

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

Monday, January 10, 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

The House and Senate are both in session this week. The Senate meets at 3 p.m. today to vote on a Commerce Department nominee, and the House returns at 6:30 p.m. with a vote to establish a quorum for the start of the second session of the 117th Congress.

Voting Rights

In the Senate, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is planning to use most of the days leading up to the Martin Luther King Jr. recess to pass legislation to shore up the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Republicans are uniformly opposed and will filibuster any Democratic attempts to standardize the nation's election laws. Majority Leader Schumer has said that he will try to alter Senate filibuster rules to get voting rights legislation passed.

Senate Democrats have been lobbying the two moderate Senators Manchin and Sinema, who oppose filibuster reform, with a series of proposals.

President Biden will travel to Georgia tomorrow to build public support for voting rights reform and, if necessary, changes to the filibuster. Several Senate Democrats plan to attend.

Build Back Better

The Build Back Better Act is still stalled after Senator Manchin derailed negotiations in December. Senator Manchin did express openness to a smaller package that addressed the clean energy provisions of the bill — particularly the more than \$300 billion for tax credits that would both extend subsidies for the renewable energy sector and create incentives for new technologies like EVs and clean hydrogen.

There are no immediate plans to bring BBB back to the floor or resume official negotiations between Senator Manchin and the White House.

Updated Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Guidance

On Thursday, the U.S. Treasury Department issued its final rule on how states, territories and municipalities can spend their American Rescue Plan funding. The final rule will officially take effect on April 1.

As a reminder, recipients of Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars can use their funding for four eligible categories:

- 1) Replacing lost public sector revenue
- 2) Supporting the COVID-19 public health and economic response
- 3) Providing premium pay for essential workers; and
- 4) Investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The final rule makes several changes to the interim rule from May 2021, including:

- Offering recipients the option to choose between a standard \$10 million allowance for revenue loss or a complete revenue loss calculation.
- Expanding the list of uses that recipients can use to respond to COVID-19 and its economic impacts including for services like childcare, early education, addressing learning loss, and affordable housing development.
- Expanding support for public sector hiring and capacity.
- Streamlining the process for providing premium pay for essential workers.
- Broadening the criteria for eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects.

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

This Week in the Capitol

Governor Gavin Newsom has released the 2022-23 State Budget Plan, a \$286.4 billion proposal that is focused around addressing what the Governor called the top five existential threats to California:

1. Fighting COVID with science
2. Combating the Climate Crisis
3. Confronting Homelessness
4. Tackling the Cost of Living
5. Keeping our Streets Safe

During his budget presentation, the Governor highlighted how this proposed budget, The California Blueprint, builds on previous investments made through the California Comeback Plan during the last fiscal year. The proposed budget reflects a 9.1% total increase from last year's budget and contains \$34.6 billion in reserves and a total surplus of \$45.7 billion, \$20.6 billion of which is discretionary surplus. 86% of the discretionary surplus is proposed to be spent through one-time investments. The PS team is continuing to review the proposed budget and will work with County Staff to determine impacts to the County.

Legislators have multiple deadlines to meet before the end of the month, specific to bills still in their house of origin. This Friday, January 14th, marks the policy committee deadline.

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

i. Support Letter Requesting State Cannabis Cultivation Tax Reform

*Recommendation: **Support:** Nate Miley, District 4, Board of Supervisors*

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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