

Senator George Runner

Summer 2008

For last 8 weeks I was an intern in Senator George Runner's office in State Capitol. If you are interested in learning about legislative processes and even about the senators themselves, this internship is something you should definitely go for. Senator Runner is currently a chair of Senate Republican Caucus and vice chair of two committees. He is also in several other committees as a member. Some duties you would have to do include some of office projects. These could include shelving books and organizing files. But the main part is writing letters to concerned Californian constituents of 17th district, which is part of California that Senator Runner represents. Moreover, his wife Sharon Runner is an Assemblywoman. Anyways, writing letters is not simply writing back what Senator Runner and Republicans would argue for/against about certain bills. Non-bill letters require you to know lot more than simply knowing basic facts about bills. For instance, if a constituent wrote an urging letter for support for Cal-Pass budget, you need to contact one of Senate Republican Caucus consultants who is in charge of education and ask about this issue. When you contact them or even legislative analyst office, make sure you ask a SPECIFIC question regarding whatever you are inquiring about.

For me, I was encouraged to assist a communication director in Senator Runner's office to take some of photographs at different events. When Senator Runner and several other Republican leaders were in press conference to talk about certain bills, I took many candid photographs. I also took some photographs at the Floor session. I must admit that this was the most fun part of my internship. If you want to help out with something else besides writing letters, go ahead and ask staffs about it. They will give you opportunities to initiate different things if they seem reasonable.

From this internship I definitely learned so much about legislative process and many (many) Californian matters. While I do not identify myself with any party (unfortunately), being in Republican office definitely did help me to get to know more of their positions and perspectives.