new growth as the 10th most populous city in the United States. The bill permits the mayor of San Jose to appoint a member to the commission, bringing the county’s total number of seats to three on the 21-member commission, giving it an equivalent voice as San Francisco’s. The bill also allows the mayor of Oakland to appoint a member.

He also introduced Assembly Bill 1670, which returned control of Monterey Road, Alum Rock Avenue, and the Alameda to the city of San Jose from the state. The relinquishment of the streets allows the city to plan and begin traffic improvements and beautification projects without state approval, greatly streamlining the process. In addition, San Jose received \$11 million from the state for maintenance and to bring the streets up to city standards.

Aware that education drives Silicon Valley’s technology innovations and the California’s position as the world’s ninth largest economy, Beall sought to make California’s public colleges and universities affordable and accessible for families. As an Assembly member, he introduced bills to give middle-class parents and students a tax credit for college expenses and to create a pre-paid tuition program.

To put more people back to work in jobs that benefit California, Beall passed legislation to make it easier for hospitals to meet seismic safety standards by eliminating red tape and allowing them to directly apply for federal funding instead of waiting for the state to act.

He also authored legislation, Assembly Bill 811, to provide affordable financing for property owners to install energy improvements – from weatherization to solar panels.

His work has been recognized and honored by many organizations, including:

American Psychiatric Association – Jacob Javits Public Service Award, 2009

The ARC of California – Bulldog Award, 2012

California Small Business Association – Summa Cum Laude Award, 2009

Campaign for College Opportunity – Champion of College Opportunity, 2009

National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter – California Public Citizen of the Year, 2011

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte – Legislator of the Year, 2011

Women’s Foundation of California – Champion Award, 2011

Silicon Valley Legal Advocates for Youth – LACY Award, 2011