

Elton Gallegly

for Congress

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Congressman Gallegly Will Not Seek Re-Election

Congressman Elton Gallegly (R-Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties) today announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election to Congress in California's 24th Congressional District.

"It is a great honor and privilege to have served in the United States House of Representatives and to represent the people of Ventura County for the past 20 years, and the people of North County for the past four years," Gallegly said. "But circumstances over the past two weeks have convinced me that it is now time to begin the next chapter of my life.

"I have been dealing with a medical issue that is yet to be resolved. Although I am hopeful it will be resolved positively, it would not be fair to my constituents and supporters should I be forced to withdraw from the race mid-year. This has not been an easy decision but I believe it is the correct one.

"I have been working with my longtime friend, campaign chairman and counsel, Mike Bradbury, for the past two weeks to determine how to remove my name from the ballot. With no incumbent or other Republican in the race, I am confident candidates will come forward who will give us excellent choices and who we would be proud to have represent us."

Gallegly has served in public office since he was first elected to the Simi Valley City Council in 1979. He served seven years as the city's mayor before he was first elected to Congress in 1986, defeating Tony Hope in the Republican primary to advance to the general election. Tony Hope, as the son of entertainer Bob Hope, had more resources and name recognition and was considered the front-runner in the race.

Gallegly is a senior member of the House Judiciary, International Relations and Resources committees and a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He also chairs the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats. He was the first-non-lawyer appointed to

the Judiciary Committee, where he has been a leader on immigration and intellectual property issues. Gallegly is also a leader in Congress on the war on terror both through his chairmanships of various International Relations subcommittees and the Intelligence Committee. On Resources, Gallegly is a leader on private property and animal rights issues.

Gallegly counts among his most significant accomplishments preventing the closure of Point Mugu during the 1995 BRAC process, working with former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino to designate the Sespe Wilderness Area, persuading his congressional colleagues to provide significant funding to widen and upgrade the 101 and 23 freeways, his work with and on the behalf of our military veterans, and the many laws he authored protecting animal rights.

One of his fondest memories is flying to Ventura County aboard Air Force One with President Ronald Reagan and pointing out the Simi Valley hill where Ronald Reagan's presidential library would be built.

"I would like to thank the people of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties for all the support I have received over the years. I have been truly blessed," Gallegly said.