



## Biography

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Elected in 2002, and re-elected in 2004, Assemblymember John Laird represents the 27th State Assembly District, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Assemblymember Laird served two terms on the Santa Cruz City Council, two terms as Mayor, and eight years as a Cabrillo College Trustee.

In his first term in the Assembly, Mr. Laird was one of only five first-term members to chair a major policy committee - the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. He also served as chair of the Special Committee on State Mandates.

At the start of his second term, Mr. Laird was tapped by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez to join the Assembly leadership team as chair of the Budget Committee. In his role as Budget Committee Chair, Mr. Laird helped deliver the first on-time budget vote in years - a budget with increased funding for seniors, transportation, education and environmental protection. Along with the Budget Committee, he also serves as a member of several standing committees, including Labor and Employment, Judiciary, and Natural Resources.

Mr. Laird's legislative package includes a broad range of bills relating to environmental protection, education, transportation, water policy, insurance, civil rights, labor and employment, and consumer protection. In 2005, he authored bills signed by the governor on a variety of issues including Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee disaster planning; funding for community college health centers; civil rights protections; assistance for first-time homebuyers; and access to nutrition programs for schoolchildren.

Raised in Vallejo and educated in Vallejo public schools, Mr. Laird's parents were both educators. He graduated from UCSC's Adlai Stevenson College.

In 1981, Assemblymember Laird was elected to a seat on the Santa Cruz City Council and served until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was elected by the City Council to one-year mayor's terms in 1983 and 1987, becoming one of the first openly gay mayors in the United States.

John Laird lives in Santa Cruz with his partner John Flores. He is fluent in Spanish, has traveled widely, has conducted extensive family history research and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.