



CARA Alert – April 5, 2018

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

SUPPORT AB 3200/ INCREASE SSI GRANTS BY \$100 Tuesday, April 10th at 1:30 in Sacramento

AB 3200 (Kalra/Reyes/Thurmond) will be heard on Tuesday, April 10th at 1:30 in the Assembly Human Services Committee in Sacramento. We need a big showing to support this bill and increase base grants for SSI recipients by \$100 per month. Currently, SSI beneficiaries make less than the national poverty level! Imagine trying to pay for housing, health care, food, transportation in California making less than \$800 per month. We must change this. AB 3200 would bring SSI to the poverty level and give each recipient an additional \$100 per month. If you cannot attend the hearing, call your State Assemblymember and urge them to vote YES on AB 3200.

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE FORUMS AND OTHER TOWN HALLS IN APRIL FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU!

CARA is hosting events all around the State to engage seniors on key issues in order to impact the 2018 elections. CARA is targeting several Congressional Districts where we plan to hold Candidate Forums so that senior voters can learn where the candidates stand on issues like protecting, improving and expanding Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. In other areas, we are having state and local candidate events. Other locations are sponsoring educational forums on issues like Single Payer, Medicare and Medicaid, and Social Security.

Below is a list of events around the State. Please look for the event in your area, and plan to attend. We urge you to forward this information to your organizational members, friends, family, and neighbors – everyone you know. The June 5th primary is coming up sooner than you think, and we hope to provide information to help everyone be an informed voter. If you want more information about any of these events, please call the CARA office and we can send you an individual flyer for each of the events. Our toll-free number is 877-223-6107. Here is the list of events.

Congressional Candidate Forums in 5 Target Districts Medicare/Medicaid and Social Security

Congressional District and Incumbent	City	Date	Location
CD 4 (McClintock)	Roseville	Wednesday, April 11 1pm-4pm	Maidu Community Center 1550 Maidu Dr., Roseville
CD 10 (Denham)	Salida/Modesto	Monday, April 16 11am – 1pm	Salida Library 4835 Sisk Rd, Salida
CD 21/22 (Valadao/Nunes)	Hanford	Tuesday, April 24 1pm – 3pm	Hanford Fraternal Hall 1015 N. 10 th Ave, Hanford
CD 48 (Rohrbacher)	Costa Mesa	Wednesday, April 25 9:30am- 12pm	Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church 2845 Mesa Verde Dr. E, Costa Mesa
CD 49 (Issa)	Vista	Saturday, April 14 1pm – 3pm	Vista Library 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista

Issue / Senior Vote Forums Around the State

City	Topic for Forum	Date of Event	Location
Redding/5 Counties	CD1 Congressional Candidate Forum	Sunday, April 29 1pm-4pm	Redding Senior Center 2290 Benton Rd., Redding
Richmond	Medicare/Social Security	Tuesday, April 17 9:30am – 12pm	Richmond Auditorium 403 Civic Center Dr., Richmond
San Francisco	SF Mayoral Candidate Forum	Thursday, April 12 1-4pm	Unitarian Universalist Church 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco
San Jose	Senior Forum with elected reps	Saturday, April 21 9:30am- 2pm (lunch \$20)	SEIU 521 2302 Zanker Rd., San Jose
San Leandro	Medicare/Social Security	Tuesday, April 10 10am - 12pm	Deaf Community Center 1550 San Leandro Blvd. San Leandro

CARA Statewide In-District Senior Lobby Day – June 8, 2018

CARA is planning to hold our annual lobby day in each of the State Assembly and Senate Districts on June 8th. We hope to have 120 district meetings all on the same day, in each legislator's district office. CARA members/constituents will meet with their elected officials to talk about CARA's key priority bills. If you would like to join other CARA members in your area and meet with your CA Assemblymember or Senator, let us know. We will plug you in. Call CARA at 877-223-6107 (toll free). We are planning to hold a tele-training with all CARA volunteers to go over the bills that we will be discussing and prepare you for these meetings. Please sign up for a meeting with your state legislator today!



Take Action to Take Back our Country in 2018

Become a Senior Ambassador!

- **The 2018 elections could decide the future of programs that seniors depend upon** – especially Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The current national leadership has made cuts and privatization of these programs a top priority – in fact they have already started making these cuts with more to come. Unfortunately, several of our California Congressmembers have voted to support these plans. We must let them know that seniors and our families, regardless of party preference, will not vote for someone who votes to support these devastating cuts to these essential, popular American programs.
- **CARA's Seniors Vote 2018 is targeting 5 Congressional races** where the incumbents continue to vote to dismantle our social insurance programs – programs that we paid for. We know that seniors could be the deciding votes in these districts (seniors comprise almost 50% of the regular voters in these districts in mid-term elections). Many of these senior voters are isolated, and don't get a lot of information besides what they see on television, hear on the radio, or read in their mail. They vote for incumbents because they recognize their name, have voted for them before, or hear and see their name on advertisements, etc. Many of these voters do not even know that the people they elected are voting to cut the programs that they love and need.
- **CARA's Seniors Vote 2018 will recruit seniors throughout California to "adopt a list" of 20 seniors in one of these key Congressional districts** to call on a regular basis (3-5 times over the year). They will provide important information to help

these voters make more informed decisions using candidate answers to questionnaires, scorecards, etc. CARA will not endorse a candidate, but our callers will help provide information so that these seniors can make more informed decisions.

- **Please sign up today to be a Senior Phone Ambassador.** We can take back our country and elect representatives who represent the interests of seniors and our families if we all join the CARA Senior Vote Project. Fill out our Seniors Vote 2018 – Take Action Card today. **You can click [here](#) to download the form** or call the CARA office if you want to sign up or need more information at 877-223-6107 (toll free).

CARA VOTES TO ENDORSE THE SCHOOLS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUNDING ACT

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services.

We can no longer afford to keep giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires and big corporations. Closing California's commercial property tax loophole restores \$11 billion per year for schools, community colleges and other vital community services, including emergency responder services, senior services, parks, libraries, health clinics, trauma centers, affordable housing, homeless services, and roads.

CARA voted to make this essential reform a priority issue at our last convention. We are helping to collect signatures NOW to qualify this measure for the November 2020 ballot– 900,000 are needed by the end of June 2018 so we can be at the top of the ballot in November 2020 (we had originally hoped to put this on the ballot in Nov 2018 but the campaign decided that 2020 is a better year due to better turn out, and it gives us more time to educate voters and raise money to fight the over \$100 million that has been raised by the opposition).

We need to collect 1000's of signatures. If you want to help CARA collect signatures in your County, please let us know by calling us at 877-223-6017 and we will send you petitions to get you started. If you have petitions that you want to turn in, please make sure you have filled out the circulator information at the bottom of your petition, and then mail them to the CARA office at 600 Grand Ave., #410, Oakland, CA 94610. You can get more information about this ballot measure by going to <https://schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org>.

**SUPPORT SB 562 – THE HEALTHY CA ACT MAY DAY RALLY
TUESDAY, MAY 1ST, 2018 IN SACRAMENTO
SAVE the DATE**

The Campaign to pass SB 562 (the Healthy CA Act) is going full speed ahead. Our goal is to get the State Assembly to assign the bill to a committee so that we can continue working to improve the bill and get it passed before the end of this legislative session. On tax day, April 17th, there will be dozens of actions around the state – go to www.healthycaliforniaact.org to find an event near you. Then, on Tuesday, May 1st there will be a big rally in Sacramento to celebrate International Worker's Day and the goal to make sure every worker and resident of California has access to quality, affordable health care. More information on buses and activities coming soon.

You can contact CARA at:

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