

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

Monday, March 20, 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

House Republicans are in Orlando this week for their annual legislative retreat, but will be back in Washington this Wednesday. The Senate will return for votes on Tuesday.

President Biden's FY24 Budget Proposal

President Biden recently released his Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposal, officially kicking off the budget and appropriations process. The budget provides insight into the Administration's priorities for the upcoming year and serves as a starting position for the Administration in negotiations with Congressional Republicans on spending and the debt ceiling.

President Biden's proposal includes increasing funding to several government programs, protecting Medicare by extending the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by at least 25 years, lowering prescription drug costs and reducing the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next ten years. It includes \$842 billion for the Pentagon, an increase of 3.2% over the FY23 enacted level, and a total defense budget of \$886 billion (including the DOE and other agencies). The plan also includes a request for \$688 billion in base discretionary funding for non-defense programs, up 7.3 percent from FY23.

It also calls for several tax increases to reduce the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next decade, including doubling the capital gains tax rate for those that make \$1 million or more, creating a 39.6% top income bracket for people earning over \$400,000, creating a billionaire's tax that includes 25% minimum tax rate on the wealthiest 0.01% of taxpayers, and proposing to increase the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%. The budget also proposes an increase to the child tax credit to \$3,600 for children under six and \$3,000 for older children.

The budget looks to address crime in the country, providing the DOJ \$4.9 billion in discretionary resources for State and local grants to address public safety. It also aims to enhance border security and immigration enforcement by including approximately \$25 billion for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an increase of almost \$800 million over the 2023 enacted level and provides funding to hire hundreds of Border Patrol Agents and processing assistants.

Cabinet secretaries will testify this week before House and Senate panels over the President's budget request. This includes Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, EPA Administrator Michael Regan, and OMB Director Shalanda Young.

Continued Senate Attendance Issues

There are continued attendance issues in the Senate. The last time all 100 senators were on the floor voting together was more than seven months ago when the Senate passed the Inflation Reduction Act. Both parties have started noticing that attendance is having a severe impact on votes, committee hearings, and procedural hurdles. Last week, five senators missed every vote, with several out for extended absences. It is nearly certain that fewer than 100 senators will be back in Washington this week. Senate Minority Leader McConnell is recovering from a concussion, Senator Dianne Feinstein is battling shingles, and Senator John Fetterman is receiving inpatient treatment for depression.

Given the 51-49 split in the Senate, any single absence can have major consequences when it comes to either party's priorities. Last week, Minority Leader McConnell's injury forced a delay on a vote to roll back some Biden administration environmental regulations, and Feinstein's absence has postponed votes to move nominees through the Judiciary Committee. It is still not clear when the Senate will have full attendance again, and we fully expect that this will continue to cause issues in the chamber.

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

State of the State – Tour Highlights

This month, Governor Newsom announced that he would not be delivering the traditional State of the State Address and would instead join lawmakers, elected officials, and community leaders across the state for a four-day statewide tour. Included below are highlights from the major announcements,

Reducing Homelessness

In Sacramento, and joined by state and local leaders, the Governor announced the release of \$1 Billion in Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 4 funds.

Improving Public Safety

In the Bay Area, Governor Gavin Newsom, joined by Legislators, victim advocates and civil rights leaders, announced a “historic” transformation of San Quentin State Prison to improve public safety. The new San Quentin Rehabilitation Center will be California's model prison for rehabilitation and restorative justice.

Reducing Health Care Costs

In Los Angeles, the Governor joined members of the Legislature and health care advocates for a historic announcement regarding the State's efforts to lower the cost of health care. Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly announced that CalRx had secured a contract with a manufacturer (CIVICA), to make \$30 insulin available to all who need it.

Mental Health Care Reform

On the final stop of his statewide tour, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a massive expansion of California's behavioral health system and more mental health housing. The Governor announced that the mental health reform and bold ideas will be supported through a November 2024 ballot initiative and bond measure to build an additional 6,000 beds for acute needs.

Governor Newsom Announces Master Plan for fentanyl and opioid crisis.

Today the Governor announced the release of a Master Plan to tackle the fentanyl and opioid crisis.

Per the Governor's Office, the Master Plan outlines aggressive steps to support overdose prevention efforts, hold the opioid pharmaceutical industry accountable, crack down on drug trafficking and raise awareness about the dangers of opioids, including fentanyl.

Hearings this week

- Assembly Budget Subcommittee No 4 on State Administration – Tuesday, March 21st
- Senate Housing Committee – Tuesday, March 21st
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee No 1 on Health and Human Services – Wednesday, March 22nd
- Senate Budget Subcommittee No 4 on State Administration – Thursday, March 23rd
- Senate Budget Subcommittee No 3 on Health and Human Services – Thursday, March 23rd
- Senate Budget Subcommittee No 5 on Public Safety – Thursday, March 23rd

Key Dates & Deadlines

- Spring Recess – March 30-April 10, 2023
- Policy Committee Deadline for Fiscal Bills – April 28, 2023
- Policy Committee Deadline for Non-Fiscal Bills - May 5, 2023
- Appropriations Committee Deadline – May 19, 2023
- Floor Session Only – May 30- June 2
- House of Origin Deadline – June 2
- Budget Bill Deadline – June 15

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

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Request for Legislation position – Action Items

- i. **[AB 274](#) (Bryan) CalWORKs: CalFresh: Eligibility: Income Exclusions**
Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency
- ii. **[AB 745](#) (Bryan) Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program**
Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

Purpose:

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

- iii. **[FY 23-24 State Budget Proposal to Eliminate \\$50M from Public Defense Pilot Program](#)**
Recommendation: Oppose: Brendon Wood, Public Defender, Public Defender' Office
Continued to March 27, 2023, Personnel Administration Legislation Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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