Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate recessed on Friday for a two-week district work period and will return to session on April 29.

Budget Cap Negotiations

House Democratic leadership decided against bringing a budget cap bill to the floor last week after the legislation lost support from progressive members of the Democratic caucus including, Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) who was advocating for additional increases to non-defense spending. The legislation (H.R. 2021) would have increased the budget caps for FY20 and FY21 and avoided the steep cuts that are set to automatically go into effect if a deal is not reached by October 1. Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell have announced they have begun talks and have directed their staffs to work together to reach a bipartisan deal in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, House appropriations subcommittees have begun drafting FY20 spending bills under the same top-line levels included in House Budget Committee Chairman Yarmuth’s (D-KY) proposal which called for increasing defense and non-defense spending equally by $88 billion each. House subcommittees are expected to start marking up the appropriations bills when Congress returns from recess the week of April 29, 2019.

Disaster Supplemental

Over the past few months, Congressional leaders have been negotiating a disaster-aid package for California’s wildfires and areas impacted by hurricanes on the East Coast and in Puerto Rico. However, the disaster supplemental appropriations package continues to remain stalled due to ongoing discussions about the level of aid that Puerto Rico should receive. The Trump Administration continues to say that the Puerto Rican government has mismanaged funds and President Trump does not want to provide any additional assistance. Republicans and Democrats have agreed to providing approximately $600 million in nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico, but the outstanding issue continues to be HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Not only are Democrats calling for additional funding, but they are also calling for additional language requiring HUD to spend CDBG disaster funds as quickly as possible.

Last week, House Democrats introduced a slightly modified disaster aid bill that provides an additional $3 billion in funds to address flooding in the Midwest and tornadoes in the South. Congress is expected to continue negotiations when they return from recess with the hopes of moving a larger disaster package in May.
Violence Against Women Act

On April 4, the House approved a bill that would reauthorize programs under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The bill would authorize more than $1 billion annually through FY24 for grant programs to prevent and respond to violent crimes. The VAWA Reauthorization of 2019 seeks to reform the program in a number of ways, including:

- Expanding Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) VAWA grants to include additional community resources for response to incidences of domestic violence
- Increasing SMART Prevention Grant funding to support youth violence prevention education programs from $15 million to $45 million, each year through 2024
- Increasing grants for combating violent crimes on campuses from $12 million to $16 million annually
- Supporting training in early childhood programs on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking
- Expanding gun buying restrictions to include individuals with a misdemeanor conviction of domestic abuse or stalking
- Preserving and expanding housing protections for survivors
- Enhancing law enforcement tools and safeguards for the Office on Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice

Senators Feinstein and Ernst are negotiating a separate bill that, if passed by the full Senate, would result in the House and Senate conferencing their bills.

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

Budget

The Budget Sub Committees will resume their business once the legislature returns from spring recess on April 22, 2019. They have three weeks until the May revise is released, at that time they will have a better picture of the state’s finances and will be able to start closing out all open items. Items that do not have agreement will then go to the Budget Conference Committee for a final decision. As we reported in our weekly update, each house has been given a set dollar amount for member’s requests, these items will not be contested by the other house, nor will they go to the Budget Conference Committee. We will continue to represent the county on critical budget issues while they are being heard in the subcommittees and will work with staff once the conference committee agenda is released to ensure that we are monitoring any important items on behalf of the County.

Policy Committees

AB 944 (Quirk) CalWORKs: sponsored noncitizen: indigence exception
The County’s co-sponsored bill, AB 944 (Quirk) was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, the bill was placed on the Appropriations Suspense File, which will be taken up at the end of May.

AB 143 (Quirk-Silva) Emergency Shelter Housing
Additionally, the County is now a co-sponsor of AB 143 (Quirk-Silva). This bill will allow the County to be eligible for the Emergency Shelter Housing proposal as passed in 2017. This will enable the County to get emergency housing built and available much faster than the current system. The bill has been amended to include the County of Alameda. Political Solutions will continue to work with the Administration on the issues related to the HEAP requirements to ensure that the County is in compliance.
Governor Newsom Addresses Housing and Homelessness

The Governor announced last week that he would be allocating additional dollars to cities for to help address housing and homelessness issues. Political Solutions has a meeting with the Governor’s staff next week, which will be a good opportunity to remind them of the critical work that counties do related to housing and homelessness issues. Additionally, it will be a good opportunity to update them on the bond that the County passed to help address this issue. Supervisor Carson will be in attendance at the CSAC meeting with the Governor to further discuss the issue.

Key Dates/Deadlines
- April 11, 2019 – Spring Recess began
- April 22, 2019 – Legislature returns from Spring Recess
- May 10, 2019 – May Revise released
- May 10, 2019 – Policy committee deadline
- May 31, 2019 – House of Origin deadline
- June 15, 2019 – Budget must be passed by midnight

A. Request for Legislation position – Action Item s– continued from March 25, 2019

i. SB 58 (Weiner) Alcoholic beverages: hours of sale
   Recommendation: Oppose: Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4

ii. Budget Request for State funding increase for the Older Californians Act Programs
   Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

iii. Budget Request for State funding increase for Child Welfare Services Training System
    Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

iv. Budget Request for State funding increase for Child Welfare Services – Bringing Families Home
    Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

v. Budget Request for State funding increase for Child Welfare Services – Extended Foster Care
   Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

C. Request for Legislation position – Action Items - new items

i. AB 1593 (Reyes) Personal income taxes: earned income credit
   Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

ii. Budget Request for State funding augmentation of $68 million for Public Administrator, Public Guardian, Public Conservator programs
    Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

    Recommendation: Support: Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

iv. Comment on Governor's Childcare Facilities Trailer Bill
   Recommendation: Support: Wille A. Hopkins, Jr., Director, General Services Agency
v. **Budget Request for State funding increase for Statewide Infrastructure Basic Needs and Disaster Relief**  
   *Recommendation: Support:* Keith Carson, Board of Supervisors, District 5

vi. **AB 187 (Garcia) Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act**  
   *Recommendation: Support:* Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4

vii. **AB 1509 (Mullin) Solid Waste: lithium-ion batteries**  
    *Recommendation: Support:* Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4 and Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency

viii. **AB 1672 (Bloom) Solid waste: flushable products**  
      *Recommendation: Support:* Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4 and Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency

ix. **Budget Request for State funding increase for Census Region 3 funding**  
   *Recommendation: Support:* Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency

x. **AB 1216 (Bauer-Kahan) Solid waste: illegal dumping**  
   *Recommendation: Co-Sponsor:* Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4 and Nancy O’Malley, District Attorney, District Attorney’s Office

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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