

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

Monday, January 25, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 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 and is holding nominations hearings. The House is not in session this week but is holding some Committee organizational meetings.

COVID Relief Discussions

This weekend, top advisers from President Biden’s administration discussed the President’s \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief proposal with a bipartisan group of Senators. Last week, Speaker Pelosi said the House will be ready to vote on the proposal by the first week of February, but there are expected to be significant challenges in getting this through Congress. With current rules in place, Democrats in the Senate will need to get 10 Republicans to join them before they move to a vote. Leader Schumer wants a deal done by March when employment benefits are set to expire. The Administration will likely release a recovery package in February with funding for infrastructure and a clean energy emphasis.

Senate Power Sharing Agreement

Leaders Schumer and McConnell continue to negotiate a power-sharing agreement. Until an agreement is finalized, the Senate cannot move forward with organizing Committees for the 117th Congress. The main sticking point is language Leader McConnell wants that would protect the legislative filibuster. Leader Schumer does not want to commit to this. Newly-elected Senators Padilla, Osoff, and Warnock will not be given committee assignments until the agreement is finalized.

Nominations

The 117th Congress is currently focused mainly on the nominations and confirmations process of President Joe Biden’s nominees for federal offices. Confirmation votes will take place in the Senate over the next two weeks and pass with relative ease as Democrats now have the Senate majority. President Biden has named career staffers to act as Cabinet members until confirmations are approved. In addition, agency staff positions are being filled. The Senate has confirmed Avril Haines to serve as Director of National Intelligence and Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Hearings were held in the Senate for Janet Yellen to serve as Secretary of the Treasury, Alejandro Mayorkas for Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and Pete Buttigieg for Secretary of Transportation. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will vote Wednesday to advance Pete Buttigieg. His nomination would then move to the Senate floor for a vote. Janet Yellen's confirmation vote in the Senate is scheduled for this evening.

Schedule of Remaining Nomination Hearings

- Tuesday ○ Senate Commerce Hearing on the Nomination of Gina Raimondo to be Commerce Secretary
- Wednesday ○ Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing on the Nomination Jennifer Granholm to be the Secretary of Energy ○ Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be UN Ambassador ○ Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Denis R. McDonough to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Thursday ○ Senate Banking Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Marcia Fudge to be HUD Secretary

Executive Orders

President Biden has taken a slew of actions and signed Executive Orders during the first days of his administration that include:

- Ask agencies to boost food aid and improve the delivery of stimulus checks
- Repeal the ban on transgender people serving openly in U.S. military
- Vaccine distribution improvements
- Mask mandate on federal property and public transportation
- Reengaging with WHO
- Creating a coordinated national COVID response
- Extending eviction and foreclosure moratoriums
- Extending the pause on student loans
- Rejoining the Paris Climate Accord
- Rolling back Trump environmental Eos
- Advancing racial equality
- Reversing Trump EO excluding undocumented immigrants for census apportionment **count**
- Preserving DACA
- Reversing the "Muslim ban"
- Stopping border wall construction
- Preventing discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation
- Overturning the transgender military ban
- Strengthening Buy American Provisions

Executive Order on Boosting Food Aid

To address the growing hunger crisis facing 29 million Americans -- and as many as 12 million children -- by asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to consider expanding and extending federal nutrition assistance programs.

The President asked:

- USDA to consider issuing new guidance increasing the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) by approximately 15% to reflect the costs of missing meals and make it easier for households to claim benefits. This action could provide a family with three children more than \$100 of additional support every two months.
- USDA to consider issuing new guidance that would allow states to increase SNAP emergency allotments for those who need it most. This would be the first step to ensuring that an additional 12 million people get enhanced SNAP benefits.

FEMA Cost Share Updates

Safe Opening and Operation FEMA will provide reimbursement to state, local, tribal, territorial governments and the District of Columbia at a 100% federal cost share until Sept. 30, 2021, for the safe opening and operation of eligible schools, child-care facilities, healthcare facilities, non-congregate shelters, domestic violence shelters, transit systems and other eligible applicants.

FEMA: Accelerated State Vaccine Efforts

FEMA will provide reimbursement to states, local, tribal and territorial governments and the District of Columbia for use of their National Guard to respond to COVID-19 and other assistance at a 100% cost share until Sept. 30, 2021. The agency will expedite reimbursement for eligible emergency work projects as appropriate and consistent with applicable law. Such assistance may include but is not limited to:

- Leasing facilities or equipment to administer and store the vaccine.
- Providing personal protective equipment and disinfection services and supplies.
- Paying staff overtime for vaccine administration or logistics.
- Contracting additional staff.
- Training personnel on vaccine distribution and administration.
- Supplies for administration sites.
- Using technology to register and track vaccine administration.
- Providing public communication on vaccine efforts.

Biden Immigration Plan

In addition to the slate of executive actions President Biden took on his first day in office, he also sent Congress a plan for immigration reform, the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021. The bill would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, expand use of technology at the southern border instead of relying on a wall, and provide foreign aid to Central America. 11 million qualifying undocumented immigrants would be granted temporary legal status and then allowed to apply for green cards after five years if they meet certain requirements. Three years later, they would become eligible to apply for citizenship.

Public Health Emergency Extension

Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services sent a letter to Governors on the extension of the National Public Health Emergency. HHS extended the PHE on January 21, 2021 for a period of 90 days. In the letter, the Secretary stated that the PHE will likely remain in place for the entirety of 2021, and that HHS will provide states with 60 days' notice prior to expiration or termination of the PHE. Additionally, the available temporary 6.2 percentage point increase in the Medicaid FMAP included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act will expire at the end of the quarter in which the PHE ends. HHS also plans for the continued use of other emergency authorities, including Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act declarations and emergency use authorizations (EUA) for diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines.

Impeachment

This evening, the House will deliver to the Senate an article of impeachment against former President Donald Trump for his role in inciting the riot at the U.S. Capitol earlier this month. The trial in the Senate has been scheduled to begin on February 9, 2021.

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

Capitol Update

The Legislature is on an expedited schedule to work through the budget with both the Immediate Action Budget and the Early Action Budget intended to address California’s needs related to COVID-19. Due to this, multiple budget subcommittees and full budget hearings have been scheduled throughout the week, listed below. Friday, January 22, 2021, was the deadline by which to submit bill drafting requests to Legislative Counsel. The next deadline is the bill introduction deadline - February 19, 2021. The Governor has announced today that the California Stay at Home Order is being lifted.

Monday, January 25, 2021

The following urgency legislation was heard on the Senate Floor, no vote was taken:

- SB 29 (Umberg) Elections: vote by mail ballots.

o Position: Priority Watch

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

- The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 4 – State Administration and General Government has scheduled an informational hearing on the subject of “Governor's Proposal for Direct Support for Workers and Small Businesses.”
- The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee has scheduled an informational hearing on budget trailer bills.
- The Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4 on State Administration has scheduled an oversight hearing on the subject of EDD: Unemployment Insurance.

Thursday, January 28, 2021

- The Assembly Budget Committee has scheduled an informational hearing on the subject of Immediate Budget Action.
- The Assembly Select Committee on Latina Inequities has scheduled an informational hearing on the subject of “Unseen Latinas: Economic and Health Impacts on Latinas during the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Governor Gavin Newsom

Today Governor Newsom delivered his latest COVID-19 update, first sharing news which broke late last night – the statewide Stay At Home order previously in effect has now been lifted for all five regions, as all region’s ICU capacities have been projected to exceed 15% in the next four weeks, as demonstrated in the graphic below. All regions in California will now return to the Blueprint for A Safer Economy framework.

The state is looking to simplify the vaccine eligibility framework, standardize vaccine information and data, and address supply issues on the state and federal level. As part of that effort, the Administration will now be setting a single, statewide baseline standard. Vaccinators will continue to vaccinate individuals 65 and up, healthcare workers, first responders, food and agricultural workers, teachers, and school staff. From there, the state will be transitioning to age-based eligibility, allowing the state to scale up and down quickly and get vaccines to disproportionately impacted communities.

Newsom addressed the concern of Californians wondering when and where they will be vaccinated, as well as the issue of how this massive effort will roll out, citing the need for a centralized system to enter vaccines received and administered, as well as a mechanism to address reporting and data lag.

In response, the state has partnered with California companies Salesforce, Skedulo, and Accenture to launch a new scheduling and notification system for Californians which will also serve as a data collection system for vaccine providers – MyTurn. Eviction Moratorium/Rental Assistance Budget Bills in PrintTwo budget-related bills were amended this morning to include eviction moratorium and rental assistance-related language: SB 91 (Skinner) and AB 80 (Ting). Governor Newsom, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, and Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins released a joint statement announcing the deal and commending stakeholders for coming together. In short, the eviction moratorium would be extended through June 2021.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Last day for bills to be introduced – February 19, 2020
- Spring Recess – March 25, 2021

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.

Request for Legislation position – Action Item

- AB 71 (Rivas/Chiu) Homelessness funding: Bring California Home Act**
Recommendation: Support: Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency
Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency
Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care 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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