

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

Monday, October 3, 2022

1:30 p.m.

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor David Brown**

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

Both the House and Senate are out on recess. The Senate was scheduled to return to session for a few weeks mid-month, but Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced last week that the next roll-call will be in mid-November, after the midterm elections. The House will also return after the midterm elections, on November 14, 2022.

FY23 Appropriations

Last week, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government into the new fiscal year which began on Saturday, October 1st. The CR funds the government through December 16th, provides additional funding to Ukraine, and provides additional funding to several existing programs. It would also allow FEMA to obligate up to the full year amount available under the continuing resolution for the Disaster Relief Fund, if needed, to respond to declared disasters such as California wildfires, Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico, and landslides in Alaska. The bill also contains \$2 billion for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program and \$62 million to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for 988 callers.

The bill does not include additional funding for COVID-19 programs or Monkeypox virus programs as requested by the White House, neither does it include Senator Manchin's permitting legislation, which was a major source of contention until Mr. Manchin dropped his push last Tuesday to have the bill included, allowing the Senate to proceed. It is expected the bill will again be considered when Congress takes up its next funding measure in December.

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

Last Wednesday, The Biden-Harris Administration hosted the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. The conference returned to Washington after more than a 50 year absence, with the last event being held in 1969. The intent of the conference was to bring together the public and private sectors around a coordinated strategy to drive transformative change in the U.S. to end hunger, improve nutrition and physical activity, and close disparities surrounding these topics.

The conference had a host of distinguished speakers including the following:

- President Joseph Biden
- Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff
- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra
- Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow

- Senator Cory Booker
- Senator Mike Braun
- Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
- Chairman Jim McGovern
- Ambassador Susan E. Rice, White House Domestic Policy Advisor
- Mayor Eric Adams, New York City
- Chef José Andrés

The agenda was centered around five pillars, to help identify actions that can be taken by everyone in the country, including the government at all levels, nonprofit and community groups and private companies. The five White House Conference Pillars are:

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act (S.3011/H.R.5735)

This summer the Board of Supervisors took a position of support on the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act. This bipartisan legislation would provide Alameda County with additional flexibility in investing Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The bill is being led by Senators John Cornyn and Alex Padilla and would allow the County to spend a portion of its COVID-19 relief dollars for a wide range of infrastructure-related purposes, including, but not limited to: road, bridge, and safety improvement projects; public transit; and, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. This change in law would help ensure that Alameda County and other jurisdictions are able to invest federal COVID-19-relief funds in the manner that best suits individual community infrastructure needs and priorities.

CJ Lake is working with the County’s delegation, including the bill sponsor Senator Padilla, to push for the bills’ inclusion in any year-end legislative package.

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 end of the 2021-22 Legislative Session

All action on bills has been wrapped up for the 2021-22 Legislative Session. Of the bills that made it to the Governor’s desk this year, he signed 997 bills into law and vetoed 169 bills. Major themes included: reproductive health care, pay equity, CARE Act, climate action and housing.

Attention now turns to the November 8th General Election and the impacts it could have on the 2023-24 Legislative Session.

In response to the ongoing spike in gas prices, Governor Newsom called for a windfall tax on oil companies to “ensure excess oil profits go back to help ... Californians who are getting ripped off.” Further relief will be coming to eligible Californians, as the inflation relief program is set to release the first batch of checks this week.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- General Election – November 8, 2022
- 2023-24 Organizational Session – December 5, 2022

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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