

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

Monday, July 21, 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 House and Senate are in session this week, with the House set to adjourn this Thursday for the August recess. As of now, the Senate is scheduled to be in Washington, D.C. through July.

Rescissions Package Update

Congress advanced a \$9 billion rescissions package on July 18th after removing a \$400 million cut to PEPFAR and including exceptions for global HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, and certain tribal issues. The bill now goes to the President for his signature. A rescissions package can be passed with a simple majority and is not subject to the filibuster, which undermines bipartisan spending agreements. If additional partisan rescissions are pursued, Senate Democrats may be less willing to negotiate on appropriations, raising the risk of a government shutdown.

FY26 Appropriations Update

Congress has continued to focus on FY2026 Appropriations, and they must complete consideration or pass a continuing resolution by September 30th. Last week, House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole released the FY26 top line funding totals, matching the Trump administration's request for \$892.5 billion in defense spending, but exceeding the White House's request for domestic funding. For non-defense funding, House appropriators are proposing \$705.6 billion—about 27% higher than Trump's request of \$557.4 billion, but 2% lower than the current non-defense funding level of \$720.5 billion.

With both chambers expected to be in recess for the month of August, there is a very condensed timeline to get all 12 appropriations bills passed through both chambers, making a continuing resolution likely. The House has completed full markups on five of twelve FY26 spending bills and is amid subcommittee markups.

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

The California State Legislature officially adjourned last Friday afternoon, marking the beginning of its four-week summer recess. Lawmakers are scheduled to return to the Capitol on Monday, August 18, 2025, to begin the final phase of the 2025 legislative session that goes until September 12, 2025. Last Friday was the last day for policy committees to hear and report bills prior to the summer recess, in accordance with the Joint Rules of the Legislature. This deadline effectively concluded committee activity on policy matters until the Legislature reconvenes.

Newsom Proposes California Counter to Texas GOP Redistricting Push

California Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed a bold response to Texas Republicans' plan to redraw congressional districts to favor the GOP: he suggests California should do the same to bolster Democratic representation. This proposal comes in the wake of President Donald Trump's endorsement of Texas's redistricting efforts, aiming to add five GOP-leaning seats ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. This plan would face legal challenges. Newsom defends the proposal as a necessary measure to counter what he perceives as an existential threat posed by Republican efforts to reshape electoral maps.

California Attorney General Leads Multistate Amicus Brief Defending Legal Services for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has filed an amicus brief on behalf of a 20-state coalition in *Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, et al. v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, urging the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold a lower court's preliminary injunction against the Trump Administration's termination of funding for legal services for unaccompanied immigrant children. Alameda County took an early support position on AB 1261, which requires the California Department of Social Services to contract with nonprofit legal services providers or public defenders to provide legal counsel to unaccompanied minors in civil immigration proceedings.

Attorney General Bonta Leads Fight Against USDA's Invasive SNAP Data-Sharing

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, leading a coalition of 14 attorneys general, is strongly opposing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) unprecedented proposal to require states to hand over sensitive personal information of millions of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants. The USDA's plan represents a serious threat to individual privacy and violates long-standing legal protections. In a letter to the agency, the attorneys general argue that this overreach is unnecessary, unlawful, and an inefficient use of government resources, particularly when SNAP fraud rates remain historically low due to effective oversight already in place.

Trump Administration Push to Reopen Alcatraz as Federal Prison Sparks Backlash

This week, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Attorney General Pam Bondi visited Alcatraz Island, the former federal penitentiary closed in 1963 and now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to kick off a Trump-era effort to "rehabilitate and reopen" the site as a federal prison for "the most dangerous criminals and illegals." The proposal has drawn opposition: San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie dismissed it as having "no feasible plan" and warned of significant tourism losses. Critics also point to massive financial, environmental, and logistical barriers, including the island's protected status under historic preservation and national park laws, which would be difficult to undo without new legislation.

Glimpse of California's 2026 Governor's Race as Field Begins to Take Shape

Recent polling around the 2026 California governor's race positions Vice President Kamala Harris as a leading figure should she decide to enter. Outpacing declared Democrat Katie Porter and Republican candidates like Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco. If Harris opts out, Porter's numbers rise noticeably.

On the Republican side, candidates like Hilton and Bianco are leveraging Harris's possible candidacy to energize their base. As the race develops, it suggests a competitive yet Democratic-favored primary.

Current official candidates for the California Gubernatorial race in 2026:

Democratic Party – 1) Toni Atkins – State Senate President pro Tem (former Assembly Speaker); 2) Xavier Becerra – Former U.S. HHS Secretary and California Attorney General; 3) Steve Cloobeck – Businessman and philanthropist, 4) Eleni Kounalakis – Lieutenant Governor of California, 5) Katie Porter – Former U.S. Representative, 6) Tony Thurmond – State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 7) Antonio Villaraigosa – Former Los Angeles Mayor and Assembly Speaker, 8) Betty Yee – Former State Controller, 9) Michael Younger – Democratic candidate, and 10) Raji Rab – Democratic candidate.

Republican Party – 1) Chad Bianco – Riverside County Sheriff, 2) Steve Hilton – Former UK political advisor and Fox commentator, 3) Kyle Langford – Construction manager, and 4) Daniel Mercuri – Businessman.

No party/Green Party – 1) Leo Zacky – Agribusiness heir and previous candidate, No Party Preference, 2) Butch Ware – Green Party candidate, 3) Nicholas Thompson – No party preference, 4) Javen Allen – No party preference, and 5) Tony Fitzpatrick – No party preference.

Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

- July 18th is the policy committee deadline and first day of the Summer Recess, which lasts until August 18th.
- August 29, 2025: This is the final day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills. After this deadline, no new bills requiring fiscal committee review can move forward in the legislative process.

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.

Request for Legislation position – *Action Item*

i. [AB 607](#) (Rodriguez) CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program

Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☒ **Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- ☐ Other:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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