

**ALAMEDA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION  
COMMITTEE**

**Monday, July 20, 2020**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair**  
**Supervisor Wilma Chan**  
Administration Building

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5<sup>th</sup> floor*

County

1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

**Summary/Action Minutes**

**I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake**

**Congressional Schedule**

The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate returns from their two week recess and will begin activity tomorrow. Senate floor action will focus on the FY21 Defense Authorization Act while the House will focus on its version of the National Defense Authorization Act, the FY21 Appropriations bills, among other things.

**COVID-19 Response Legislation Negotiations**

Senate Republicans plan to release the text of their next COVID-19 response legislation later this week. Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, and other GOP leaders are negotiating the details of a roughly \$1 trillion Republican plan for a new round of virus relief for individuals and businesses. As a reminder, Democrats put out the \$3.5 trillion HEROES Act in May. The sides remain far apart on many of the particulars, including Leader McConnell's desire to include liability limits for businesses, schools and other organizations. We expect a much smaller package than HEROES with a focus on the following:

- Liability Protection - liability limitations which include medical liability protection and general business liability limitations.
- Additional Individual Assistance - a second round of direct payments to individuals is under consideration that could follow the HEROES Act language with direct payments of \$1,200 per person and up to \$5,000 per family.
- Extended unemployment benefits - extension of federal unemployment benefits through January 2021, though potentially at a level below the current \$600 per week in additional benefits adopted in the CARES Act and also discussing a "Return to Work" bonus to encourage individuals to resume available jobs.
- Paycheck Protection Program - additional technical changes, eligibility expansions, and additional funding for the program are under consideration. One proposal gaining traction is a bipartisan effort to aid the restaurant industry through the PPP program.
- Healthcare - additional funding to support testing for the virus and for hospitals treating patients with coronavirus.
- Education - additional funding to aid local schools with reopening in the fall.

The President has indicated support for a Payroll Tax Cut and has hesitated to support Republican lawmakers' proposal to include \$25 billion in funding to help states with testing and contact tracing. In terms of timing, all of this will need to be negotiated in the next three weeks. Congress is scheduled to leave Washington for August recess, conventions, and campaigning before the November election.

At the same time, CARES Act funds are running out and provisions to protect Americans are expiring. On July 24, the federal eviction moratorium for federally insured multi-family homes expires, and the additional \$600-a-week federal unemployment insurance expires at the end of the Month. The deadline to apply for PPP loans is August 8, 2020.

### **Highland Hospital Payment**

Highland Hospital in Oakland received \$8.35 million from the recent High Impact payments distribution from Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS announced last week that they would send an additional \$10 billion in provider relief funds to hospitals in coronavirus hot spots. Experts criticized earlier rounds of aid for largely benefitting a handful of states with large caseloads in the pandemic's early weeks. An HHS spokesperson said another round of provider aid is likely in the future. There is still around \$55 billion yet to be allocated.

### **Foreign Student Rule Dropped**

On Tuesday, July 14th, the Administration announced it was withdrawing its plan that would have denied visas to students if their college or university went to an online-only program. This leaves in place ICE guidance from March 13<sup>th</sup> about the use of online courses by foreign students, including the intent of the student and the school if in-person classes resume in the future.

### **Hearings**

Thursday, July 23, 2020 - House Committee on Financial Services Hearing: The Heroes Act: Providing for a Strong Economic Recovery from COVID-19, 10:30 AM

#### **Purpose:**

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL\_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal Update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

## **II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions**

The Legislature continues to be on their Summer Recess this week and due to COVID-19 cases spreading through the Capitol community both houses have delayed their return to Sacramento until July 27th. Governor Newsom announced on Monday, July 13th the state would be activating its “dimmer switch” with the closure of certain indoor operations and activities in all 58 counties. The PS team continues to screen bills as they are amended and make additions to the County’s bill lists by issue area.

Monday July 6, 2020 – Friday July 24, 2020

- Legislature on Summer Recess
- While the Legislature is on recess, Political Solutions is awaiting further clarity on deadlines and committee schedules. The Assembly has begun noticing committee hearings while the Senate has not.

### **Budget**

Governor Newsom signed the 2020 Budget Act on Monday, June 29th, 2020, a \$202.1 billion spending plan. The Governor released a statement on the budget: “The Budget makes critical investments to save lives and promote economic recovery by continuing critical purchases of personal protective equipment and other safeguards necessary to safely reopen the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It protects public education and supports Californians facing the greatest hardships – since the pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on lower-wage workers, communities of color, and is further exacerbating income inequality. Finally, the Budget supports job creation, economic recovery and opportunity by recognizing and supporting the critical role small businesses play in job creation in the state.”

### **Governor Gavin Newsom**

Building on the success of Project Roomkey, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the availability of \$600 million in funding for HomeKey, the next phase in the state’s response protecting Californians experiencing homelessness who are at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

Administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Homekey will be the largest expansion of housing for people experiencing homelessness in recent history, while addressing the continuing health and social service needs of this vulnerable population. The \$600 million in grant funding will be made available to counties, cities, and other government entities to purchase and rehabilitate housing including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, and other types of innovative housing, and convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

“Homekey is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to massively expand housing for the homeless in California with federal stimulus funds,” said Governor Newsom. “This unique opportunity requires us to move quickly, in close collaboration with our city and county partners, to protect the most vulnerable people in our state.”

Today, July 20, 2020, the Governor presented a graph that explained the risks of not wearing a face mask. When in groups, if people choose to not wear face coverings, gather inside, stand close together, or meet in large groups, the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is much higher. The Governor explained that a 5-day period of mixing with as little as 2.5 people can lead to over 400 infections. If the primary exposure was decreased by 50%, as little as 15 people would get infected. If the primary exposure was decreased by 75%, as little as people would get infected.

### **November Ballot Initiative Numbers**

Secretary of State Alex Padilla released the official numbers for 2020 ballot initiatives:

**Proposition 14:** Authorizes stem cell bonds.

**Proposition 15:** “Split roll” change to lift commercial property tax

**Proposition 16:** Constitutional amendment to remove voter-passed prohibition on affirmative action in university admissions, public hiring and contracting.

**Proposition 17:** Constitutional amendment allowing felony parolees to vote.

**Proposition 18:** Constitutional amendment allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primaries and special elections if they will be 18 for the general election.

**Proposition 19:** Constitutional amendment allowing elderly and disabled Californians, and wildfire victims, to retain lower property tax rates when they change properties.

**Proposition 20:** Rolls back sentencing and parole reforms enacted via Propositions 47 and 57.

**Proposition 21:** Removes statewide constraint on local governments enacting rent control.

**Proposition 22:** Allows gig tech companies like Uber and DoorDash to continue classifying their drivers/delivery people as independent contractors.

**Proposition 23:** Authorizes new regulation of kidney dialysis clinics.

**Proposition 24:** Expands California’s online consumer privacy law.

**Proposition 25:** Referendum to overturn California’s prohibition on cash bail.

## **Deadline Extensions Due to COVID-19**

Census -- The Census Bureau has extended several of their timelines by 2-3 weeks. This includes their final data collection deadline, which was moved from July 31, 2020, to August 14, 2020.

Real ID – The Department of Homeland Security postponed the Real ID enforcement deadline to October 1, 2021.

## **Department of Finance COVID-19 Allocations**

The Department of Finance is publishing information about budget allocations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The web page provides a high- level allocation summary and includes links to DOF allocation letters by date.

### **Purpose:**

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL\_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

*Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas are available via Internet at: <http://www.acgov.org/>*