

Legislative Profile: Assemblyman Curren D. Price, Jr.

If you have ever taken a flight to or from Los Angeles International Airport, you have experienced a birds-eye view of the area that Curren D. Price Jr. calls home.

A life-long resident of the 51st Assembly District, Mr. Price graduated from Inglewood's Morningside High School in 1968 and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Stanford University and a law degree from the University of Santa Clara.

Mr. Price was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2006. Rising to statewide leadership from the ranks of business, Assemblyman Price has been an advocate in the private and public sectors for more than 20 years. He proudly represents the people of the 51st Assembly District, which includes Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, Playa Vista, Westchester, Lawndale, West Athens, Lennox, Alondra Park, West Compton, Del Aire, Willowbrook, and portions of unincorporated Ladera.

After his election to the California Legislature, Mr. Price earned key Assembly Committee assignments including chairmanship of both the Committee on Elections and Redistricting and the Select Committee on Procurement, as well as being appointed as a member of the Committee on Governmental Organization, the Business and Professions Committee, and the Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy Committee. Soon after being sworn in as the 67th Speaker of the Assembly, Speaker Karen Bass appointed Mr. Price as Chair of the prestigious and influential Governmental Organization Committee. As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization, horse racing falls under Mr. Price's jurisdiction.

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Mr. Price is a great fan of horse racing and strong advocate of the industry. He proudly serves the district that is home to Hollywood Park Race Track, which plays a vital role in the local community through numerous public service programs and sponsored events.

"It is imperative that the industry and the Legislature work together to increase purses and the number of horses that race on a daily basis, so that California tracks can not only remain competitive, but thrive," said Price. "I want to work closely with industry stakeholders throughout California to develop innovative and practical strategies to market this wonderful sport."

Assemblyman Price's ambitious agenda for 2008 includes improving the prospects for small businesses through legislative action, education, and best practices, while remaining focused on addressing education and health-care disparities in the State. He relies on his experience as a small business owner and economic development specialist to work closely with business leaders within the 51st District, and throughout the state, to foster strategic partnerships and create new opportunities.

Prior to his election to the Assembly, Price was an elected member of the Inglewood City Council where he was the chair of the Economic Development Committee and served as an advocate for smart growth initiatives. He also served on the Los Angeles County Commission on Insurance, the Metropolitan Transit Authority's South Bay Governance Council, and the California League of Cities' transportation, communications and public works committees. Assemblyman Price has a lifelong commitment to serving the 51st Assembly District and the entire state of California.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *continued*

In addition, TOC and others are continuing work on a longer-term legislative package that would potentially provide more financial stability for the industry. Measures under consideration for this package include: providing relief from current license fees; increasing regulatory flexibility for racing dates, product distribution, wagers, pricing, etc; allowing the establishment of "day accounts" for off track wagers in a range of settings; and examining the viability of a major horseracing

game as part of the state's existing lottery operation.

Agreement on horseracing issues is typically not reached until the last few weeks of the legislative session, and this year is no exception. TOC representatives will be particularly vigilant to protect owner's interests as the 2008 legislative year comes to close this fall. Owners are encouraged to contact Drew J. Couto or Guy Lamothe at the TOC, with any questions or concerns in the legislative arena.