

CONGRESSMAN

Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Friends,

On January 3, 2019, [I was sworn in](#) to serve as the United States Representative for the 20th Congressional District in California during the 116th Congress. I am honored and humbled to serve a second congressional term as the federal representative for the central coast of California. As proven throughout my first term in Congress, I will continue to serve the people of our home and fight for our Central Coast values.



Welcoming constituents to my new Washington, D.C. office with family shortly after my swearing-in.

Serving You on the Central Coast

As your U.S. Representative, I will continue to be your sturdy bridge to the federal government. My staff and I will continue to assist you with any issues concerning federal

matters including Social Security, Medicare, federal employee retirement, immigration services, passports, veterans services, and military records searches. You can go to panetta.house.gov for further information, or for immediate assistance, please **stop by or call** any of my congressional offices.

Salinas Office

100 West Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 424-2229

Santa Cruz Office

701 Ocean Street
Room 318C
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 429-1976

Washington, D.C. Office

NEW: 212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2861

Fighting for You in Congress

The 116th Congress is willing and ready to address and work on important issues that impact the Central Coast including reopening the entire government, securing elections, protecting voting rights, protecting our agriculture and military installations, ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare, passing immigration reform, reducing gun violence, investigating corruption, serving our veterans, promoting equality, and curtailing the causes and effects of climate change.

Reopening Government

As a member of the 116th Congress, I am committed to our constitutional responsibility to govern, and that includes ensuring that our government is properly funded and open. On our first day, the House passed two bills to reopen government services, ensure workers get the paychecks they have earned, and restore certainty to the American people. The first bill would reopen all government agencies except for the Department of Homeland Security, with the bipartisan funding levels and language that have advanced in the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. The second bill would provide a continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security's funding through February 8th, the same length of time of the bill that unanimously passed the Senate in December, so that we can properly negotiate border security.

Securing Elections and Protecting Voting Rights

Our first major legislative priority in the new Congress, H.R. 1, will restore our democracy, strengthen the electorate, and expose fraud and deceit. H.R. 1 implements automatic voter registration, requires early voting, bolsters U.S. servicemember absentee voting, and implements redistricting reforms. The legislation establishes election

cybersecurity protocols, designates election infrastructure as critical, and requires a national strategy for protecting U.S. democratic institutions and countering threats. H.R. 1 also promotes campaign transparency, prohibits foreign political spending, increases transparency on dark money contributions, and enhances campaign finance rules. It also increases ethical standards, requires conflict of interest reports from the White House and Congress, mandates Executive Branch ethics waivers be made public, and requires the release of Presidential tax returns.



Standing with my colleagues as we introduce H.R. 1, The For the People Act of 2019, to enact pro-democracy reforms and restore openness and transparency in Washington.

Protecting Agriculture

One of my proudest achievements during my first term was passing the 2018 Farm Bill. This legislation fulfills a promise to support our farmers, rural communities, and neighbors. I helped craft a Farm Bill that promotes our specialty crop and organic sectors, expands opportunities for beginning farmers, invests in agricultural research, and increases access to nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables. Key nutritional and research programs are also supported in the bill. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which benefits more than 74,000 recipients on the Central Coast, is properly resourced and strengthened. The Specialty Crop Research Initiative and the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative receive historically strong investments. Moreover, funding for our beginning farmers and ranchers, trade promotion programs, and rural broadband initiatives is substantially increased. Finally, the bill rejected harmful provisions that would limit California laws guaranteeing humane conditions for livestock and poultry and extends protections to pets and service animals. During the 116th Congress, I will continue to protect our agriculture and consumer needs, and make sure that the Farm Bill is properly implemented and funded.

Protecting our Installations

The central coast of California is home to more than a dozen military installations that teach foreign languages to our armed forces, research and develop technologies used on and off the battlefield, and educate and foster leadership skills of our men and women in uniform. As a former intelligence officer who served in Afghanistan, I experienced and understand how important those skills and qualities are to bolstering our national security.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I successfully incorporated provisions to the National Defense Authorization Act to fund professional military education, enhance the language and cultural skills of our troops and military leaders, expand innovation and entrepreneurial education, and strengthen military readiness. As your Member of Congress, I remain committed to maintaining the military installations on the Central Coast, promoting their educational training and technological innovation, and protecting their nearly 15,000 good paying jobs that impact the economy of our communities and the safety of our country.

Ensuring Affordable and Accessible HealthCare

Congress must seriously consider changes that retain the essential protections for people with preexisting conditions and critical consumer protections while encouraging more competition in local health care markets. As a member of the Medicare for All Caucus, I will work with my colleagues in Congress, local experts, and constituents to gather evidence for ways to improve access to healthcare and lower healthcare costs.

Passing Immigration Reform

As the grandson of immigrants, I support and am working to achieve comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform. In the 116th Congress, I will continue to support reform that provides certainty to our Dreamers, farmworkers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients, their families as well as reasonable and financially feasible border security. I will advocate for an accurate 2020 Census that properly counts all individuals residing in the United States, regardless of immigration status. I will also re-introduce the Keep Families Together Act to promote family unity by prohibiting Department of Homeland Security officials from separating children from their parents at the border, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Reducing Gun Violence

As your member of Congress, a veteran, a former prosecutor and an owner of firearms, I support responsible public safety protections and individual Second Amendment constitutional rights. Crime prevention and responsible gun ownership can be bolstered by Universal Background checks. I will continue to support and advocate for policies that help to curb the crisis of gun violence.

Investigating Corruption

Part of the oath of office is to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” Last term, I cosponsored bills to investigate Russia’s involvement in our elections and support the special counsel, and voted for

resolutions that promoted transparency for the president's tax returns. I introduced, and will reintroduce this term, the Special Counsel Security Assurance Act to limit interference with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. I also will support Congressional efforts to fulfill our constitutional duty of checks and balances in our system of government.

Serving Those Who Served Us

As a veteran, and as your representative in the United States Congress, I am committed to ensuring that veterans, servicemembers, and all constituents of California's 20th Congressional District have access to the critical services provided by the federal government. I am working hard to serve those who served us by completing casework for veterans and active-duty military members on the Central Coast and advocating and supporting our veterans, active-duty military members, and their families with bipartisan legislation. This term, I will continue to support policy and introduce legislation that improves veterans access to healthcare, higher education, and employment opportunities.

Promoting Equality

As a proud member of the bipartisan Congressional LGBTQ Equality Caucus, I advocate for equality, social justice, improved access to health care, and policies and programs to support healthy families. I will continue to advocate for the passage of the Equality Act, which I am a proud cosponsor, to prohibit discrimination against the LGBTQ community in employment, housing, access to public places, federal funding, credit, education, and jury service.

Preserving Our Environment and Combatting Climate Change

I believe that climate change poses an immediate threat to our environment, economy, and national security. I remain dedicated to reducing our carbon emissions, combatting sea level rise and ocean acidification, fighting for cleaner air and water, and protecting our coastlines and waterways. I support the Select Committee on Climate Change, and I support the climate change provisions of the Green New Deal. It is incumbent that Congress utilize a variety of tools, strategies, and initiatives to address climate change, protect our natural resources, and support the health of the American people. I look forward to working together, with all of my colleagues, to find sustainable, economically feasible ways forward. At the same time, we will continue to be that necessary check on this Administration as they take the opposite approach. I continue to vigilantly push back on the implementation of any Executive Orders to expand offshore drilling and continue to fight against any attempts to reopen California's coast to offshore oil drilling.

Providing Opportunities for the Next Generation on the Central Coast

If you or somebody that you know from the Central Coast would like to intern at one of my offices in either Washington, D.C., Salinas, or Santa Cruz, please call those offices. It is a great opportunity to volunteer and provide service to the people of California's 20th Congressional District.

If you would like to get similar updates in the future, please sign up for newsletters by clicking [here](#). You can also find more information about legislation, votes cast in the U.S. House of Representatives, or the legislative process [here](#).

If you have any questions or issues that I or my staff can help you with, please call or contact my Congressional offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Washington, D.C. or through panetta.house.gov. Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Panetta', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress