

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

**Monday, November 17, 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 will be in session Tuesday through Thursday of this week, while the House will be in session Monday through Friday.

Government Shutdown

President Trump signed legislation on Wednesday night to reopen the government, ending the longest government shutdown in history totaling 43 days. The agreement followed days of coordinated action between the Senate and the House after weeks of gridlock.

Last Monday, the Senate voted 60-40 to complete its consideration of a bipartisan package, with eight Democrats joining Republicans. The final agreement included a continuing resolution (CR) funding the government through January 30, a three-bill minibus providing full-year FY 2026 appropriations for Agriculture, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and the Legislative Branch, and a guaranteed Senate vote in December on legislation to extend ACA premium subsidies. The agriculture appropriations included a full-year extension of SNAP and WIC nutrition programs.

On Wednesday evening, after a 54-day recess, the House voted 222-209 in favor of the Senate-passed measure with six Democrats joining Republicans to pass the legislation. President Trump signed the bill Wednesday night, officially reopening the federal government.

FY26 Appropriations Update

With the government reopened, the Senate has resumed work on FY 2026 appropriations. In addition to the FY26 minibus (Agriculture, Military Construction-VA, and Legislative Branch) that was included in the continuing resolution that ended the shutdown, Senate appropriators are actively working to advance the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD), Labor-HHS, Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS), and Defense appropriations legislation. Senate leadership is preparing these bills for floor consideration in the coming weeks. At the end of last week, Senate Republicans established a hotline for the package, but Senate Democrats have yet to do the same on their side. A handful of Senate Democrats will likely object to moving forward on the package quickly over the decision to reopen the government last week, over their objections. While the timeline has not been finalized, appropriators have expressed interest in grouping additional bills into multiple packages to maintain momentum toward full-year funding ahead of the January 30 funding deadline. The remaining bills have all been passed out of Committee.

LIHEAP

In general, the LIHEAP program has historic bipartisan support. As noted below, even the FY26 House bill includes funding for the program.

- FY26 President's Budget Request: The President's Budget Request eliminated funding for the program.

- FY26 Senate LHHS: The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY26 bill in July. The program would be funded at \$4,045,000.
- FY26 House LHHS: The House Appropriations Committee approved its bill in September. The program would be funded at \$4,035,000.

Because the House and Senate bill amounts are so close, we can expect a final bill to include funding of around \$4 billion.

States and tribes typically receive their LIHEAP allocations from HHS by early November. Eligibility for LIHEAP is based on income, family size, and the availability of resources. While eligibility varies by state, most applicants must have a household income below 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline or 60 percent of the state median income.

A bipartisan group of senators sent a letter to HHS Secretary Kennedy on Friday requesting that the department quickly release the highest amount of LIHEAP funding available.

Senate Finance Hearing

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing this Wednesday on the “Rising Cost of Health Care: Considering Meaningful Solutions for All Americans.” Later the same day, a House Ways and Means subcommittee led by Rep. Vern Buchanan’s (R-Fla.) also has a hearing planned on “Modernizing Care Coordination to Prevent and Treat Chronic Disease” that will give tax writers in that chamber a chance to debate the ACA premium tax credit’s future.

More than 30 House members between the two parties wrote to Senate leaders last week urging them to include that chamber in negotiations so any Senate deal can clear Congress and go to President Trump’s desk.

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 Legislation

A. Legislative Update – Full Moon Strategies

Today, Senator Limón officially takes over the duties of the President pro Tempore of the California State Senate. We anticipate her announcement of key leadership appointments, including the Budget Chair, Majority Leader, and Appropriations Committee Chair. As part of her leadership vision, changes to the policy committee chair assignments are expected to take effect after the first house deadline in 2026.

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has joined a Republican-led lawsuit to block California’s new congressional map, arguing it violates the Constitution and civil rights laws. Approved by voters through Proposition 50, the map allows Democrats to bypass the state’s independent redistricting commission and could give them five more House seats. US Attorney General Pam Bondi called the plan a “brazen power grab,” alleging it unlawfully factors race into district lines to favor Hispanic voters. Governor Gavin Newsom defended the maps as a response to GOP redistricting efforts in states like Texas, while his spokesperson said they are confident the plan will withstand court challenges.

Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom attended the global climate summit known as the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. Governor Newsom met with world leaders and signed new international partnerships. Among the new partnerships, Governor Newsom and Brazil’s Minister of Management and Innovation, Esther Dweck, signed a Declaration of Intention on Innovation to modernize the public sector. The partnership focuses on ensuring the responsible use of AI in public management,

accelerating the digital transformation of public services, strengthening environmental policy through evidence-based decision-making, and updating talent management and sustainable public procurement.

On Thursday, November 13th, the Senate Human Services Committee, chaired by Senator Jesse Arreguín, held an informational hearing on the impacts of federal actions, including the recent government shutdown and H.R. 1, on California's CalFresh program, which serves over 5.5 million residents and injects \$1.1 billion monthly into the economy. Senator Arreguín warned that federal changes could result in billions of dollars in economic losses and tens of thousands of job reductions, highlighting Alameda County's \$16.5 million allocation to maintain food assistance during the shutdown. H.R. 1 imposes stricter work requirements, narrows immigrant eligibility, reduces benefits through changes to the Thrifty Food Plan and utility allowances, and increases state and county financial responsibility, potentially affecting hundreds of thousands of recipients. H.R. 1 also emphasizes federal payment error rates, with penalties for inaccuracies that could cost California up to \$2 billion annually, creating pressure to improve eligibility verification, data management, and quality assurance without limiting access to benefits. Vulnerable populations face barriers to employment, while local economies and food banks risk further strain.

On Thursday, November 13th, the Senate Health and Judiciary committees held a joint hearing to review the first CARE Act Report. This hearing took a deep dive into the First Nine Months of the CARE Act, with representatives from the California Department of Public Health and members of the Judicial Council. The discussion centered on optimizing systems for high-need individuals, contrasting the Care Plan's stricter accountability, which can lead to sanctions and involuntary proceedings (like Lanterman-Petris-Short [LPS] hearings), with the more collaborative and voluntary Care Agreement. A major focus was improving system coordination by strengthening partnerships, particularly with first responders and LPS-designated hospitals, who are key in identifying and petitioning for individuals, and by tearing down barriers to timely engagement and data sharing across agencies. Ultimately, the Care Court aims to serve as a diversion mechanism away from conservatorship and restrictive settings, providing robust care within "helpful guardrails" to support community living, though successful diversion efforts vary across counties. Finally, the need for better court coordination (criminal, civil, and probate) was raised to ensure individuals are routed to the most appropriate legal process for their specific needs. Lastly, the committee heard from family petitioners and supporters, health professionals and stakeholders, as well as judges and attorneys, to capture their real-world experiences.

Among the panelists was Alameda County's very own Dr. Karyn L. Tribble, Director of Behavioral Health, who shared some local insight into process challenges the County has faced. She explained that ~20% of cases were dismissed due to the inability to locate participants or because they refused to engage. Additionally, sustaining engagement once outreach and engagement funding end after graduation proved to be particularly difficult.

On Friday, November 14, the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services held an informational hearing focused on the evolving challenges facing California's Medi-Cal program, amid tightening state finances and significant federal policy changes introduced through HR 1. Jason Constantouros from the Legislative Analyst's Office presented a detailed overview of how these changes, particularly new work requirements and modifications to provider taxes, are expected to impact Medi-Cal funding, eligibility, and enrollment. A key takeaway was the anticipated loss of coverage for nearly 1 million beneficiaries, primarily due to stricter eligibility rules. The discussion also emphasized the increased fiscal burden on counties, which have long been a key part of Medi-Cal's safety net. Counties that operate indigent health programs or serve as Medi-Cal providers, such as those with county-run hospitals, could face higher uncompensated care costs as more people lose coverage and become uninsured. Already financially strained, many counties will need to adapt to new eligibility verification processes while potentially absorbing additional costs for those disenrolled from Medi-Cal.

A new report from John Burton Advocates for Youth highlights a success in the fight against homelessness: California's investments in homelessness, particularly through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program, helped reduce youth homelessness by 24% among those under age 24 between 2019 and 2024. However, the report also notes that homelessness overall increased by 24% during that same time. The report credits increased investment for the 24% reduction in youth homelessness, setting up a clear conflict with the new state budget, which severely reduces future funding for the issue.

The approved 2025-26 Budget notably includes no new funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program, a decision that spurred intense legislative debate this year. Ultimately, legislators fought to propose \$500 million in HHAP funding for the 2026-27 budget, though this still represents a significant 50% cut from the previous year's allocation. It remains to be seen how these reduced state funds will impact the significant progress made in reducing both youth homelessness and homelessness overall, especially when combined with federal cuts.

On Friday November 14, 2025, Tomiquia Moss, Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing (BCSH), and Kim Johnson, California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) Secretary — co-chairs of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) — issued statements in response to changes made by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the funding requirements for the 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) notice of funding opportunity. Specifically, the federal government applied a cap on permanent housing — restricting CoCs to using only 30% of funds for permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. This new requirement stands in contrast to California's strategy, where 87% of CoC funds support permanent housing interventions. The co-Chairs report that this change could result in the loss of more than \$250 to \$300 million annually for permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing in California and undermines the goals of the California Statewide Action Plan.

The Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) issue in California centers on a long-standing mandate requiring AT&T (the primary COLR) to provide basic, traditional copper-wire landline phone service to anyone who requests it in its service territory. AT&T and its supporters argue the COLR obligation is an outdated, costly regulation that forces the company to maintain an "antiquated" copper network. They claim this diverts resources that should be used for modernizing networks. Meanwhile, consumer groups, rural communities, and public safety advocates argue that the landline is a critical "lifeline" and essential public safety tool, given copper landlines are uniquely reliable during emergencies like wildfires, earthquakes, and widespread power outages.

This year, AT&T sponsored AB 470 (McKinnor), a legislative effort that, in its most recent form, would have allowed AT&T to pull copper lines out of open spaces and "well served" areas (those with at least three other service providers). Alameda County initially opposed AB 470 but shifted its position to neutral once amendments addressed our concerns. The bill failed to pass out of the Senate Appropriations Committee in August and was declared a 2-year bill. Now, California utility regulators may end up deciding the future of California's COLR obligations if AB 470 isn't passed quickly. Through a current rulemaking process, the California Public Utilities Commission is seeking to determine key factors for last-resort service, such as provider responsibility, adequate coverage standards, and conditions for discontinuing the service obligation.

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

B. Request for Legislation Position – Action Item

- i. [**AB 225**](#) (Bonta) **State Hospitals for Persons with Mental Health Disorders: Patient Funds**
Recommendation: Support – Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4

Recommendation from PAL Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

Purpose:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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

P:\BOS comms\PAL_11_17_25 minutes