
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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Supreme Court Upholds States' Rights to Require Voter Photo ID

The United States Supreme Court voted this week to uphold an Indiana state law requiring voters to present a valid photo ID in order to cast their ballot. The ruling clears the way for twenty-four other states with similar laws already on the books to continue requiring some form of photo ID in order to vote. To expand on this win for American citizens, Congressman Miller this week cosponsored legislation to require a warning on voter registration applications explaining that registering to vote as a noncitizen is a deportable offense. The bill would also require notification at polling places that it is against federal law for noncitizens to vote in federal elections. Congressman Miller applauds the Supreme Court's landmark decision and he will continue working with his colleagues in Congress to strengthen the integrity of our electoral process.

Congressman Miller Leads Push to Increase Housing Loan Limits

On Thursday, Congressman Miller delivered a letter to congressional leaders urging a permanent increase in the loan limits for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The letter, which was signed by 44 members of the California congressional delegation and supported by Governor Schwarzenegger, comes as the House Financial Services Committee completed work this week on legislation to address the current housing crisis. Under a measure which was signed into law earlier this year, the loan limit for both programs was temporarily increased to a maximum of \$730,000. That increase, however, is currently set to expire on December 31, 2008. If loan limits are not raised by the end of this year, the GSE conforming loan limit will revert back to \$417,000 and the FHA-insurable limit to \$362,000, far too low to be effective for California homebuyers. Congressman Miller believes that permanently increasing loan limits would go a long way toward turning the housing market around and providing Californians access to safe, affordable mortgages. He is delighted that nearly the entire California congressional delegation has unified behind this commonsense solution.

Congress Approves High-Speed Train Funding

On Wednesday, Congressman Miller secured \$45 million in funding to build a 269-mile MAGLEV corridor from Anaheim to Las Vegas. MAGLEV, short for magnetic levitation, is a high-speed transportation system that uses electromagnetic force to propel railcars at speeds of up to 300 miles-an-hour. The high-speed railway will start in Anaheim, stop briefly at Ontario International Airport, and continue on to Las Vegas in only 86 minutes. This funding, which now heads to the President for his signature, will provide the initial federal investment needed to begin the MAGLEV project. As the project moves forward, Congressman Miller will continue making it a top priority to improve transportation and reduce congestion throughout Southern California.

U.S. Naval Academy Hosting Tour of Warship U.S.S. Sampson

Local information officers for the United States Naval Academy are offering high school students interested in attending the Academy a chance to tour the naval warship U.S.S. Sampson. Students participating in the event, which will take place at the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach, will see an active warship up close and observe first-hand the latest in military technology. This is a great opportunity to find out about the United States Naval Academy and see directly what Naval Academy graduates do. The tour will be held Wednesday, May 14 from 3:30 to 6:00 P.M. Please note this event is only open to students. Those interested in attending or learning more about the United States military academies should contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142.