

# TAKE ACTION

Remember that bill idea you had? It can become a law.  
Or—if you hear about another bill idea and want your  
elected representatives to vote yes or no on it, **contact them!**  
Use the following resources to find out who represents you:



CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT WEBSITE:  
**[www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)**

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:  
**[www.asm.ca.gov](http://www.asm.ca.gov)**

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE WEBSITE:  
**[www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov)**

## WHO IS YOUR LOCAL

STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

STATE SENATOR



## Compliments of **Alex Lee**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 24TH DISTRICT

### District Office:

1313 N. Milpitas Blvd Suite #255  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
PH: (408) 262-2501

### Capitol Office:

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0024  
PH: (916) 319 • 2024

### Website:

[asmdc.org/lee](http://asmdc.org/lee)

### Social media:

 | @assembly.alex.lee

• Compliments of •

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**ALEX LEE**



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:





California State Assembly

**Alex Lee**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 24TH DISTRICT

hello

When you turn **18** you'll be able to vote and decide who should run the government. Before then, you still have a choice to make.

**Option A.** Do nothing and let others decide your future.

**Option B.** Learn and make your voice heard!

I hope you'll choose **option B**. Enjoy the activities and information in this booklet. You'll learn the basics of how our **state government** works and how you can make a difference. **My office** is available to you (and your family) should you need help with government services, so please **contact me** if you think I might be able to help.

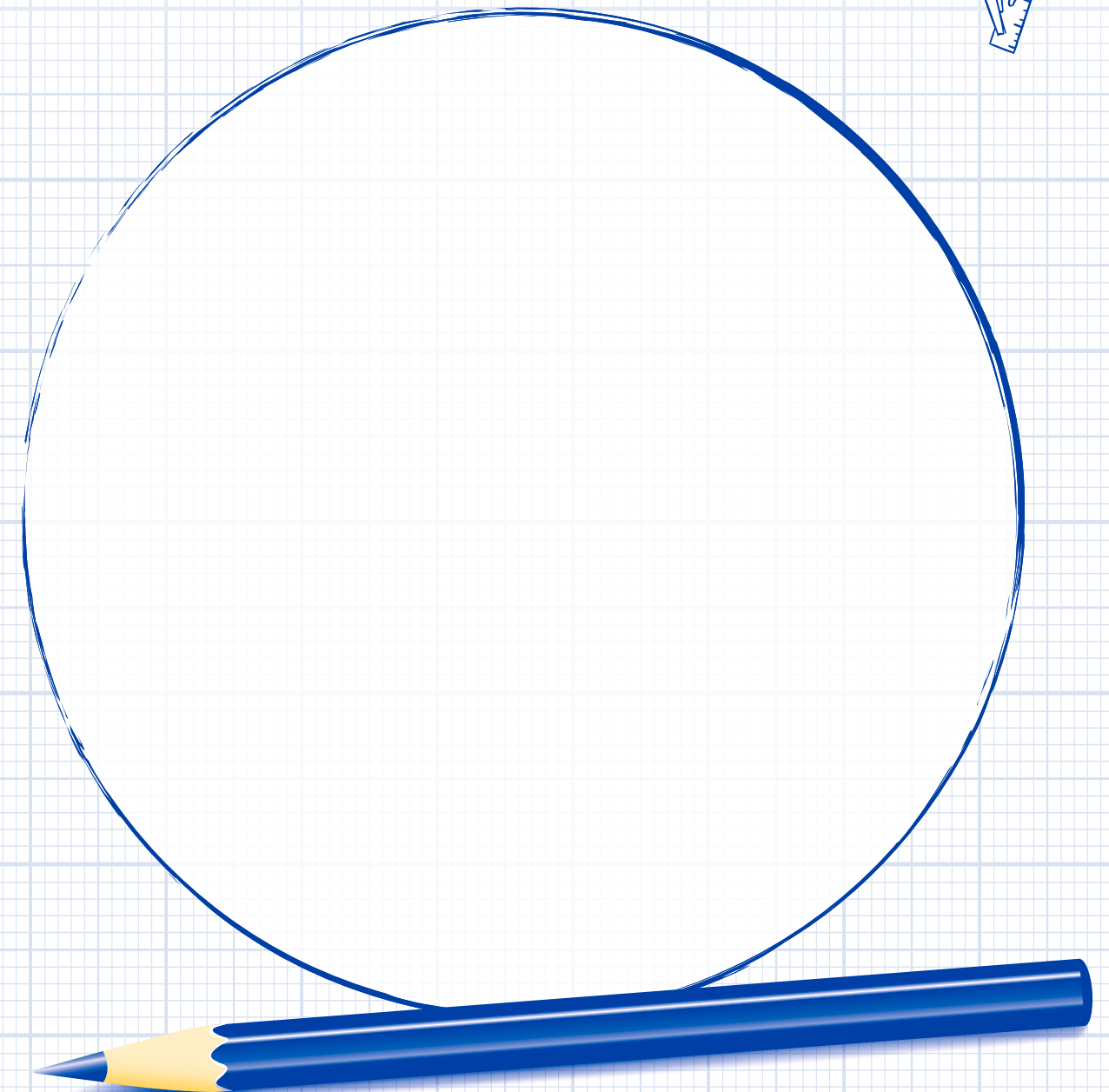
Warmly,

Assemblymember **Alex Lee**

24th District

## DRAW A NEW GREAT SEAL

Over the years, **California** has changed because of the growth in population and technology. If the **Great Seal** were designed today, it would probably look very different. What types of things represent **California** today? What should a new **Great Seal** tell people about **California**? Draw a new **Great Seal** that shows the things you think make **California** special today.



# STATE GOVERNMENT

## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Answer each by filling in the blank with the letter of the correct answer.  
Some of the answers to these questions are scattered throughout the book, so look carefully. Some you will find in books or on the Internet.

To help you get started, the answer to question #1 is “Sacramento” so fill in the letter “J.”

- 1. Our State Capitol is located in \_\_\_\_.
- 2. A proposed law is called a \_\_\_\_.
- 3. Every ten years a \_\_\_\_ is taken to determine our State’s population and to adjust legislative districts.
- 4. There are \_\_\_\_ Members in the State Assembly.
- 5. Assemblymembers are elected every \_\_\_\_ years.
- 6. Prior to becoming part of the U.S., California was part of \_\_\_\_.
- 7. There are \_\_\_\_ Members in the State Senate.
- 8. The head of the Executive Branch is the \_\_\_\_.
- 9. A bill passes in the Assembly if it receives at least \_\_\_\_ votes, a simple majority.
- 10. The leader of the Assembly is called the \_\_\_\_.
- 11. Many people came to California during the \_\_\_\_.
- 12. Senators are elected every \_\_\_\_ years.
- 13. The top of the Judicial Branch is the \_\_\_\_.
- 14. The Assembly and the \_\_\_\_ make up the Legislative Branch of Government.
- 15. Each legislator is elected to represent their \_\_\_\_ in our State Capitol.

ANSWERS:

A. Speaker  
B. State Supreme Court  
C. Senate  
D. 80  
E. Spain & Mexico  
F. 40  
G. Census  
H. Two  
I. 41  
J. Sacramento  
K. Four  
L. Bill  
M. Constituents  
N. Gold Rush  
O. Governor



Answer key: 1.J, 2.L, 3.G, 4.D, 5.H, 6.E, 7.F, 8.O, 9.I, 10.A, 11.N, 12.K, 13.B, 14.C, 15.M

# CALIFORNIA STATE

## Government in Action

As your elected State Assemblymember, I want you to have a good understanding of the way California makes laws. The **California State Legislature** is divided into two bodies or “houses” – the **Assembly** and the **Senate**. The Assembly is made up of **80 Assembly Districts** and the Senate is made up of **40 Senate Districts**. Assemblymembers are elected every two years and Senators are elected every four years. Each year, those of us in the Legislature discuss, debate, and vote on thousands of bills. Many become law. Many don’t. But each bill starts



with an idea someone had about how to make life better in California.

### CREATE YOUR OWN BILL IDEA

Bills have made it so that all kids have to wear a bicycle helmet when they ride bikes, schools need to serve healthy food for lunch, and that we have to reduce pollution.

Come up with a bill idea that would make a difference in your community and make California a better place to live.



When Legislators write bills, we have to consider:

- ✓ What’s the problem?
- ✓ What needs to change?
- ✓ Who might like this idea?
- ✓ Who might not like this idea?

In a few sentences, write your bill idea.

How would this bill benefit California?

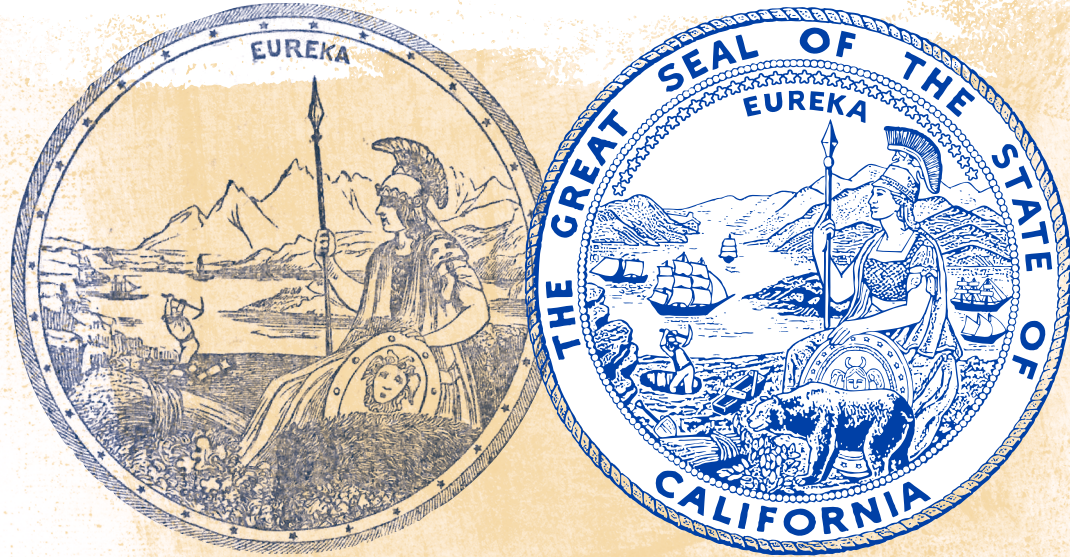
Who might support this bill and why?

Who might oppose this bill and why?



# GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Why does California have a seal?** A Seal is like a team logo. Our Great Seal tells people much about the beginning of California. The seal was adopted in **1849**, and minor changes were made in **1937**.



The **Great Seal** is more than just a beautiful picture. Everything in the seal has a special meaning. Find each one of the things that the designers of the seal wanted people to know about **California**.

- ★ There are 31 stars in the sky because California was the 31st state admitted to the Union.
- ★ Right under the 31 stars is the Greek word “Eureka.” It means “I have found it.” It refers to the gold that people found in California and to the new state that people had founded.
- ★ In the foreground is the grizzly bear, which was common in California, with a sheaf of wheat on the ground to be crushed into flour for bread.
- ★ The California Gold Rush started in 1849 and a miner can be seen swinging his pick. Beside him are a rocker and bowl used for panning gold.
- ★ Ships that fill the harbor are symbols of the exports of gold and other exciting new things that would be found in California and shipped from the new state.
- ★ The person holding a staff is the Roman Goddess Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, commerce and crafts, and the inventor of music. She represents California because she sprang to life full grown, just like California became a state without first being a territory.

## WHO MAKES LAWS?

Have you ever wondered why things are the way they are?

Who makes the decisions that affect your life?

Who decides what needs to change and what should stay the same?

Who should you contact if you see something wrong that you want to make right?

The answer is that a **small group** of people are **elected** to make decisions on behalf of a larger group of people. This is called “**representative government**”: one person represents and speaks for a larger group.



**Elections** are how the large group – also known as **voters** – chooses who will be their voice in government. These **elected officials** decide what is best for their community and their state, or the whole country.



They make decisions based on many things.

One of these things is the opinion of those people who live in the area that they were elected to represent.

These people are called “**constituents**.”



As a constituent, your elected official listens to you. You have a voice in your **state government**!

