



ASSEMBLYMEMBER — DISTRICT 26

Patrick Ahrens

ASM.
PATRICK
AHRENS



OUTLINE

1. Biography
2. Committees
3. Budget
4. Bills signed by the Governor
5. Two-year bills for January
6. Priorities for 2026
7. Legislative Process
8. Questions
9. Contact me

BIOGRAPHY

As a native of Silicon Valley, I am deeply committed to addressing challenges facing constituents in one of the most dynamic yet demanding regions of California. My dedication to public service is shaped by my experiences growing up in a house with substance abuse issues and having faced homelessness and housing insecurity during my college years. As a result, I have championed policies to expand access and affordability in higher education, focusing particularly on supporting community college students and ensuring pathways for economic mobility.

After my university years at De Anza and University of California Los Angeles, I served as a Trustee on the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board, leading efforts to build affordable housing for faculty, staff and students while collaborating with Santa Clara County on a first-in-the-state medical clinic at De Anza College.

DISTRICT IMPACTS

The District Office serves the constituents of Assembly District 26 by providing essential services and coordinating community events in Cupertino, Santa Clara, San Jose, and Sunnyvale.

We supported 337 constituents this year, addressing issues related to the EDD and DMV, including 139 EDD cases that secured about \$110,000 in support.

Assemblymember Ahrens participated in 1,400 meetings and events, organized or partnered in 43 events, and engaged with over 12,000 constituents. Our civic engagement program includes 22 interns and roughly 60 volunteers who assist with community events.

COMMITTEES

Co-Chair of CA Technology & Innovation Legislative Caucus

Standing Committees:

Business and Professions
Budget
Communications and
Conveyance
Rules
Transportation

Subcommittee:

Budget Subcommittee No. 2
on Human Services

Select Committees:

Asia/California Trade and
Investment

Biotechnology and Medical
Technology

CalFresh Enrollment and
Nutrition

Child Care Costs

Domestic Violence

Housing Finance and
Affordability

Master Plan for Higher
Education in California

Sea Level Rise and the
California Economy

2025-2026 BUDGET

In spite of dangerous cuts to social services and key programs by the federal government, the State Budget protects the safety net for all Californians by prioritizing:

\$52 million for food banks.

Increase state funding for affordable housing and preserving \$500 million in Low income housing tax credit.

\$60 million one-time funding to support student in block grants.

\$5.1 million one-time funds to support financial aid support and outreach to community college students.

Saved \$4.6 million in 2025-26 and \$14 million in 2026-2027 for CalWORKs program.

Public Safety Funding

\$100M to support organizations serving crime survivors.

AB 243 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID DEPENDENCY STATUS: JUVENILES.

This bill requires public higher education institutions to accept proof of financial independence and confirmation from local education agencies or county probation/welfare departments. It allows for the limited disclosure of juvenile case file information, including the youth's name, date of birth, and relevant dates, to protect their privacy. Information will only be shared within an institution if requested by the youth or with their consent.

(Signed by the Governor)

AB 461: MORE, NOT LESS HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT OF 2025.

Ensures that families whose children are not regularly attending school are offered more help, not less. It does so by removing harmful penal code penalties for parents of children who are chronically truant, including fines of up to \$2,000 and jail time of up to one year.

(Signed by the Governor)

AB 1314: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT.

Ensures that all eligible youth for transitional housing have the best opportunity for placement by requiring counties to create contracts that provide maximum flexibility and minimize barriers to youth placement.

(Signed by the Governor)

AB 268: STATE HOLIDAYS: DIWALI. (CO-AUTHOR)

This bill would add Diwali to the list of state holidays, authorizes public schools and community colleges to close on Diwali, and authorizes state employees to elect to take specified leave in recognition of Diwali.

(Signed by the Governor)

AB 1476: MEAL PROGRAM: SENIOR CITIZENS. (CO-AUTHOR)

Allows sites distributing at least one meal a day for senior citizens through the Congregate Meals Program to provide meals served hot or available as “to go meals” that can be reheated at home.

(Signed by the Governor)

TWO-YEAR BILLS

A two-year bill is legislation that was introduced in the first year of a two-year legislative session and did not pass its house of origin by the deadline in the first year, meaning it carries over into the second year to continue its journey through the legislative process.

AB 635: MOBILEHOME RESIDENCY LAW PROTECTION PROGRAM.

The Mobilehome Residency Protection Program (MRLPP) aims to address the most serious violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law. This bill mandates the Department of Housing and Community Development refer the most serious, harmful, and economically significant alleged violations of the MRLPP to the Attorney General.

AB 1203: WATER CONSERVATION: WATER WISE DESIGNATION.

This bill requires the department and the Office of Community Partnerships to include a statewide “water-wise” designation in the Save Our Water Campaign for businesses in the CII sector that meet or exceed best management practices for water use.

AB 1351: PUPILS: WORK PERMITS: ONLINE DATABASE.

Creates a Youth Employment System (YES) database for minor work permits.

**AB 1359:
REMOVES
PENALTIES FOR
FAMILIES
RECEIVING
CALWORKS.**

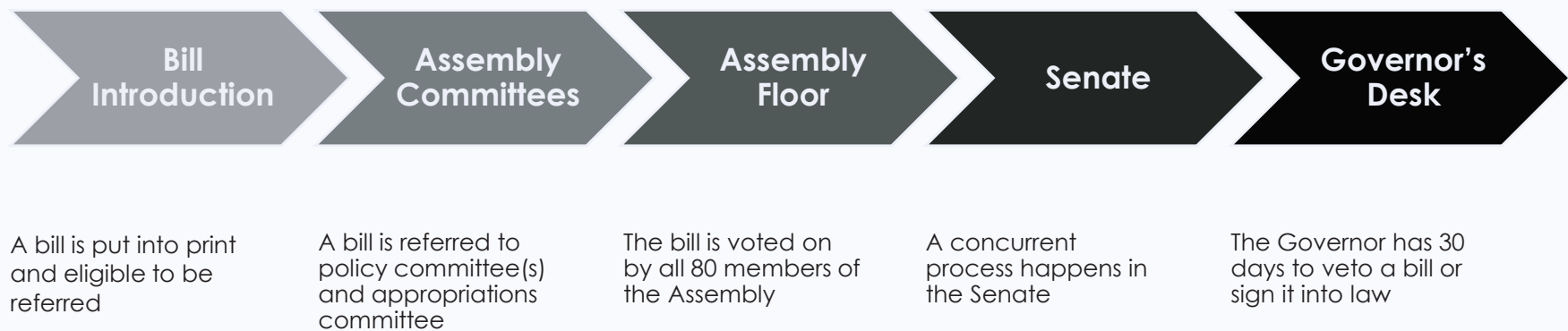
Refocuses efforts to get truant kids back into classrooms using proven effective interventions.

2026 PRIORITY BILLS

My top issue areas for next year will be:

- Housing
- Foster Youth
- Technology
- Education
- Affordability

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS





Fall Harvest



Laptop Giveaway



Trunk Or Treat



Health Roundtable

Questions?



CONTACT US



LINKEDIN
PATRICK AHRENS



INSTAGRAM
@PATRICKJAMESAHRENS



EMAIL
AHRENS.SCHEDULER@ASM.CA.GOV



OFFICE PHONE
408-446-2810