

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

**Monday, December 1, 2025**

**1:30 p.m.**

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

**Location:** Susan S. Muranishi County  
Administration Building  
Board Chambers  
1221 Oak Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Summary/Action Minutes**

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

**Schedule**

The House and Senate are both in session this week and are scheduled to be in session for the next 3 weeks. With several key deadlines approaching, the House has 13 legislative days remaining before the holiday recess, and the Senate has 12.

**Appropriations**

Senate leaders are discussing advancing the next set of FY 2026 appropriations bills, including Defense, Labor–HHS, Transportation–HUD (THUD), Energy and Water (EW), Commerce–Justice–Science (CJS), and potentially Interior. Appropriators are evaluating what combination of bills can be packaged together to maintain progress toward full-year funding ahead of the January 30, 2026, deadline. House leadership has indicated that they will wait for Senate action before moving on their own packages.

**Affordable Care Act**

Congress must address the expiration of the enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits on December 31. The Senate may hold a vote next week if members reach consensus on whether to pursue a clean extension or make targeted changes to the credits. Multiple proposals are circulating in both chambers, and negotiations are ongoing as lawmakers determine a path forward before the deadline. However, House leadership has not committed to holding a vote, even if the Senate were to pass an extension.

The Senate HELP Committee will hold a hearing on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, to discuss ways to make health care more affordable. Chairman Bill Cassidy (R-LA) may discuss his legislative proposal to provide cash transfers to HSAs to help Americans lower the cost of certain health expenses. This would be done in lieu of extending the ACA’s enhanced premium tax credits, which provide subsidies to health insurance premiums.

The White House planned to release a framework to extend the tax credits for two years, but that plan was shelved after significant pushback from the Hill. The White House has still not released an updated plan for Congress to take up, significantly diminishing the likelihood of a breakthrough before the end of the year.

In May 2024, the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation released a report showing that permanently extending expanded premium tax credits would cost \$335 billion, or \$35 billion per year, plus an additional \$48 billion in interest payments, totaling \$383 billion over 10 years.

**National Defense Authorization Act**

Negotiators are finalizing agreements for the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with final text expected to be released for floor consideration this week. Although both chambers have advanced their respective bills, they differ in several areas, including topline funding levels. The Senate authorized

nearly \$925 billion, while the House aligned with the White House's \$883 billion request. Once the conference agreement is finalized, the bill will proceed through both chambers for passage and then to the President to complete the annual authorization cycle.

### **LIHEAP Funding Released**

HHS released about \$3.6 billion in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds on Friday, November 28, 2025, to states and tribes, according to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association. States typically receive their allocations at the beginning of November.

#### **Purpose:**

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

#### **Committee Feedback/Action**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

## **II. State Legislation**

### **A. Legislative Update – Full Moon Strategies**

The State of California launched two lawsuits against the Trump Administration last week to challenge the loss of homelessness funding and SNAP eligibility for certain lawful permanent residents. With these two lawsuits, Attorney General Rob Bonta's office has now sued the Trump administration 48 times this year.

#### **2026 California Gubernatorial Race**

Last week, billionaire Stephen Cloobek dropped out of the California gubernatorial race. He endorsed Eric Swalwell (U.S. Representative), adding to a ballooning field of Democratic candidates vying to succeed the term-limited Gavin Newsom and leaving political operatives stunned at how unusually open the contest has become. Swalwell, known for his anti-Trump stance in Congress and his brief 2020 presidential bid, launched his gubernatorial campaign on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, saying California “needs a fighter and a protector.” His entry came just after billionaire Tom Steyer, another 2020 presidential contender and progressive environmental advocate, announced his own campaign, highlighting his history of investing millions in state causes, including Newsom’s Proposition 50 redistricting effort.

#### **California Explores Corporate Taxes to Protect Medi-Cal Amid Federal Cuts**

Facing major federal cuts and an \$18 billion deficit, California leaders have formed the Future of Medi-Cal Commission to craft a 10 year plan to stabilize and modernize the program, which covers 15 million low-income residents. The 29-member group, funded by major foundations and led by former state officials Mark Ghaly and Ann O’Leary, will explore new financing options and behavioral health improvements, with recommendations expected in early 2027.

Meanwhile, health care industry leaders and activist groups are strategizing over how to capture new corporate gains from H.R. 1, with a tax on large employers whose workers rely on public benefits emerging as a leading idea backed by SEIU.

SEIU-UHW is also pushing a separate ballot measure: a one-time 5% tax on Californians worth \$1 billion or more, projected to raise \$100 billion over five years to offset Medicaid losses under Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act. SEIU leaders cast the proposal as an emergency measure to prevent millions of people from losing coverage, with 90% of funds dedicated to health care and 10% to education.

#### **Governor Newsom Sue Trump Administration for Cut to Homeless Housing Funding**

A few weeks ago, the federal government applied a percentage cap on funds for permanent supportive housing for homeless housing of 30%. In response, Governor Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit on November 25, 2025, as part of a multistate coalition. The lawsuit argues that the changes are illegal because they alter funding eligibility without authorization by Congress and are not supported by

evidence or reason. The changes made by HUD are projected to result in the loss of more than \$250 to \$300 million annually for permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing in California and undermine the goals of the California Statewide Action Plan.

### **On The Eve of Thanksgiving, Attorney General Bonta Sues Trump Administration for Unlawfully Restricting Eligibility for Food Assistance Program**

Last week, the Attorney General submitted a letter regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) interpretation of HR 1 for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. On Wednesday, November 26th, 2025, Attorney General Rob Bonta, alongside 21 attorneys general from other states, announced a lawsuit against the USDA for their guidance that restricts eligibility for SNAP, known in California as the CalFresh. This formal legal action claims that the USDA's guidance for implementing the "Big Beautiful Bill" illegally restricts certain lawful permanent residents (LPRs) from receiving benefits that Congress intended for them.

The controversy stems from the USDA's interpretation of the "Big Beautiful Bill", which eliminated SNAP eligibility for individuals who entered the U.S. based on refugee, asylee, or humanitarian parolee status. The attorneys general argue that while the law did remove eligibility based on those initial statuses, it did not prohibit these individuals from becoming eligible once they adjust their status to become lawful permanent residents. The USDA's guidance, however, lists these individuals as "not eligible" even after they become LPRs. Furthermore, the guidance suggests that humanitarian entrants must wait five years after obtaining LPR status to qualify for SNAP, while the attorneys general argue the law dictates they should be eligible immediately upon becoming LPRs.

The coalition asserts that the guidance has severely confused state agencies implementing the new rules. The attorneys general caution that without judicial action, the guidance will cause eligibility errors, potentially denying food assistance to thousands of legal permanent residents. The lawsuit emphasizes that these errors could also incur massive state financial penalties. They are asking the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon to bar the USDA from applying the guidance and from using its effective date, which was set for November 1, 2025, just one day after the guidance was issued, for calculating state error rates.

#### **Purpose:**

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

#### **Committee Feedback/Action**

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/>*