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Anthony Rendon Sworn-In as Speaker of the Assembly

The Assembly this afternoon held a [swearing-in ceremony for Speaker Anthony Rendon \(D-Lakewood\)](#). The ceremony followed his official election to the position on Jan. 11. Mr. Rendon takes over from Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), who terms-out of her Assembly seat at the end of the year.

The Speaker said that in his first year he would focus on three priorities: addressing poverty, expanding legislative oversight of state administrative agencies, and increasing public participation in our democracy. A [transcript of his remarks](#) is available online.

Earlier today the League issued a statement congratulating the new Speaker.

“The League of California Cities congratulates Assembly Member Anthony Rendon on his election as California’s 70th Assembly Speaker. Speaker Rendon assumes this key leadership post at a time of great challenge and opportunity,” said League President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael. “With his successful efforts to forge agreement on the recent water bond, he demonstrated great expertise as a consensus-maker who can effectively bring stakeholders together to address the most pressing issues facing California. We look forward to working with him on issues important to California cities including improving infrastructure, economic development and housing affordability.”

First elected to the Assembly in 2012, Speaker Rendon embodies the essence of the American spirit — his work ethic took him from community college to earning a Ph.D. from UC Riverside. Prior to running for the Assembly, Speaker Rendon worked as an educator, a nonprofit executive and environmental activist. His former positions included serving as executive director of Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice at California State University, Fullerton, and as the interim executive director of the California League of Conservation Voters.

Appointed to chair the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife in his first term, then Assembly Member Redon was instrumental in crafting Proposition 1, the water bond, which voters passed in November 2014 to provide \$7.5 billion in funding for critical water projects. This \$7.5 billion bond containing funding for critical water projects developed thanks in large part to his efforts to bring all sides together with a series of 16 public hearings held throughout California.

Given the recent extension of legislative term limits, Mr. Rendon’s appointment could bring more stability to the position; he has the opportunity to hold the position much longer than recent Speakers. Mr. Rendon can remain in the Assembly office until 2024; if he remains as Speaker throughout that term, it would make him the longest serving Speaker since Willie Brown left office in 1995.