



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN



Biography of California Lieutenant Governor, Mr. John Garamendi

The Lieutenant Governor of California is tasked with addressing many issues of utmost importance to our Golden State, including higher education, the environment, and economic development. The Lieutenant Governor is the President of the state Senate, a Regent of the University of California, a Trustee of the California State University system, a member of the California State Lands Commission, and the Chairman of the California Commission for Economic Development. In addition, he also serves as Acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is unable to serve.

On January 8, 2007, John Garamendi became the 46th Lieutenant Governor of California, bringing to the office more than 32 years of public service. He is committed to building the Lieutenant Governor's office into a powerful advocate for families and hard-working Californians, improving higher education, health care, and the environment, and boosting job creation.

After serving as California's first elected Insurance Commissioner beginning in 1991, Garamendi was reelected to the position in 2002. He fought to make the Department of Insurance the best consumer protection agency in the nation, leading efforts to provide consumer rebates, significantly reduce auto rates, add protections for homeowners, and stop insurance brokers from overcharging business consumers. He also created an aggressive anti-fraud police force and initiated legislative reforms that ultimately led to a 58% reduction in the cost of workers' compensation claims.

Appointed in 1995 by President Bill Clinton as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Garamendi negotiated the Headwaters Forest Agreement, conducted the Cal-Fed water negotiations, and put an end to the dumping of nuclear wastes in the California desert. He worked with Al Gore and other leaders to prepare the American agenda for the Kyoto Climate Change Conference. In addition, he furthered protections for our National Parks and negotiated the largest habitat conservation plans in the Western States.

In the years prior, Garamendi served for 14 years as a State Senator and two years as an Assemblyman, authoring laws that protected the environment, reformed health care, created a work-oriented welfare program, revised the tax code, and addressed California's economic competitiveness. He also initiated a successful ballot proposition that provided \$18 billion for mass transportation and highways and funded senior centers.

Garamendi is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where he was an all-conference and academic All-American football player, and a champion wrestler. Prior to receiving an MBA from Harvard Business School, he and his wife, Patti, were Peace Corps volunteers in Ethiopia. They have six children and nine grandchildren. They live near Sacramento and operate a cattle ranch in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Synopsis of the Lecture

California's Response to the Challenge of Global Climate Change: Lessons for Chinese Provinces
面對全球氣候大轉變的挑戰：加州經驗帶給中國各省的啟示

The Lt. Governor will provide a brief history of environmental regulation and protection in the United States beginning with the crises in air and water quality in the 50s 60s and 70s. He will discuss the impacts of climate change on California and raise the need for immediate action to prepare the state for dramatic changes in water supply and flood protection. He will also describe recent California law (AB 32) and likely regulatory actions based on those laws, such as caps on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon trading schemes. He will also describe the efforts of local governments and private industry to curb greenhouse gas emissions. His lecture will also cover the relationship between California and the federal government and he will discuss the pressing need for local, regional and international bodies to coordinate and harmonize their efforts to curb greenhouse gases. Lt. Governor Garamendi would like to engage in a dialogue with the audience, answering and asking questions.

