

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

**Monday, October 27, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

**Supervisor Lena Tam, Chair
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas**

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chamber – 5th Floor*
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Schedule

The Senate is in session this week, while the House remains in recess.

Government Shutdown

27 days into the government shutdown, there is still no resolution in sight.

The Senate held two additional votes on bills aimed at mitigating the shutdown’s impact this past week. A continuing resolution (CR), aimed at reopening the government through November 21, failed for the 13th time, with a vote of 54–46. As in previous attempts, Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), John Fetterman (D-PA), and Angus King (I-ME) voted in favor, while Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) remained the sole Republican ‘no’ vote.

The Senate also considered the “Shutdown Fairness Act,” introduced by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), which would provide pay to federal employees deemed essential during the shutdown, such as TSA agents and air traffic controllers. This legislation also failed, by a vote of 54–45, though it gained the support of three Senate Democrats: Jon Ossoff (D-GA), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and John Fetterman (D-PA).

This week, Senate Majority Leader John Thune is expected to bring additional targeted funding bills to the floor. These include legislation that would provide funding for:

- Military Pay
- TSA and Air Traffic Controller Compensation
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Continuation

At the center of the funding stalemate remains the Democrats’ demands that Congress address the expiration of the enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits, which are set to lapse at the end of 2025. The White House has reiterated that it is not open to extending the subsidies, describing them as “subsidies to insurance companies.” Instead, administration officials have indicated an interest in pursuing a broader health care overhaul once the government reopens. Currently there is no formal legislative framework in place for such an initiative.

As the shutdown continues, the financial strain on federal workers and the growing disruption to public services, are escalating pressure on lawmakers to find a path forward.

This morning, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) put out a statement requesting that Congress pass a clean Continuing Resolution and put every federal worker back on the job with backpay. This lobbying effort could put pressure on Senate Democrats.

Purpose:

Report progress

- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal Legislative Update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update

California is eight days away from its November special election, where voters will decide whether to approve newly proposed U.S. House district maps. Democrats redrew the maps earlier this summer as a response to President Donald Trump's efforts to expand Republican congressional representation in other states. The Yes side has largely outraised and outspent its opponents, pulling in nearly \$97 million, more than the No side's spend of \$42 million.

Trump Cancels Planned Immigration Crackdown Event in San Francisco

President Trump abruptly canceled a planned immigration enforcement surge in San Francisco. The move came after a tense night of protests, with demonstrators blocking Coast Guard Island in Alameda, where federal agents had gathered for the operation. Gov. Gavin Newsom had prepared to sue over a possible National Guard deployment, while local officials condemned the plan as politically motivated and dangerous.

Impacts of the Federal Shutdown on CalFresh Benefits

Millions of Californians are facing uncertainty as the impacts of the federal government shutdown ripple across the nation, threatening access to essential food assistance programs. Approximately 5.5 million Californians rely on federally funded benefits such as CalFresh, making potential disruptions a serious concern for families and communities across the state. These programs play a vital role in California's safety net, helping to reduce poverty and promote economic stability. Any delay or suspension of benefits would not only jeopardize food security for vulnerable households but also harm local economies that depend on the steady flow of these federal dollars.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) encourages recipients to take several important steps during this period. Those who experience delays remain entitled to back benefits once the federal government reopens. Individuals with remaining balances on their EBT cards from October can continue using those funds freely throughout November. People who still need assistance are advised to keep applying for CalFresh, as eligible applicants will receive their benefits retroactively after federal operations resume.

Governor Gavin Newsom announced the deployment of the California National Guard and California Volunteers to support food banks as the federal shutdown delays food benefits for millions of families. The Governor is expediting \$80 million in food bank support to help offset federal funding gaps. This mirrors actions taken in March 2020, when the Guard and volunteers helped deliver over 800 million meals during the pandemic. The National Guard will not serve in a law enforcement capacity but will provide logistical aid, as it has for wildfire response, drug enforcement, and medical surge efforts.

With SNAP benefits at risk amid the ongoing federal shutdown, California Attorney General Rob Bonta co-led 23 attorney generals in demanding answers from the Trump Administration. In a letter to USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, the coalition raised concerns over an October 10 directive halting November SNAP payments for 42 million Americans, including 5.5 million Californians, without explanation. Bonta called the move "a new low," accusing the administration of endangering families' access to food while focusing on "a \$250 million White House ballroom." The attorneys general said USDA has at least \$6 billion in reserve funds that could cover benefits and demanded clarity by October 27 on its legal authority, available resources, and plans to restore payments.

The State's ability to address the SNAP crisis is limited. The EBT cards are programmed with the federal funds by a third-party vendor. The State is not involved in the programming of the cards at all.

Impacts of Federal Cutbacks on Medi-Caid

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) warns that California faces major Medi-Cal challenges as new federal Medicaid cutbacks take effect, while the State faces fiscal uncertainty. The LAO points out that the state lacks the "fiscal capacity to backfill all of the lost federal revenue." Billions in costs could fall on the General Fund as federal support declines. Medi-Cal, now serving over one-third of Californians and exceeding \$197 billion, is the largest state program, funded mostly by the federal government. The LAO projects that changes to provider taxes (including the managed care organization tax), eligibility (MCO), and immigrant coverage will reduce key revenues and force difficult trade-offs between access to healthcare and costs. While federal savings will grow from lower enrollment, state savings will be modest, leaving counties and public hospitals facing higher costs and potential closures as more Californians become uninsured.

Counties will bear greater administrative and service burdens, especially in behavioral health and indigent care. The LAO urges lawmakers to rethink Medi-Cal's structure, strengthen local safety nets, and revisit policies such as California's health coverage penalty. Without new strategies or funding sources, the report concludes, more Californians will lose coverage or face higher out-of-pocket costs, eroding the state's progress toward universal health care.

October 2025 Finance Bulletin

The DOF October Finance Bulletin notes that the Information Sector's GDP increased by 34.1% cumulatively since the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to a cumulative growth of just 4 percent for all other sectors combined. The gains we are seeing in personal income tax compared to the forecast are highly concentrated in the tech sector, specifically AI.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State Legislative Update**

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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