

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/POLITICAL NEWS & LINKS FEBRUARY 2023

POLITICAL NEWS & LINKS

- **CALIFORNIA 2023-2024 BUDGET:** Governor Newsom has submitted his 2023-2024 Budget Draft and is required to be approved by the State Legislature by mid-June. Even after approval of the final budget, the Legislature can pass spending bills (trailer bills) which do not have to be reviewed through the committee bill process. The Budget has a spend of \$297 Billion which represents a deficit of \$22.5 Billion. In the 2022-2023 Budget cycle, California had a budget surplus of \$97.5 Billion. Between the two budget years, there is a \$102 Billion total deficit swing. It is unclear (purposely?) as to how they will achieve a balanced budget, but there seems to be a lot of shifting of funds, funding delays and some potential magical revenue.
- **CAGOP SPRING 2023 CONVENTION** will be held March 10-12, 2023. Both the Committeeman (Shawn Steel) and Committeewoman (Harmeet Dhillon) will remain for another two years, however Jessica Patterson (Chair) is up for re-election. In the list of known delegate votes for Harmeet, neither Jessica or Shawn were listed as having voted for their fellow California delegate, so it is unclear as to how they voted. Depending on the delegates that have been selected for this next round of voting, we'll see if they allow Jessica to retain her position. The Republican Party is disappearing inside the California State Capitol. Of the 40 Senators, only 8 are Republicans. Of the 80 State Assemblymembers, only 18 are Republicans. The GOP numbers at the California Capital are currently at their lowest level in a century.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/gop-number-california-capital-lowest>
- **NEWSOM'S STUDENT VACCINE MANDATE IS OFFICIALLY DEAD:** However, the CDC as of last week has added Covid-19 vaccines to the routine immunization schedule in the U.S. The recommendation calls for children as young as 6 months to begin their primary Covid vaccination series. Children 6 months through 4 years without compromised immune systems can either get a two-shot Moderna vaccine series or a three-shot Pfizer-BioNTech series. The recommendation for older children and adults is two shots of either vaccine. There have been no long term studies that show the side-effects. There have been numerous studies that show the potential harm. For Pfizer vaccine side-effects (from their own data), you can get the e-book, "WarRoom/DailyClout Pfizer Documents Analysis Reports" eBook from Amazon (#5 Non-Fiction Bestsellers List and #3 in New Releases).

- **RNC DATA ANALYSIS & WINRED FUNDRAISING:** Very interesting article regarding the RNC supported Data Bases and the consultant class fund-raising and donation revenue sharing at <https://warroom.org/2023/01/25/the-rnc-a-failure-of-nuts-and-bolts/>

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION (BILLS SUBMITTED):

AB 13, Elections: Election Day Holiday: Voting by Mail. This bill would add election day as a holiday in the state. Currently state law requires each county to mail a ballot to every registered voter, however this bill would repeal that provision and authorize a voter to request a vote by mail ballot for any election. Under existing law, you can authorize anyone to return your ballot. This bill would limit who would be authorized to return the ballot for the voter to spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or a person residing in the same household. Currently ballots can arrive up to 7 days post-election. The new bill shortens that period to 3 days.

SB 77, Voting: signature verification: notice. Current law requires the county elections official to notify a voter by mail if their ballot signature does not match their voter registration. This new bill would provide for the election official to notify the voter by text or e-mail.

AB 62 – Statewide water storage: Expansion.

Existing law declares the state shall determine in what way the water of the state, both surface and underground, should be developed for the greatest public benefit. Given the current situation with heavy rainfall in California this becomes a critical issue. This bill would establish a statewide goal to increase above- and below-ground water storage capacity by a total of 3,700,000 acre-feet by the year 2030 and a total of 4,000,000 acre-feet by the year 2040. The bill would require the state board, beginning July 1, 2027, and on or before July 1 every 2 years thereafter until January 1, 2043, in consultation with the state water department, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature on the progress made in designing and implementing measures to achieve the statewide goal.

AB 23 – Theft: Shoplifting Amount.

If passed, this bill would go on the ballot for voter approval, reducing the \$950 limit of petty theft down to \$400.

AB12 – Security Deposit for Rentals

This bill would legislate security deposits on rental properties, mandating that only one month's rent can be charge for security deposit, regardless as to whether rental is furnished or unfurnished.

SB252 – Fossil Fuel Divestment Act

The bill would prohibit the boards of Public Employees Retirement system and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company by July 1, 2030.

SB58 – Decriminalization of Controlled Substances

This bill would decriminalize psilocybin, psilocyn, dimethyltryptamine (DMT), ibogaine, and mescaline, for personal use or facilitated or supported use, as defined, by and with persons 21 years of age or older. The bill would provide penalties for possession of these substance on school grounds, or possession by, or transferring to, persons under 21 years of age. Psilocybin and Psilocyn are magic mushrooms. DMT and Mescaline are psychedelic drugs, not too dissimilar to LSD. Ibogaine is also a psychedelic substance but also may used for treatment of opiate addiction.

AB311 – Expansion of California Food Assistance Program

The bill removes any existing limitations currently placed on illegal aliens that may prevent them from receiving tax funded food assistance. Without this expansion of services, Calfresh currently provides vital food assistance to more than 4 million Californians every MONTH. A portion of the bill reads as follows: "It is the intent of the Legislature that all Californians, *regardless of immigration status*, have access to food assistance to maximize the impact of the nutrition safety net funding to reduce poverty, fight hunger and improve health for all low income Californians."

SB253 – Climate Corporate Accountability Act –

Adds a new reporting requirement to California business with a total revenue of \$1 Billion or more. Business entities would be required to file annual reports on their greenhouse gas emissions and independently verify by the "Emissions Registry" or a third party auditor. Non-compliance would results in civil action by the AG, seeking penalties for violations.

SB85 – Immigration Case Management and Social Services

Federal funding in support of illegal aliens is stipulated for a 90-day period. This bill would provide review of status and needs at 90 days and extend services in 90 day increments up to 360 days, using state funds (subject to appropriation), once federal fund are exhausted.

ACA4 – Assembly Constitutional Amendment 4

If passed, this would come before the voters, changing the California constitution and providing incarcerated Californians the ability to vote from prison.

AB259 & ACA3 – New Wealth Tax

Requires setting up a new bureaucracy to administer and collect taxes of 1.5% Tax on those with a worldwide net worth above \$1 Billion (\$500 Million if married, filing separately). There would be no escaping this if you moved out of state and the taxpayer would be obligated to pay either all or a portion of this tax for some period after having moved out of state. There is a bill presented, as well as a constitutional amendment that must go on the ballot for approval.

BITS & PIECES

- San Diego Community Power (SDCP) SDCommunityPower.org This may be old news to you. Beginning in April, 2023, SDCP is the default electricity service provider for the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, San Diego and the Unincorporated County of Sand Diego. You will be automatically enrolled in SDCP services unless you opt out at least five business days before your meter read date during the enrollment month. They state that SDCP buys electricity from renewable resources and then SDG&E delivers power and maintains the grid for which you are supposed to get cleaner power, local control and competitive rates. You may also choose to “OPT UP” to Power100 which provides 100% renewable energy service at a slight premium.
- Gavin Newsom’s wife (AKA “First Partner”), Jennifer Siebel Newsom has a pretty good gig going in film production. Per Fox News: Siebel Newsom’s non-profit, The Representation Project, released four films (she is the writer and director), advocating for “gender justice”. The films are produced through her for-profit operation, which licenses the films to her non-profit. Her films are being shown in public schools throughout the country. There is some very graphic and explicit sexual content along with website addresses for porn sites. You can read more at <https://ussanews.com/2023/02/06/newsom-twosome-siebel-newsoms-films> and/or <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/gavin-newsome-wifes-films-shown-schools-contain-explicit-images>
- The AB62 Statewide Water Storage bill above doesn’t seem to take into account that California voters have approved and funded several bonds that are designated to build water reservoirs. It’s been almost 8 years since the state has raked in \$2.7 billion in those bond funds that promised construction of reservoirs to capture excess water runoff during winters. You can read more at <https://news.yahoo.com/2-7-billion-bond-fund-110000548.html>