

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

Monday, October 21, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair  
Supervisor Lena Tam

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 went into recess at the end of September. Both chambers remain out of session for the month of October and are scheduled to return on November 12th.

**AI Package**

Congressional leaders have been quietly negotiating an AI package that could ride along the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) or a potential year-end spending package. Details on the package remain opaque, but several bills have passed through committees on a bipartisan basis related to AI research and workforce training bills and will likely serve as a base to a larger package. The package may also address misinformation generated by AI, including elections, natural disasters, and national security. Over the summer, Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Todd Young (R-IN) chaired the AI Working Group, which produced a roadmap for the Senate to follow. Majority Leader Schumer has also encouraged Senate committee chairs to advance legislation that addresses AI.

**Federal Reapportionment Projections**

The primary Republican organization responsible for coordinating the GOP's redistricting strategy, the American Redistricting Project, released their latest projections about the 2030 national reapportionment, and the most notable prediction is that California could lose four of their current 52 congressional seats. According to the ARP's early 2030 projections, a total of 13 districts, if the present trends continue throughout the rest of the decade, would change states, almost double the number that switched domains in the current reapportionment.

The big gainers projected are Texas (+4) and Florida (+3). The latter state is also thought to be on the bubble for a fourth seat. The other one-seat gainers would be Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah. The states projected to lose seats, in addition to California, would be New York (3) and Illinois (2), with the following losing one seat apiece: Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

If the 2030 projections are correct, the 13 seats switching states, under current voting trends, would net the Republicans approximately 11 electoral votes, which would be a massive boost to their prospects of electing future presidents.

The Brennan Center for Justice echoed these projections in December 2023, similarly projecting California could lose four congressional seats in 2030.

## **Committee for Responsible Federal Budget Analysis of Trump Tax Plan's Impact on Social Security**

On Monday, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget released an analysis of President Trump's tax proposals on Social Security. According to CFPB, the proposals to eliminate taxation of Social Security benefits, end taxes on tips and overtime, impose tariffs, and expand deportations would all widen Social Security's cash deficits. Under their central estimate, they found that President Trump's agenda would:

- Increase Social Security's ten-year cash shortfall by \$2.3 trillion through FY 2035.
- Advance insolvency by three years, from FY 2034 to FY 2031 – hastening the next President's insolvency timeline by one-third.
- Lead to a 33 percent across-the-board benefit cut in 2035, up from the 23 percent CBO projects under current law.
- Increase Social Security's annual shortfall by roughly 50 percent in FY 2035, from 3.6 to 4 percent of payroll.
- Require the equivalent of reducing current law benefits by about one-third or increasing revenue by about one-half to restore 75-year solvency.

Social Security will be only nine years away from insolvency when the next President takes office. The report goes on to say that if President Trump's campaign agenda were enacted in full, they estimate it would shrink that window by one-third, to only six years. The report concludes that it is unlikely former President Trump's plans would significantly boost the size of the economy, and many estimates find his plans would reduce long-term output.

### **Lame Duck Session**

#### ***Must Pass Legislation***

- **Appropriations/Continuing Resolution:** The current CR runs through December 20th. The outcome of the November elections will impact whether Congress decides to finalize its FY25 bills prior to December 20 or simply pass another CR that extends into 2025 (and the next Administration).  
**Disaster Supplemental:** The CR lacked any disaster-related funding for FEMA's disaster relief fund. The DRF, which was already running low, will need a substantial influx of funds to pay for rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Helene. Lawmakers of both parties from Vermont, Hawaii, Florida and Maryland have called for spending bills to replenish FEMA and other recovery accounts. The Disaster Relief Fund stands at about \$3.3 billion.
- **NDAA:** Congress has passed an annual defense authorization bill for 63 straight years and is expected to do so again in December. However, the Senate Armed Services Committee reported the National Defense Authorization Act on a 22-3 vote, but the full Senate has not taken up the bill. On the House side, they were able to pass a bill but on a partisan vote because of several social-issue provisions that were included. Congress will need to negotiate several differences between the two bills. Among other things, the Senate legislation authorizes \$9 billion more than the House bill. House and Senate negotiators will attempt to resolve differences before the bill is brought to the Senate floor during the lame-duck session.
- **Health Care:** Congress may also act on several health care items that are set to expire including telehealth extensions, Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, Teaching Health Centers with Graduate Medical Education, averting certain Medicare payment cuts for doctors; PBM reform; and pharmaceutical competition.
- **National Flood Insurance Reauthorization:** The program is authorized through Dec. 20, tied to the next government funding deadline.

### *Other May Pass Legislation*

- **Farm Bill:** lawmakers from both parties have pushed their leadership for action on the farm bill before the end of the year. Senior members of the New Democrat Coalition urged action on a bipartisan bill before the end of the year in a letter Wednesday. More than half of House Republicans asked leadership to place the GOP-led farm bill on the floor during the lame duck.
- **Online Child Safety:** The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed a weakened version of the Kids Online Safety Act, but many House Democrats were opposed to the changes made by House Republican leadership. It's possible that the Senate includes the Senate-passed version of the bill in a year-end package and jams the House.
- **WRDA:** Both chambers passed their respective versions of the Water Resources Development Act this summer with strong bipartisan votes and now will work to resolve differences and enact a comprehensive bill before the end of 2024. The legislation authorizes civil-works projects for ports and harbors, inland waterways, and flood and storm protection.

#### **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.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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