

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

Monday, January 22, 2023

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 Senate is in session. The House is out this week and will return on Tuesday, January 30. This week, the focus for Congress and the White House will be border security, immigration, Ukraine, and Israel.

Tax Bill

The House Ways and Means Committee voted nearly unanimously on Friday to advance a bipartisan tax package that includes an expansion of the child tax credit and a series of breaks for businesses. The package also includes provisions that would reduce withholding taxes on qualified Taiwanese residents doing business in the US, extend privileges to the island similar to those enjoyed by dozens of countries that have formal tax treaties with the US, and authorize the president to negotiate a tax agreement with Taiwan that falls short of a formal treaty, as the US doesn't recognize Taiwan as a sovereign nation.

The bill also includes provisions that exempt all wildfire relief payments from federal income taxes and taxation on legal fees, emotional distress, lost wages, and additional living expenses. The bill would also expand the Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

If the legislation clears the House, its path will be complicated in the Senate. It will require 60 votes, and some Senators will almost certainly want to make their own revisions. Many in Congress hope that this bill can be finished by tax season, as the tax benefits would apply for individuals' and businesses' 2023 taxes. If enacted, the provisions in the bill will expire at the end of 2025.

Immigration / Foreign Aid Bill

Senators James Lankford (R-OK) and Chris Coons (D-CT) continue to negotiate a politically challenging border security and immigration bill. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell was optimistic last week that the Senate will have a bill this week. Any agreement will need approval from Majority Leader Schumer, McConnell, and the White House. Negotiators are still working on changes to parole and asylum policy, and there is still no agreement on funding levels in the bill. Also the White House will try to tie this package to additional funding for Ukraine and Israel.

Shrinking House Majority

As of today, the House stands at 432 members. With today's departure of Representative Bill Johnson, there are 219 Republicans and 213 Democrats. This is the smallest House majority in decades. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise has been out for a few weeks recovering from a stem cell transplant, further narrowing the majority. Republicans are currently defending three open seats:

- OH-6, where the winner of the March 19 Republican primary will be favored to succeed Johnson in a June 11 special election;
- CA-20, formerly held by ex-speaker Kevin McCarthy, where a March 19 all-party primary probably will be followed by a May 21 general election; and
- NY-3, vacated by former Rep, George Santos, a purple district where ex-Rep. Tom Suozzi (D) and county legislator Mazi Pilip (R) compete in a Feb. 13 special election.

Continuing Resolution

Last Thursday, the House approved a stopgap bill to fund the federal government through early March and avert a partial government shutdown. The measure passed 314-108, with 106 Republicans and two Democrats in opposition. Earlier on Thursday, the Senate easily passed the bill, with a 77-18 vote ahead of the weekend deadline. This third CR extends FY23 spending levels until March 1 for some federal agencies and March 8 for others.

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.

Request for Legislation position – Action Item

- i. **HR 3899 (DeLauro) American Family Act**
Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

II. Request for Legislation position – Action Items

- i. **AB 817 (Pacheco) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body**
Recommendation: Support: Keith Carson, Board of Supervisors, District 5
- ii. **SB 278 (Dodd) Elder Abuse**
Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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