

California State Senator Joel Anderson 38th Senate District



Summary

Campaign Biography

After four years of service in the State Assembly and four years of service in the State Senate, in 2014 Senator Anderson was re-elected to represent San Diego county for a second term in the Senate.

When first elected to the Assembly, he promised his constituents, "I am not going to Sacramento to be a potted plant." True to his word, Senator Anderson authored a landmark piece of legislation in his first year.

Assembly Bill 221 required the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System to divest from companies that violated federal law by doing business in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This legislation called for the divestment of over \$24 billion of our public pensions from the Islamic Republic of Iran - the top exporter of terrorism throughout the world.

The bill sparked a national movement which led 28 other states and the United States Congress to introduce similar laws. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced to the world that he would sign AB 221 on the floor of the United Nations during his speech to the General Assembly.

AB 221 garnered national and international media coverage in over 300 articles in 13 countries. Media coverage included Time Magazine, New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Fox News' "Your World with Neil Cavuto," BBC, Bloomberg, The National Review, Le Monde (France), and The Jerusalem Post (Israel).

To keep our roads safe, Senator Anderson authored legislation that same year to make San Diego's Regional Transportation Management Center a 24/7 operation.

In recognition of the sacrifices made by the men and women of our military in protecting our freedoms, Senator Anderson passed Assembly Bill 257 into law, which granted free state park passes to disabled veterans and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Senator Anderson was also recognized with the 2007 "San Diego Psychiatric Society Legislative Award" for his "interest in, sensitivity to, and knowledge of mental health issues."

Senator Anderson's success in 2007 led national talk radio host, Roger Hedgecock, to call him, "the greatest freshman Assemblyman from San Diego ever."

In 2008, Senator Anderson joined forces with the state's sheriffs and district attorneys to curb the rampant crime of metal theft. For his dedication, these groups named Senator Anderson their "Legislator of the Year."

His efforts on a wide array of issues were recognized by groups who identified Senator Anderson as a champion for their cause. For his efforts to protect the Second Amendment, Senator Anderson was named the "2008 California Rifle & Pistol Association Legislator of the Year." He also fought hard to keep public land open for public use during his first term which earned him the "2008 California League of Off-Road Voters Legislator of the Year Award."

As one of their most successful alums in recent memory, Senator Anderson was awarded the "2008 Young Republican Federation of California's Legislator of the Year Award" for his tremendous record of success during his first term in the Legislature.

In 2009, Senator Anderson focused on fixing the state's economy and bringing jobs back to our great state. Many California businesses began leaving as the state started issuing IOUs. Senator Anderson responded by authoring Assembly Bill 1506, which was designed to protect taxpayers from the state's "forced-borrowing" by requiring the state to accept its own IOUs for payment of state taxes and fees.

AB 1506 had 74 bi-partisan co-authors and received over 3,000 letters of support from taxpayers, labor unions, small businesses, and elected officials, including State Controller John Chiang.

Senator Anderson's efforts to protect small businesses and taxpayers earned him the "2009 Lakeside Chamber of Commerce Legislator of the Year Award" and the "2009 Pacific Water Quality Association's Legislator of the Year Award."

In recognition of his efforts on behalf of veterans and their families, the California Branch of the American Legion named Senator Anderson as their "Legislator of the Year" in 2010.

After being sworn in as the State Senator from California's thirty-sixth Senate District, representing over 1,000,000 constituents, Senator Anderson affirmed his commitment to make government work for those he represents. In 2011, for his efforts to protect small businesses during the great recession, Senator Anderson was named the "California State Senate Legislator of the Year" by the California Small Business Association and California Small Business Roundtable.

In 2012, as Vice-Chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee, Senator Anderson continued his work to protect crime victims by authoring Senate Bill 1371, which passed both the Senate and Assembly unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Brown. SB 1371 closed a loophole in existing law that allowed convicted criminals to avoid restitution to the victims of their crimes.

Anderson was recognized by American Veterans (AMVETS) with their Legislator of the Year award for his work toward improving veterans' lives in California.

In the following year, Senator Anderson passed another important measure that preserved California's commitment to the brave men and women who have served our country. Senate Bill 725 ensured that veterans organizations would not unfairly lose their right to return to halls and buildings dedicated for their use when temporarily displaced for repairs and renovations.

Senator Anderson received the Thomas Paine award from the San Diego Republican Liberty Caucus in 2014 for his efforts to expel three senators indicted or convicted of felonies, including perjury, gun running, and bribery. He strongly opposed changes to the constitution that would ultimately perpetuate the culture of corruption, deny Californians their voice in the Capitol, and stifle minority viewpoints.

When the news of terrible violence and persecution perpetrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) against Iraqi religious minorities broke in 2014, Senator Anderson quickly introduced Senate Joint Resolution 17. The measure urged President Barack Obama's administration to expedite visa processing for Iraq's minority groups and lift the refugee quota cap for Iraqi-Christians in order to streamline the process of accepting them into the United States as refugees.

That same year he was a joint author with Senator Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles) on the successful Senate Bill 828, which used the Tenth Amendment to enforce the Fourth amendment, and protected the privacy of law-abiding Californians by prohibiting the state from providing electronically stored information or metadata to the Federal Government without due process.

In 2014, Senator Anderson was re-elected to the California State Senate, representing Senate district thirty-eight.

WIRED magazine called the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (SB 178), which he joint-authored with Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), "the Nation's best digital privacy law." SB 178 was signed by Governor Brown in 2015. Prior to its passage, a person's cell phone meta

data, location information, text messages, e-mails and phone calls could be accessed without a warrant.

For Anderson's strong defense of internet and digital privacy and his efforts on Assembly Bill 691 (The Privacy Expectation Afterlife and Choices Act) with Assemblyman Ian Calderon (D-Whittier), Anderson made NetChoice's iAwesome list in 2015. The PEAC Act sought to protect the internet and digital privacy rights of California citizens after death in order to ensure that estate managers and other parties do not gain access to information that they were not explicitly given access to by the deceased.

Steve DelBianco, Executive Director of NetChoice, stated, "Senator Anderson was the first California lawmaker to take a stand for protecting the privacy of our online accounts after we die. It's yet another example of Senator Anderson's legacy of leadership on high-tech policy issues."

Three more prestigious veterans' advocacy groups recognized Anderson in 2015 for his unwavering dedication to those who have fought to protect our freedoms. The California State Commanders Veterans Council, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California, and the Vietnam Veterans of America – California State Council and the all bestowed upon him their "Legislator of the Year" awards.

Never straying from the principles he was elected to uphold, a Sacramento Bee study identified Senator Anderson as the third most independent legislator based on his voting record, and he earned 100% ratings from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and the California Taxpayers' Association.

In 2016, Senator Anderson hosted 9th annual Legislative Open House where over 4,000 attended to share their ideas to improve state government. [Official Campaign Biography, [4/2/2018](#)]

ALEC membership/ties

- Signed ALEC Letter March 2010 against the Clean Air Act
- Signed ALEC letter in 2013 to Senator Dick Durbin re: Durbin's request to identify ALEC's funders
- Received \$776 for airfare, accommodations, transportation, and meals from ALEC after attending a summit in 2014
- Signed ALEC letter in September 2014 to Google about CEO Eric Schmidt's comments about ALEC's position on climate change
- ALEC Board of Directors Member as of 2018
- ALEC California State Chair, 2018
- ALEC legislator of the week, 4/23/18
- Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC Letter 2018

Legislator of the Week

Legislator of the Week: California State Senator Joel Anderson

This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce California State Senator Joel Anderson. Senator Anderson spent 4 years of service in the State Assembly and 4 years of service in the State Senate. In 2014, he was re-elected to represent San Diego County for the second term in the Senate. From the start, Senator Anderson has worked hard for the people of San Diego. He has received “Legislator of the Year” awards from numerous organizations over several years. He is recognized for his work with Veterans and their families, and protecting small businesses and taxpayers. While Senator Anderson’s accomplishments are many, the most important role in his life is being a husband to his wife Kate of 28 years, and a father to their three children – Mary, Maura and Michael.

Why did you run for office?

As a business owner, I was frustrated by the State’s hostility towards hard-working people trying to raise their station in life. By becoming business owners, these people are the economic engine of our economy. I spent years volunteering on campaigns and doing grassroots organizing around issues that I was passionate about, and I got tired of being let down by politicians who got elected and then chose to do nothing. The legislature provides the opportunity to make my community a better place, and it’s been an incredible honor to represent my constituents for the past 11 years.

In your view, what is the biggest issue facing your state?

I represent nearly 1 million people, so one way that I try to make myself available to them is to hold about six to eight town halls in different communities across my district every year. At every one, I always tell the crowd what a shame it is that people spend more time researching their next car than their next president. What no foreign power has tried to take from us by force, millions give away for free by not exercising their right to vote. People need to be engaged, they need to get their friends and family engaged and they need to start holding their representatives accountable at the ballot box. Until they do, nothing is going to change in California.

If you could “wave your magic wand,” what would you like to see immediately implemented in your state?

I would like to see more transparency, especially during the elections. Most of what is voted on in Sacramento stays in a vacuum. Sadly, the press rarely asks the obvious question that most people are interested in asking.

What project or law are you most proud of?

Over my twelve years in the legislature, there have been many meaningful endeavors that I’ve been involved with of which I am very proud. To be effective in California’s legislature, one has to find areas of common ground with members from across the aisle, and I’m proud to have authored or co-authored 434 bills that have become law.

When I was a freshman assemblyman in 2007, I was put on one of the worst committees for Republicans – the Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security committee. But as I dug in to learn about our state pension system I was shocked to learn that public money was invested with firms violating U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I introduced Assembly Bill 221 which required the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System to divest over \$24 billion of our public pensions from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced to the world that he would sign AB 221 on the floor of the United Nations during his speech to the General Assembly.

That was an incredible experience to work across the aisle to pass legislation essential to our values and to catapult California in front of an international issue that led dozens of other states to follow suit.

Do you serve on any committees, if so which committees and why? How do you think that you have impacted them?

I've served as vice chair of the Senate Public Safety committee since 2011, and it has been a tremendous learning opportunity for me. While we don't always agree and often are on quite opposite sides of an issue, over the years I have partnered with the democrat chairs of the committee on important criminal justice reform where our values align.

For example, the previous chair and I jointly authored a bill to provide accountability with the use of solitary confinement in our prisons and to allow prisoners in solitary to take advantage of rehabilitation programs.

This year, the current chair and I are partnering on legislation to compensate the wrongfully convicted and to reform current accomplice liability law to align with their actual culpability. I hope my overall impact in the committee during my tenure was to be a strong advocate for our law enforcement community, a hawk over our constitutional protections, and demonstrate how conservatives can work across the aisle on policies that rehabilitate offenders and set them up for success after their release.

How has ALEC helped you as a legislator?

Serving as California's public sector chair and on the board has enabled me to build relationships with policy leaders across the country, provided valuable opportunities to learn from experts on the critical issues facing not only my state but every state in the country, and exposed me to best practice in other states.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that's not in your official bio?

My family nick name is "Fry King." If you can grow it, I can fry it!

[Legislator of the Week, [4/23/2018](#)]

Other Hits

An investigation by the California State Senate concluded that it was probable that Sen. Joel Anderson "twice threatened to 'bitch slap' a California Nurses Association lobbyist after having drinks at a Sacramento restaurant." Several different witnesses confirmed that Anderson threatened a female

customer at a bar hosting a fundraiser near the state capitol. An outside law firm hired to investigate found that, prior to issuing verbal threats against her, Anderson had several drinks and rubbed the complainant's shoulders "for about 10 seconds in a manner that was not invited and likely not welcome." In a written statement, Sen. Anderson described the assault as a "misunderstanding" [San Diego Union Tribune, [9.29.18](#); NBC San Diego, [9.25.18](#); NBC San Diego, [9.21.18](#)].

State Sen. Joel Anderson called on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to join the federal lawsuit against California's "sanctuary" policies protecting undocumented immigrants. Under current California law, federal officials must take an additional step and provide a judicial warrant in any place of business. That provision is intended to prevent unnecessary – and potentially discriminatory – reviews of employees' work authorization in light of the federal government's crackdown. "This provision is especially timely given Donald Trump's rollback of the DACA program and the likelihood that many employers may unnecessarily start to audit I-9's," Senator David Chiu said, before an Assembly vote in September [Voice of San Diego, [4/16/2018](#); AB 450, Approved by Governor, [10/05/17](#)].

State Sen. Joel Anderson signed a letter delivered to the Senate Judiciary Committee insisting that "Judge Brett Kavanaugh is the single most qualified person in the country to serve on the Supreme Court." This letter was crafted in partnership with the American Legislative Exchange Council. During his nomination hearing, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump's second nominee to the Supreme Court, lied under oath and made plain his political partisanship. Kavanaugh repeatedly contradicted himself and obfuscated direct questioning from Democratic senators during his hearings with the Judiciary Committee. Kavanaugh claimed that allegations of sexual assault lobbed against him amounted to little more than a "political hit made on behalf of the Clintons." With blustering indignation, he levied a threat against Democratic senators during his testimony, warning, "What goes around, comes around." But even before revelations of sexual misconduct surfaced around Kavanaugh, civil rights activists stood in staunch opposition to him. The testimonies of Judge Kavanaugh and his accuser Dr. Christine Blasey Ford have exposed a cultural failure to understand and empathize with the experiences of sexual assault survivors, while Kavanaugh's entire judicial record displays apathy to the liberty and security of women, the LGBTQ community, the disabled community, and people of color generally [Daily Intelligencer, [10.3.2018](#); The Washington Post, [10.2.2018](#); U.S. Senate Judiciary, [8.24.18](#)].