

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

Monday, September 21, 2020

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

Congressional Schedule

Both chambers will hold floor votes this week and will be in session through September.

Appropriations - Continuing Resolution

House Democrats released the text of their FY21 continuing resolution (CR) today. The bill extends FY2020 funding levels until December 11, 2020. This bill does not have the support of the White House or Senate Republicans at this point. Republicans are wanting to include \$30 billion in farm aid, but Democrats want that aid to be included as part of a separate stimulus package.

Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell have each indicated their desire to prevent a government shutdown after the end of FY20 on September 30th. Speaker Pelosi said yesterday they still hope to fund the government without getting distracted by any of the other political debates dominating the country's attention. According to Pelosi, Democrats will not use the talks on a continuing resolution as leverage in discussions on a replacement for the late Justice Ginsburg. Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had also previously agreed to keep funding discussions separate from the negotiations on a coronavirus stimulus bill.

Coronavirus Stimulus/Relief Discussions

Last week, the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus released their proposal for a coronavirus stimulus package. The Problem Solvers Caucus is a bipartisan group consisting of 25 Democrat and 25 Republican members of the House. The framework includes 8 major sections, including \$100 billion for testing and health care, direct assistance for individuals and families which includes \$1200 direct payments to individuals and a \$500 per child benefit, \$120 billion in unemployment insurance, \$290 billion in small business support, \$145 billion in funds for education and child care, \$500 billion in state and local aid, and \$400 million in election aid. This is the first major bipartisan agreement that has been reached since the stalemate over additional coronavirus stimulus funds began earlier this year.

House Speaker Pelosi announced that the House will remain in session until an agreement is reached on the next COVID-19 relief package. While the House will not necessarily vote on this version of the bill, this proposal signals the possibility for bipartisan support on a future deal.

Supreme Court

The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has set the stage for a fight in the Senate over the confirmation of her replacement. Democrats and some Senate Republicans are calling for proceedings to begin after the November general election.

In 2016, Senate Republicans held up the confirmation of President Obama's nominee Merrick Garland, creating a new precedent that Supreme Court justices would not be confirmed during election years. All signs point to a changing of course for Senate Republicans, with many having stated that they fully intend to confirm a new Trump-appointed justice in the coming weeks.

Several White House allies have said the expectation is that confirmation hearings would be conducted before the election with the vote on the nomination coming afterward, in the "lame duck" congressional session.

The Supreme Court was set to consider a challenge to portions of the Affordable Care Act just a week after the November election. The challenge argues that the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate became unconstitutional when Congress nullified it in 2017 — and that the rest of the ACA must fall along with it. If President Trump is able to replace Ginsburg with a stalwart conservative, the risk to the ACA's core provisions will grow significantly.

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

The Legislature remains on their interim recess and are focused on elections in their districts, trying to put together their legislative packages for 2021, pandemic response, and economic recovery efforts.

Governor Gavin Newsom

The Governor has until Wednesday, September 30th to sign or veto bills that have been sent to his desk. Additionally, the Governor has visited California's wildfires with both President Trump and Vice President nominee Kamala Harris. Press conferences at noon continue to update the media and Californians about the state's actions on COVID-19 and the wildfires.

Today, Governor Newsom gave an update on Project Homekey, the EDD Strike Team Report, the wildfire situation, and the COVID-19 statistics.

The second round of awards for Project Homekey was issued today, \$236 million was used to procure 20 projects with 1,810 units in 12 jurisdictions, including Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, Counties of Riverside, Shasta, Los Angeles, and Santa Clara as well as Cities of Oakland, Mountain View, Fresno (Housing Authority), Ventura, San Francisco, and San Diego.

November Ballot Initiative Numbers

Secretary of State **Alex Padilla** released the official numbers for 2020 ballot initiatives:

Proposition 14: Authorizes stem cell bonds.

Proposition 15: "Split roll" change to lift commercial property tax

Proposition 16: Constitutional amendment to remove voter-passed prohibition on affirmative action in university admissions, public hiring and contracting.

Proposition 17: Constitutional amendment allowing felony parolees to vote.

Proposition 18: Constitutional amendment allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primaries and special elections if they will be 18 for the general election.

Proposition 19: Constitutional amendment allowing elderly and disabled Californians, and wildfire victims, to retain lower property tax rates when they change properties.

Proposition 20: Rolls back sentencing and parole reforms enacted via Propositions 47 and 57.

Proposition 21: Removes statewide constraint on local governments enacting rent control.

Proposition 22: Allows gig tech companies like Uber and DoorDash to continue classifying their drivers/delivery people as independent contractors.

Proposition 23: Authorizes new regulation of kidney dialysis clinics.

Proposition 24: Expands California's online consumer privacy law.

Proposition 25: Referendum to overturn California's prohibition on cash bail

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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