

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

Monday, March 6, 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

Both the House and Senate are in session this week.

Current State of Play

Both Congressional chambers returned to session last week after the MLK recess with the focus in the House on the annual appropriations process and the long list of Administration oversight hearings and investigations and the focus in the Senate on Administration and judicial nominations. The divided Congress is expected to yield a light legislative year, despite the expirations of several critical authorizations such as the debt limit ceiling, the Federal Aviation Administration program reauthorization, and the reauthorization of Farm Bill programs. While activity will begin on these items we will not be surprised if Congress can only pass short-term extensions.

Senate

With the expanded Democratic majority achieved in the Senate (by one), organizing for the 118th Congress was easier as Committee ratios and other operational issues no longer had to be negotiated under MOUs with Minority Leader McConnell. The Senate remains almost exclusively focused on presidential nominations and judicial confirmations. The power split is 48 Democrats, 3 Independents, and 49 Republicans. The three Independents, Senators Sinema, Sanders, and King, all voted for Majority Leader Schumer to serve as Majority Leader.

Three Democratic Senators were absent last week, due to health issues, reiterating how fragile their majority is. Senator Feinstein was recently hospitalized with shingles and will not be in DC this week, with her return date uncertain. Senator John Fetterman is absent for the foreseeable future as he undergoes treatment for clinical depression after admitting himself into Walter Reed Medical Center with no timetable for his return. Senator Jeff Merkley had to leave Washington this week as his mother passed away. Additionally, Senator Bob Casey is dealing with prostate cancer, had surgery last month, and may miss additional time.

Biden-Harris Administration

Marty Walsh at the Department of Labor is the first cabinet secretary to announce his departure from the Administration. The President has nominated the Deputy Secretary, Julie Su, a former secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to replace him. Additionally, the White House Chief of Staff, Ron Klain, left his role last month and was replaced by Jeff Zients. Increase staff turnover is expected in this third year of the Administration.

FY24 Presidential Budget and Appropriations process

The official target for the release of the annual President's Budget request is the first Tuesday in February. However, as has been the case the last several years due to Congressional failure to pass the appropriations legislation by the end of the fiscal year, the Budget submission is delayed.

President Biden will release his FY24 Presidential Budget Request this Thursday, March 9. The request will reflect the President's spending priorities for the coming fiscal year but will almost certainly be dead on arrival in Congress. The House Republicans will summarily reject the President's funding priorities and will instead move forward on their own budget resolution, which Speaker McCarthy intends to introduce on April 15. The President's Budget request officially starts the "budget cycle" but the respective appropriations committees have already started to evaluate their Subcommittee spending priorities.

Regarding appropriations, The House Appropriations Committee released its FY24 appropriations member guidance last week, governing members programmatic, language, and Community Project Funding requests (earmarks). The guidance ended speculation on how the earmark process would play out with concessions to the far right wing of the party with many of those members wanting to completely eliminate earmarks.

Speaker McCarthy agreed to cap discretionary spending at FY22 levels as a concession to become Speaker. In order to meet that cap, due to reduced revenue and increases in mandatory spending, House appropriators will need to reduce discretionary spending in FY24 by at least \$130 billion, just to maintain the FY22 capped level. It is highly unlikely that the neither the Democratic-controlled Senate will agree to drastic reductions, nor the White House

Therefore, Congress is facing an uncertain budget process, which could result in continuing resolutions.

Regarding earmark deadlines, Senator Feinstein is next Monday March 13, Rep. Swalwell and Rep DeSaulnier are the 15th, Rep. Lee is the 16th and Rep. Khanna is the 17th.

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. [District Request for Mobile Office Enrollment Vehicles](#)

*Recommendation: **Support:** Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency*

Purpose:

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- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other: Federal Update

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

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

The Capitol will be busy as Budget Subcommittee Hearings and Committee Oversight Hearings are taking over the daily schedule. Of importance to the County, the following hearings are scheduled:

- Assembly Budget Subcommittee No 1 on Health and Human Services – Monday, March 6
- Senate Housing and Senate Human Services Committee Oversight Hearing: Breaking the Cycle: California's Homelessness Crisis and the Path Forward with Effective Investments, Coordination, and Accountability – Tuesday,

March 7

- Assembly Budget Subcommittee No 1 on Health and Human Services – Wednesday, March 8
- Senate Budget Subcommittee No 3 on Health and Human Services – Thursday, March 9
- Senate Budget Subcommittee No 4 on State Administration – Thursday, March 9

Alameda County Sponsored Bills

This year, Alameda County is sponsoring the following bills:

- AB 922 (Wicks) Prepared Meals Delivery Program.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee
- AB 1313 (Ortega) Older individuals: case management and visitation services.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Aging & Long-Term Care Committee

Department of Finance

The Department of Finance (DOF) has started to post the administration's proposed 2023-24 budget trailer bills – which can be found [here](#).

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

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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