



Congressmember Karen Bass (CA-37)

December 18, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

Political Context in Washington (Pre-Election)

House of Representatives:

- 246 Republicans
- 188 Democrats
- 1 vacancy

Senate

- 54 Republicans
- 44 Democrats
- 2 Independents (caucus with Democrats)



Paul Ryan
(R-WI)
elected as
Speaker

Political Context in Washington (Post-Election)

House of Representatives:

- 240 Republicans (-6)
- 194 Democrats (+6)
- 1 Vacancy

Senate

- 52 Republicans (-2)
- 46 Democrats (+2)
- 2 Independents (caucus with Democrats)



Paul Ryan
(R-WI) re-
elected as
Speaker

Committees

Committee on Foreign Affairs

- Highest Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Africa

Committee on Judiciary

- Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet
- Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations





WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

Legislative Highlights

South Los Angeles Receives Promise Zone Designation

The goal of the Promise Zone initiative, created by President Obama in 2013, is to significantly reduce poverty by creating a federal partnership with communities. This year, South L.A. became one of thirteen urban Promise Zones in the nation, and Los Angeles is the now the only city to have two designations within its city boundaries.

Local Hire Act

Passed in 2015, it has allowed LA Metro to prioritize local hiring on more than \$2 billion in transit and highway projects. In 2016, we worked with Sec. Foxx at the Department of Transportation to extend this pilot program. Given its successful track record is now pushing to make this pilot program a permanent one.

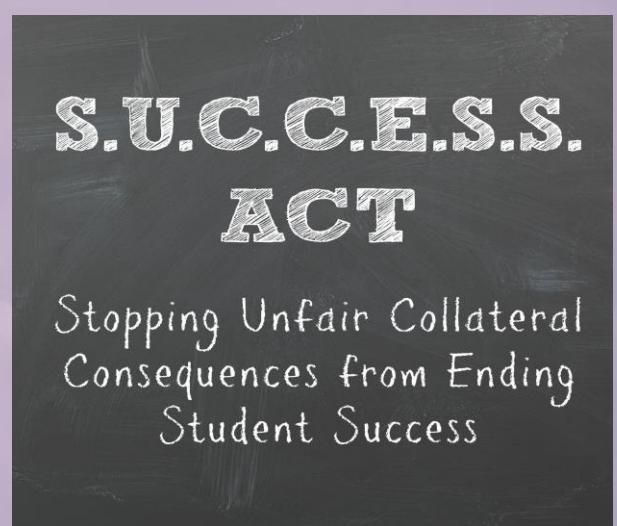
Legislative Highlights

The Student Loan Fairness Act – Introduced in the House

Caps student loan interest rates, cuts fees, and provides students with sustainable methods for paying off their debt.

The S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Act – Introduced in the House

Designed to address the issue of penalizing students who lose eligibility for federal student loans due to a drug conviction. Students should not be permanently barred from access to federal student aid and this bill solves this.



Legislative Highlights

Lost Boys and Girls RISE Act of 2016 – Introduced in the House

Creates a fellowship program for Lost Boys and Lost Girls who wish to take their acquired experience in the United States back to South Sudan.



Africa Growth and Opportunity Enhancement Act – Passed in the House of Representatives

Increases the effectiveness of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by establishing a website with information regarding AGOA, and by encouraging embassies in chosen countries to promote export opportunities to the United States.

Child Welfare Legislation

National Adoption and Foster Care Home Study Act – Introduced in the House

Improves the ability of child welfare organizations to match a child's needs with a loving family by creating a comprehensive, evidence-based system for evaluating prospective adoptive and foster families, with national standards, uniform reports, and a registry accessible by child welfare agencies across state and local jurisdictions.



Child Welfare Legislation

Family First Prevention Services Act – Passed in the House of Representatives

Expands supportive services designed to stabilize families in times of crisis, facilitates placement with relatives where possible, and extends the Chafee Education and Training Grant Program through 2023.

House Resolution to create a National Foster Care Month – Introduced in the House

Establishes May as National Foster Care Month to highlight the important role of foster care and kinship care in our country.



Criminal Justice Legislation



The Corrections and Recidivism Reduction Act – Passed in the House Judiciary Committee

This legislation includes language to prevent the practice of shackling pregnant women while they are in their final trimester or in labor, unless they present a serious safety or flight risk.

Judiciary Committee

The Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act – Passed in the House of Representatives

Authored language in the bill to reduce incarceration of minors, including for “status offences,” to identify and provide services to victims of child sex trafficking, and to focus on trauma-informed care for children in the system.

The full bill reauthorizes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Action and changes federal standards for the treatment of juveniles in both the juvenile and adult criminal courts.



Travel to Havana, Cuba

In March, I joined President Obama and other House Colleagues on a historic trip to Cuba, celebrating the opening of ties between the United States and Cuba.



Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth

- 173 Members of Congress in the Caucus
- Listening tours to Alabama and Tennessee to meet with foster youth and providers
- 100 foster youth shadowed 95 Members of Congress on Shadow Day



Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth

Member Dinners on Four Themes:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Community Schooling
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health



Subcommittee on Africa



Held 3 Africa Policy Breakfasts:

- Boko Haram
- Lost Boys & Girls of Sudan
- AGOA

18 Hearings on U.S. – Africa relations and policy



Hosted President Felipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique at the Africa Braintrust

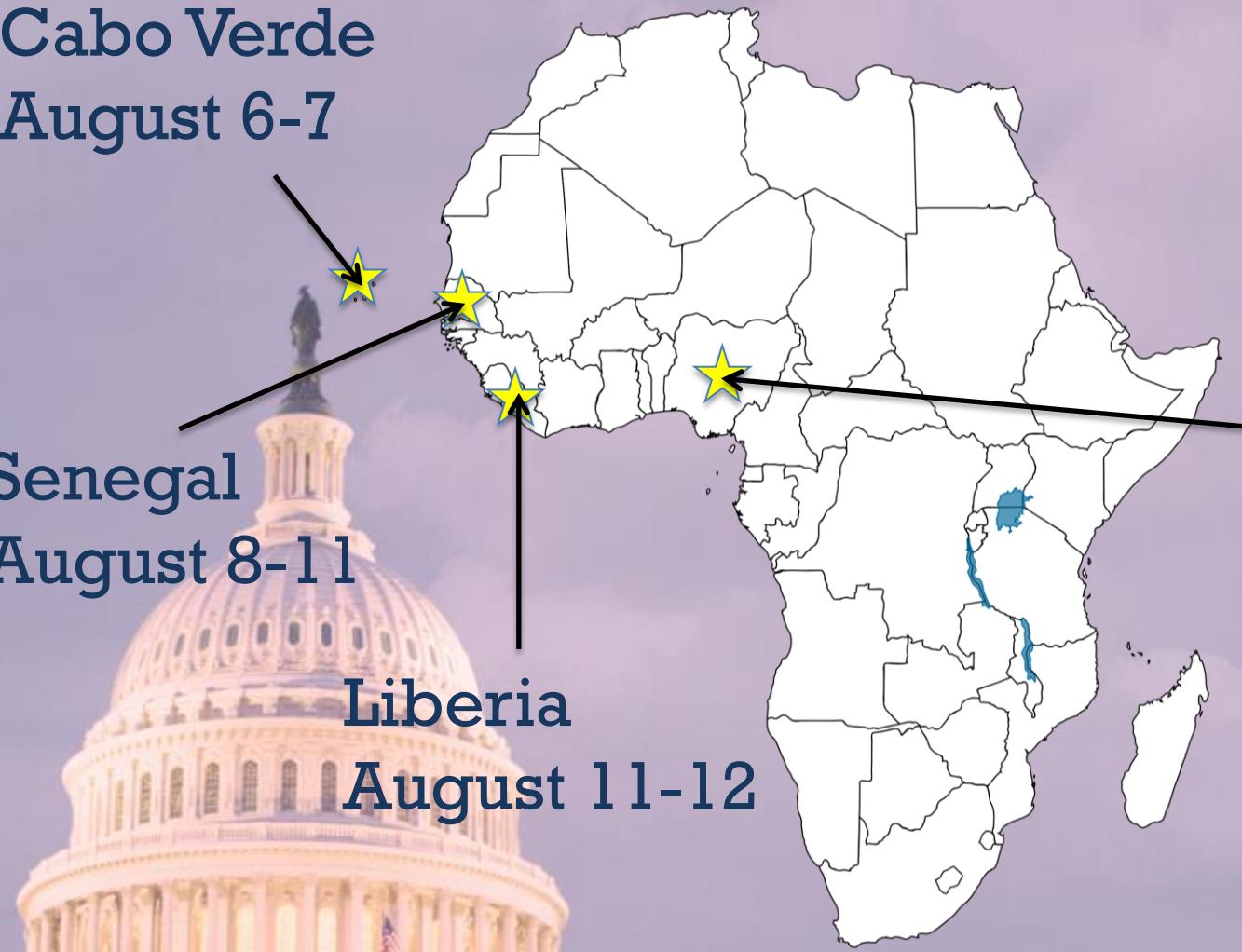
Travel to the African Continent

Cabo Verde
August 6-7

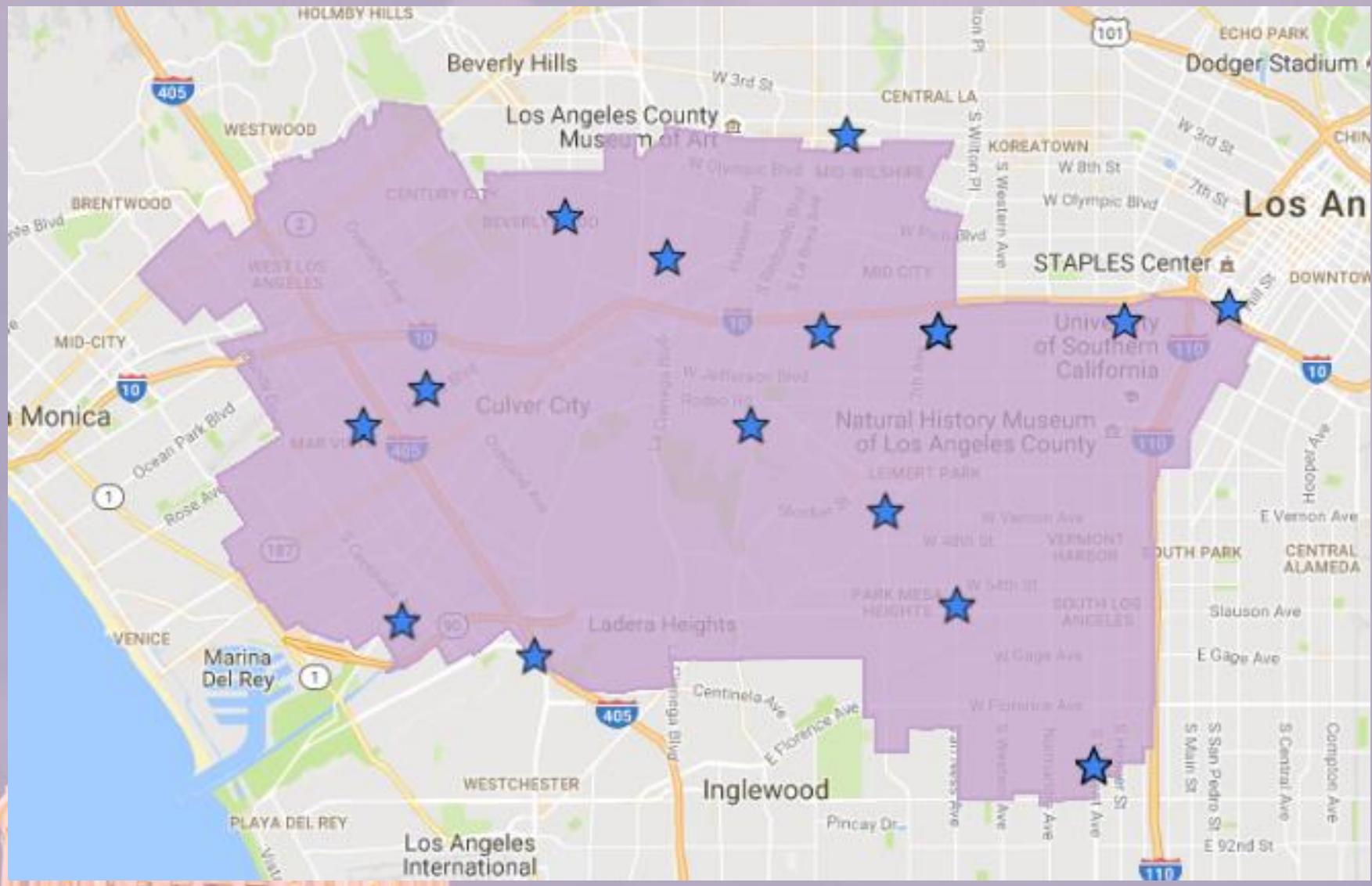
Senegal
August 8-11

Liberia
August 11-12

Nigeria
August 12-14



Events in the 37th District in 2016



Town Halls

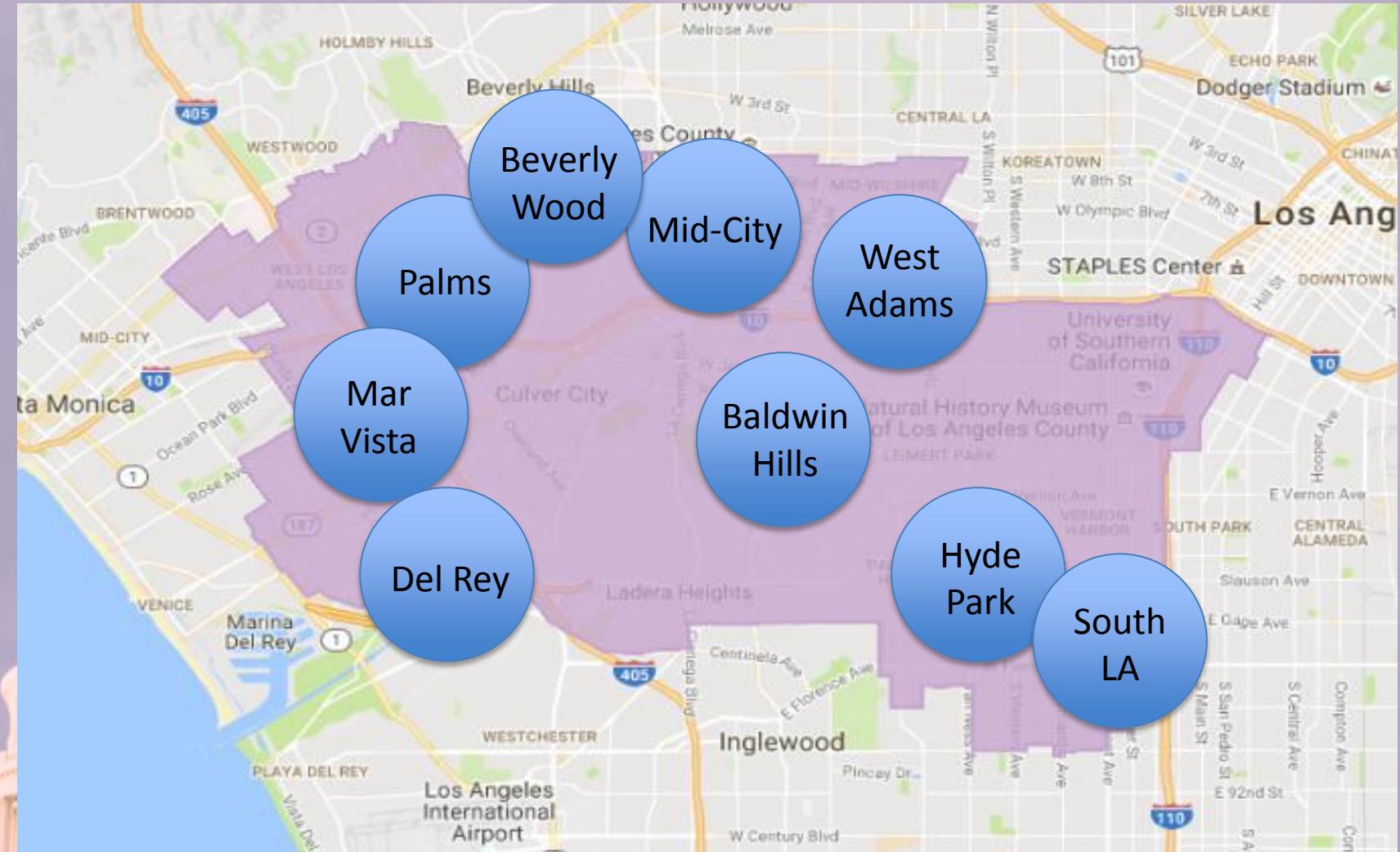
923 Total Attendees!

- Legislative Report Back
- A Forum on U.S. – Africa Policy in the Era of President Obama
- Doing Business in Africa Forum & Resource Forum
- Cracking the Code: A Small Business Workshop on Government Contracting



Small Community Meetings

1029 Total Attendees!



Congressional Conversation

Highlights

- Worked closely with city, county, and state elected officials to engage in dialogue with constituents throughout the 37th district.
- Hosted representatives from law enforcement to discuss neighborhood concerns and hear feedback.
- Brought US Postal Service executives to several meetings to address mail theft and constituent concerns.
- Ensured that representatives from the FAA and LAWA directly heard community concerns about airport noise, and briefed the public on the SoCal Metroplex project.
- Offered updates from Metro representatives on projects taking place in the 37th District, and local hire initiatives.

Telephone Town Halls

2016 State of the Union:

- Discussed President Obama's State of the Union address with CA-37 constituents.

Post-Election Discussion:

- Heard constituent concerns regarding results of the presidential election, discussed possible future actions.

By attending this event, we will add your contact information to our call list. Please contact my Los Angeles office to make sure your info is up-to-date, at 323-965-1422.

Constituent Services

My office offers assistance in dealing with federal agencies.

Top casework areas of 2016:

1. US Citizenship & Immigration Services
2. US Postal Service
3. Department of Veterans Affairs
4. Social Security Administration

For more information, please see a staff member or contact my office at (323) 965-1422.

Stay Informed and Involved

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Questions?