

A S S E M B L Y M A N

SAM FARR



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A Narrative Biography

Sam Farr was first elected to the California Assembly in 1980, and has been re-elected 5 times by overwhelming majorities.

In 1990, Farr was named Chair of the Assembly Committee on Local Government. This committee deals primarily with the complex relationships between state and local governments, providing Assembly leadership on issues affecting county, city and special districts. These issues include land use and planning, public works, local taxes, water and fire protection. Farr is a former member of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

Prior to being named Chair of Local Government, Farr was Chair of the Assembly Committee on Economic Development and New Technologies. Under Farr's leadership, the Committee led some of the first legislative efforts into the areas of international trade, small business, science and technology, tourism, the impact of military spending in California and state and local government economic development. Farr remains the Assembly leader on such issues and continues to carry legislation seeking to move California to the forefront in international trade and economic development.

In addition to serving as Vice Chairman of both the Joint Committee on the Arts and the Joint Committee on Science and Technology, Farr is also a member of the Standing Committees on Education, Higher Education, Natural Resources and Televising the Legislature. Farr also serves on the California Advisory Commission on Special Education, on the National Endowment for the Arts and on the Select Committee on Regional Government.

During his nine years in the Legislature, Farr has consistently sponsored key legislation in the areas he refers to as "The 3 E's: Educational Excellence, Environmental Protection, and Economic Development." Farr has authored legislation which has been signed into law that expands and develops the State Park system, stops offshore oil drilling, holds polluters fully financially responsible for oil spill damages, finds new ways to clean up toxic waste, discourages computer trespassing, promotes local economic development, enhances special education programs and develops international education programs in California schools.

Farr was born on the Fourth of July, 1941, and has been a lifelong resident of the Monterey Peninsula. He attended Carmel public schools and distinguished himself from the outset by his election as high school class president. He graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. Before joining President Kennedy's Peace Corps for a two-year commitment in Colombia, South America, Farr studied at the Monterey Institute in New York. Farr speaks fluent Spanish.

State legislative Analyst A. Alan Post, hired Farr to review California's categorical programs to elementary schools. He later became chief Consultant to the Assembly Constitutional Amendment Committee, where he drafted a record number of constitutional reforms — all of which were approved by voters in the state elections of the early 1970's.

Farr is married to the former Shary Baldwin, and lives in Carmel. Sam and Shary have a daughter, Jessica, 13.

Farr is an avid photographer, skier, fisherman and gardener.

The 28th Assembly District is one of the most beautiful and diverse districts in the state. The district includes majestic redwood forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains, vast apple and artichoke growing regions near Watsonville and Castroville, the picturesque coastline of the Monterey Bay, the ethnic richness provided by the West Coast's two premier language schools, an internationally renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium, and California's golf capital, the Monterey Peninsula. Tourism, agriculture, fishing and timber form the economic underpinnings of the District. Farr has dedicated himself to preserving the pristine environment so each of the four will continue to prosper.

Farr has offices in both Monterey and Santa Cruz, and returns to the district each weekend to meet with his constituents and be with his family.