

JANUARY 2024

# MONTHLY UPDATE

## ASM. RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR'S NEWSLETTER

### WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Our team is working to find legislative solutions to some of California's biggest challenges in climate change, clean energy, housing and homelessness, health care, gun violence, the teacher shortage, and retail crime.

### TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES

The Select Committee on Retail Theft and its members are working with the Speaker and the Governor's office to explore policy solutions amid the growing retail crime concerns in certain regions of California.



## NEW YEAR, NEW FOCUS

The Legislature has been back in session for less than a month, but our office has been working around the clock to craft a new bill package that best serves California and the constituents of District 51. This year, I am chairing the Select Committee on Retail Theft, formed by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas to explore policy solutions to the traumatic smash-and-grabs and retail theft impacting our retailers, workers, and neighborhoods. Our office has been working closely with the Speaker's Office and the Governor's Office on legislation that will hold professional criminals accountable and target organized crime theft rings.

[Click here to see what the Select Committee on Retail Theft is working on.](#)

I am proud that Speaker Rivas also appointed me as Chair of the Democratic Caucus of the Assembly. In that role I work with my fellow Democratic colleagues and the Assembly Speaker to help establish priorities for our Caucus that will improve the lives of all Californians. Of course, I also continue to focus on my own priorities, which include creating affordable housing and tackling homelessness, clean energy and climate change, LGBTQ+ civil rights and fighting antisemitism. Expect an update on my bill package in the February Newsletter.

Stay Connected



<https://a51.asmdc.org/>

## CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES RETAIL CRIME PRESS CONFERENCE

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I had the opportunity to speak at a press conference hosted by the California Contract Cities Association on the West Steps of the Capitol on January 9, 2023, about organized retail theft. I am grateful for the partnership and engagement of so many city leaders who are working on the front lines to address retail theft in their own communities. City leaders and legislators in attendance included CCCA Chair and Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold, as well as West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson and West Hollywood Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers, both city officials in our district.



Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur speaks to press about the Select Committee's work to combat retail crime.



Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur with Beverly Hills Mayor Dr. Julian Gold.



Legislators and California city leaders at the West Steps of the California State Capitol.

## THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RETAIL THEFT HOLDS ITS FIRST HEARING

I am pleased to announce that the Select Committee on Retail Theft held its first hearing on December 19, 2023, in Sacramento. The goal of the committee is to take a deep dive into the causes of the growing crisis of retail theft and present a package of reforms that will tackle this problem effectively using data-driven support.

At the hearing, the committee discussed relevant laws and data and heard perspectives from retailers and workers, as well as law enforcement and criminal justice reform advocates. I was incredibly grateful to Speaker Robert Rivas for joining the hearing. We are hoping to hold at least one more hearing in Los Angeles, and my office is working with the new Public Safety Committee Chair, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, to hopefully hold a joint hearing between our respective committees. The Select Committee on Retail Theft is working on a robust bill package to present to Speaker Rivas and the Assembly.



Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur, Chair of the Select Committee on Retail Theft, addresses Assemblymembers, advocates, and press.



Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur with Select Committee on Retail Theft members; Asm. Blanca Pacheco, Asm. Kevin McCarty, Asm. Pilar Schiavo and Asm. Cottie Petrie-Norris.



Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas joins the Select Committee hearing to address retailers about concerns.

## 2023 CHILDREN'S HERO AWARD

It was an honor to receive the 2023 Children's Hero Award from the California Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry (CALACAP), a state-wide umbrella organization whose mission is to advocate for the mental health of California's children, adolescents, and families in California public policy. Protecting kids physically and mentally - including foster youth and LGBTQ+ kids, who have a higher risk of depression, suicidal ideation, and who are more likely to become homeless - is a top priority for me.



Asm. Zbur speaks to the CALACAP about his work to protect foster youth and LGBTQ+ and all children.



Asm. Zbur with CALACAP members on its Winter Advocacy Day.



Asm. Zbur with Asm. Jacqui Irwin and CALACAP members.

## CAL STATE GOES ON STRIKE

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I was proud to show my support for the California Faculty Association and striking members of Cal State LA on December 6, 2024. The CFA is a union that represents faculty, coaches, librarians, and psychological counselors. I was joined by Asm. Isaac Bryan, Asm. Mike Fong, and other local leaders.



Asm. Zbur addresses a crowd of CFA members striking for a fair contract.



Asm. Zbur with Asm. Issac Bryan, Asm. Mike Fong, and others.

## BEVERLY HILLS MENORAH LIGHTING

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I attended a beautiful Menorah Lighting at the Beverly Gardens Park Lily Pond on December 7, 2023. At a time when anti-Semitic hate crimes and attacks targeting the Jewish community have skyrocketed, it is imperative that we as elected leaders reaffirm our commitment to ensuring a safe and respectful environment for every member of our community. I was moved by the menorah lighting in Beverly Hills and commended Beverly Hills Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and members of the City Council for their dedication to ensuring Beverly Hills is a safe place for the Jewish community.



The Beverly Hills Park glows blue at the Menorah Lighting.



Beverly Hills Mayor Dr. Julian Gold speaks as fellow council members look toward the crowd.

**BEVERLY HILLS MENORAH LIGHTING**

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Asm. Zbur with Beverly Hills Vice Mayor and Councilmember Lester Friedman

## SUPPER WITH SANTA AT THE EBELL OF LOS ANGELES

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The 100-year-old Ebell of Los Angeles resumed its holiday tradition of “Supper with Santa” for the first time since the Pandemic began. I joined Ebell President Laurie Schechter and co-chairs Julie Stromberg and Daphne Brogdon Peel for a delicious dinner of short ribs and gnocchi on December 8, 2023. I also got to meet some pretty amazing kids who crafted ornaments, played with balloons, and told Santa what they wanted for Christmas.



Attendees at The Ebell included (left to right) Monica Gamboa, Daphne Brogdon Peel, Ebell President Laurie Schechter, Georgette Gamboa, Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur, Amara Lowry and John Lowry.



## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARDS

I have had the honor of receiving an “A” grade on scorecards from multiple organizations. Scorecards track legislators' voting records to let the public know where we stand on big issues that matter to our constituents.

### Courage California Score

**ALL STAR**

**Rick Chavez Zbur**  
State Assembly  
Democratic Caucus Chair

**A+**

DISTRICT	PARTY	SCORE
AD-51	Democrat	100

Map showing District AD-51 covering Santa Monica, Glendale, and Los Angeles.

### Health Access California

**HA HEALTH ACCESS CALIFORNIA**

**2023 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD**

**I Stand 100%**  
with CA Health Care Consumers

**RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR**  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR, DISTRICT 51

### Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA

**100%**  
PPAC Legislative Scorecard 2023

**RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR**  
Assemblymember, AD51

Thank you for protecting and expanding reproductive health care and abortion access in California.

**Planned Parenthood**  
Adv. No matter what.  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

### Sierra Club California

**SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA**

**2023 Report Card**  
**100%ers**

A. Lee (D-24) K. McCarty (D-06) T. McKinnor (D-61) A. Muratsuchi (D-66) L. Ortega (D-20) A. Rendon (D-62)

E. Reyes (D-50) R. Rivas (D-29) M. Santiago (D-54) C. Ward (D-78) J. Wood (D-02) R. Zbur (D-51)

Thank you to all of the Assemblymembers who voted with the environment 100% of the time this year!

## GET INVOLVED WITH AN INTERNSHIP



DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR  
**RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, DISTRICT 51

### ***2024 Assembly Internship Opportunity***

***Want to get involved and make an impact in your community? Join our Internship Team! Students and recent graduates are encouraged to apply.***



The Office of California State Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur seeks bright, self-motivated, energetic individuals with a passion for public service. Our goal is to support the next generation of public servants and community leaders eager to learn more about state government and the dynamics of working in a legislative district office.

#### **Desired Qualifications:**

- Applicants must be able to work 12 hours per week minimum. Office hours are M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. with some optional events during the evening and weekends.
- Must have an interest in public policy, community organizing, political science, economics, English, communications, public relations or a similar area of study or career path.

#### **Benefits:**

- Interns work directly with elected officials, community leaders and local residents on issues and events related to the 51st Assembly District.
- Interns may also qualify for internship credit from their university or school, as well as a letter of recommendation from the Assemblymember upon completion of the internship program.

Applicants who have questions may contact Joshua Marin-Mora at (323) 436-5183 or via an email to [Joshua.MarinM@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Joshua.MarinM@asm.ca.gov).



**APPLY ONLINE:**  
[a51.asmdc.org/district-office-internship](https://a51.asmdc.org/district-office-internship)

#### **CAPITOL OFFICE:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0051  
Tel: (916) 319-2051  
Fax: (916) 319-2151

#### **DISTRICT OFFICE:**

1445 North Stanley Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
Tel: (323) 436-5184  
Fax: (323) 436-5189

#### **ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:**

[asm.ca.gov](https://asm.ca.gov)

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

@AsmRickZbur

## MEET THE TEAM

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I am pleased to report that my former Chief of Staff, Bob Hartnagel, was brought onto the team for the new Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, and I was delighted to promote our Legislative Director, Tami Martin, to Chief of Staff. Tami Martin, who is a lawyer, served as my Legislative Director since I was sworn in on December 5, 2022. Prior to joining my team, she had a distinguished career advocating for policy relating to civil rights and social justice at Equality California, where she worked for six and a half years, most recently as Legislative Director, and previously served as Vice President of the Capitol LGBTQ Association.

This year, as well as celebrating the move to new offices (both in the Capitol and in the district), we are welcoming two new staff members in our Capitol Office. Salina Valencia, our new Legislative Director, and Sebastian Aguilar Tinajero, our new Legislative Assistant. Salina comes to us from CAL OES, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, where she served as its director of legislation and communications. Sebastian Aguilar Tinajero previously served as a Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellow in the California State Assembly Transportation Committee. Our team welcomes them both!

## FOR BILL IDEAS

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While we're currently narrowing down our bill package, if you have a great idea for a bill or change to current policy, we want to know. Reach out to our legislative team for feedback.

[To find current legislation, please click here.](#)

## FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES

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For interviews or other media request, please reach out to our communications director. We will do our best to accommodate your request. Important information to provide includes the preferred date, time, location, interview length, and deadline.

## CAPITOL STAFF

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**Tami Martin**  
**Chief of Staff**  
tami.martin@asm.ca.gov



**Alex Mehlbrech**  
**Scheduler | Legislative Assistant**  
alex.mehlbrech@asm.ca.gov



**Salina Valencia**  
**Legislative Director**  
salina.valencia@asm.ca.gov



**Sebastian Aguilar Tinajero**  
**Legislative Assistant**  
sebastian.aguilar@asm.ca.gov



**Vienna Montague**  
**Communications Director**  
vienna.montague@asm.ca.gov

## REACH OUT

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Our office is always here to serve our constituents. Whether it's a bill idea or trouble with a state agency, our team is here to help. My district staff can help you with state-related matters such as DMV, foreclosure prevention programs, consumer complaints, veterans' benefits, unemployment and disability insurance, state taxes, Medi-Cal and Covered California.

As your Assemblymember, one of my goals is to ensure that our state government works for you! If you need assistance with or have questions regarding a state agency, my staff and I can help you find answers to your questions and work to cut through the "red tape" you might be experiencing.

## DISTRICT STAFF

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**Robert Oliver**  
**District Director**

[robert.oliver@asm.ca.gov](mailto:robert.oliver@asm.ca.gov)

**PLEASE REACH OUT  
TO MY OFFICE FOR  
ASSISTANCE AT:**

**(323) 436-5184**



**Sherwin Shamoeil**  
**Field Representative**

[sherwin.shamoeil@asm.ca.gov](mailto:sherwin.shamoeil@asm.ca.gov)



**Joshua Marin-Mora**  
**Field Representative**

[joshua.mmarin@asm.ca.gov](mailto:joshua.mmarin@asm.ca.gov)

## UNTIL NEXT TIME

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I hope these legislative and community updates provide some insight into the work we're doing in District 51. I value your feedback and encourage you to reach out with any questions, suggestions, or concerns by calling my district office. It is a privilege to serve you, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Chavez Zbur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R".

**RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR**

*Democratic Caucus Chair  
California State Assembly  
Assemblymember, 51s District*

