

# SENATOR JIM BEALL -- HIS WORK

## **Santa Clara County Courthouse**

Senator Beall secured over \$208 million from the State Public Building Construction Fund to ensure the construction of a new downtown San Jose courthouse was not derailed. The project provides over 1,500 craft jobs and is estimated to save Santa Clara Superior Courts \$400 million over 30 years by eliminating expensive rent costs. (2012 budget)

## **More Money for Local Roads and Highways**

Beall worked to get \$24 million in state funds to streamline U.S. 101 in East San Jose to eliminate bottlenecks, and hazardous merging and weaving of traffic. Improvements include the construction of new freeway on- and off-ramps on Yerba Buena Road.

His legislation, **AB 1670**, channeled more than \$12 million from the state in 2014 to repave 31 miles of The Alameda, Alum Rock, Blossom Hill and Monterey Road, improving the streets' ride and structural integrity, avoiding costly reconstruction.

## **Reducing Traffic on Interstate 680**

Beall led efforts to secure \$500,000 to conduct an in-depth traffic assessment of the Interstate 680 corridor between Milpitas and the U.S. 101 Interchange. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in 2016 and will provide solutions to ease congestion and improve safety on one of the most critical stretches of freeways in Santa Clara County.

He introduced and passed **AB 57**, legislation that adds one additional seat each for San Jose and Oakland to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to acknowledge their tremendous growth in population and jobs over the past 40 years. The bill gives both cities an equivalent voice to San Francisco's in the funding of Bay Area highway and mass transit projects.

## **Caltrain Electrification**

Beall worked in partnership to obtain \$705 million in state funds in 2014 to switch Caltrain locomotives from diesel to electricity. This change will nearly double ridership to 110,000 passengers a day, reducing traffic congestion and pollution by getting more people out of their vehicles. Electrification will reduce headways, allowing more trains to run between San Jose and San Francisco while decreasing noise.

## **Unpaid Mandates**

He successfully fought for local cities and counties to get their fair share of transportation dollars owed to them from previous years, resulting in \$100 million for local road repair and maintenance statewide in 2014.

## **DMV Office in East San Jose**

Beall worked with the Department of Motor Vehicles to locate a new DMV office in East Side of San Jose to provide eligible undocumented drivers with improved access to apply for drivers licenses under AB 60. The new office, opened in December 2014, employs 96 staffers.

## **Preserving History**

Beall voted for legislation in 2011 to declare McDonnell Hall, where Cesar Chavez learned and honed his community organizing strategies, a state historic landmark.

## **Increasing Access to Healthcare**

In 2011, Beall coauthored **SB 946**, legislation requiring private health insurance plans to cover autism treatment including behavioral health treatment, such as the Applied Behavioral Analysis and other prescribed intensive early intervention therapy. The bill was signed into law.

## **Air Ambulance Fee**

He introduced **AB 2173**, legislation to fund air ambulance service operators who provide life-saving emergency transportation from accident scenes directly to trauma centers for the most critical patients. AB 2173 established a \$4 fee on every vehicle code violation, except parking tickets to fund supplemental payments for emergency medical air transportation services. Signed into law.

## **Seismic Retrofit**

He authored **AB 303**, guided it through the Legislature, and had it signed into law by the Governor. The legislation enabled Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center to receive hundreds of millions of federal dollars for hospital seismic upgrades and compliance with state mandated seismic safety upgrades. The legislation averted the shutdown of one-half of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's beds; its highly regarded trauma, burn center; and the loss of disaster response if the safety mandates were not met.

## **Protecting Women and Children**

**Audrie's Law** or **SB 838**, introduced by Senator Beall, reforms juvenile sex assault statutes to balance the scale of justice for victims. Under Audrie's Law,

juveniles convicted of rape, sodomy, or oral copulation will no longer have the option of paying a fine or participating in community service or a treatment program in order for charges to be dismissed. Also, courtrooms will be more transparent, allowing public access to hearings of juveniles who are prosecuted for specified sex assaults against an unconscious or developmentally disabled victim. The bill also requires convicted juveniles to complete a sex offender treatment program if there suitable programs are available in the county where the crime occurred. All but a few counties in California offer these rehabilitative programs. The bill went into effect in 2015..

He introduced **SB 926** to raise the statutory age from 26 to 40 years old for victims of survivor childhood sexual abuse to press criminal charges against the people who harmed them. The bill was signed into law in 2014.

Beall closed a loophole in the law to remove school administrators' unilateral authority to let a registered sex offender participate in events on campus with kids without informing students or their parents and guardians. **SB 326** was signed into law by the Governor in 2013

He also successfully introduced legislation **AB 225** to reduce bureaucratic red tape and make it easier and faster for seniors being abused to get a protective order. The bill allows protective orders to be issued under the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act to protect from abuse not only the elder or dependent adult, but also their family, household members and also conservators, if appropriate. Signed into law by the Governor in 2008

**SB 347** introduced legislation that allowed Santa Clara County to re-invest \$1 million back into homeless youth programs instead of returning the funds to the state general fund. Signed into law by the Governor in 2013

### **Mental Health Parity Enforcement**

As chairman of the Mental Health Caucus and Senate Mental Health Select Committee, Senator Beall expanded access to treatment and services. He reformed and strengthened laws to ensure health plans comply with federal and state parity regulations. Language instituted by Beall in the 2014-15 budget resulted in nearly \$3 million for the Department of Insurance and Department of Managed Health Care to conduct initial parity compliance reviews and hire additional staff to enforce parity laws.

## **Crisis Response**

In 2013, Senator Beall worked to increase California's mental health crisis response capacity. The result for Santa Clara County: \$4.7 million for the development of two community-based Crisis Residential Programs and one Crisis Stabilization Program. The funds will get three new programs off the ground in Central/East San Jose and South County.

## **Veterans**

Senator Beall voted to increase funding for the County Veterans Services Officer program by \$3 million in fiscal year 2014-15 to better connect veterans and their families with the services and benefits they earned. (2014)

## **Libraries**

Senator Beall voted to increase funding by \$5 million to help local libraries. (2014)

## **Investment in Children and Education**

Senator Beall voted to increase school funding for K-12 by \$10 billion, \$250 million more than proposed by the Governor, ensuring children are given the same educational opportunities as the generations that preceded them. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014

## **Preschool**

He successfully co-authored legislation to expand high-quality pre-kindergarten to a projected 234,000 low-income students. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014.

## **Career Pathway Grants**

He supported **AB 86**, providing \$250 million for career tech programs that better prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. AB 86 resulted in over \$6.6 million in Career Pathway Grants for programs in Senate District 15. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014.

These funds are designed to help students stay in school and move toward college and employment in high-demand fields. The Career Pathways Trust is a much-needed investment that will benefit our state's economy well into the future. These grants benefit community college districts, county offices of education, direct-funded charter schools, and school districts.

### **Proposition 39**

Beall successfully worked to secure \$12 million in Proposition 39 funds for school districts in Senate District 15. The funds resulted in energy efficiency-related projects to reduce energy use and utility bills due to obsolete lighting, heating, insulation, ventilation and air conditioning systems. The adopted trailer bill SB 73 includes \$430 million for clean energy projects in K-12 districts. San Jose Unified and East Side Union High were among the highest grantees and were each awarded \$2 million in grants in 2014.

### **Making College Affordable**

Beall supported an agreement to freeze UC and CSU tuition rates until 2016-2017 to combat student debt. Signed into law by the Governor in 2013.

He voted to allocate \$107 million for the Middle Class Scholarship program to lower tuition fees and increase enrollment of students whose families' income totals \$150,000 or less. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014

To close the achievement gap and assist underrepresented students in the California Community College system, Senator Beall supported the allocation of \$170 million to expand the student success programs. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014

### **Supporting the Expansion of Clean Tech and Energy in California**

Beall voted to extend the solar property tax waiver six years beyond its scheduled Jan. 1, 2017, expiration date. The extension allows property owners to continue installing energy-efficient upgrades to their homes without being penalized by higher property taxes. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014

He voted to extend the Self-Generation Incentive Program to provide incentives for California companies and emerging technologies in the clean energy sector. According to the Public Utilities Commission, each \$1 dollar invested in the program generated \$2.50 in private dollars invested in upfront costs. (2014)

### **Preserving California's Businesses**

Beall supported **AB 2389**, legislation to provide property and wage tax credit for new advanced strategic aircraft programs. Companies such as Lockheed Martin say this bill will keep as many as 1,100 high-wage engineering jobs in the state and create more jobs. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014.

He also supported **AB 426**, legislation to preserve a competitive advantage for California's manufacturing, research, development, and agricultural industries in

the global market. The bill exempts the partial sales and use tax for eligible, in-state companies. Signed into law by the Governor in 2014