

VIA PDF E-MAIL

TO: Monica Nino, Chief Administrative Officer  
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FROM: Michelle Rubalcava and Jim Gross  
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DATE: January 13, 2021

RE: 2020 Contra Costa Year End Wrap Up

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It is not an overstatement to characterize 2020 as the most chaotic and destructive year in most of our memories. COVID 19 hit with almost no warning and has tested the resiliency of every person as well as the institutions of government at every level. The year commenced like any other legislative year, and Contra Costa had an ambitious but realistic legislative agenda. By April, we were forced to reassess and reprioritize.

In the final analysis, our legislative efforts in 2020 were successful. First and foremost, the county maintained an active dialogue with its legislative delegation, and the legislators and their staffs have come to rely on the calls and the county's briefings. Our legislative delegation is very supportive of the county and actively engaged in issues affecting the county and its needs. We were also successful in our pursuit of legislation. While we did have to put aside a couple of our budget asks, we were successful in getting out two sponsored bills to the Governor's desk. SB 1349 by Senator Glazer authorized the county to pursue a countywide tax increase. The Governor signed it and Measure X was passed by the electorate. AB 2387 by Assembly member Grayson also reached the Governor's desk but was vetoed. However, the veto did not affect our Department of Social Services from using telephonic assessments as that authority still exists via the Governor's COVID executive order.

The county supported numerous bills and budget proposals that were successful. One of the most significant was the so called "backfill" of realignment funds. While the amount adopted in the budget of \$1 billion, was reduced to \$750 million because of the failure of Congress to pass a relief package containing direct state and local relief, the overall effort was a victory for counties. We were very active on a number of other budget issues affecting the county, much of that in partnership with CSAC and Urban County Caucus.

Of course, the Legislature and Governor also had to shift gears in April. The Governor and his Department of Finance predicted a \$54 million deficit as a result of

COVID. Thankfully, that was a significant overestimate. However, the Governor did propose massive cuts in his May Revise premised on that estimate. In what was the first test of the Legislature's ability to assert itself as a co-equal partner, the legislature rejected most of those cuts and maintained support for local government safety net programs and for Medi-Cal and related services.

COVID did result in the Legislature not being able to do business on its normal schedule and reduced its ability to be in session. Ultimately, this had an adverse effect on pursuit of priorities such as housing legislation, comprehensive rent relief, wildfire prevention and mitigation and certain environmental issues. This was accompanied by significant tension between the Democrats in the two houses. That tension resulted in a number of significant pieces of legislation failing at the eleventh hour.

Of course, there was also an election in 2020. Aside from the success of Measure X, all of our legislative delegation was reelected, ensured continuity and experience for county representation. There were some surprises in the legislative races statewide. The Democrats picked up two seats in the state Senate (total of 31) but lost a seat in the Assembly. Many predicted a 'blue wave' that would net the Democrats more seats in the Assembly, but that did not occur. Below you will find a list of changes in legislative seats.

We survived 2020, and while 2021 has already shown we will continue to battle unprecedented challenges, we are well positioned in Sacramento to address county priorities.

**2020 General Election – New Members** (11/19/20)

DISTRICT NUMBER	TERMED / RETIRING / OTHER	REPLACED BY
AD 13	Susan Talamantes Eggman (D)	Carlos Villapudua (D)
AD 25	Kansen Chu (D)	Alex Lee (D)
AD 33	Jay Obernolte (R)	Thurston “Smitty” Smith (R)
AD 37	Monique Limón (D)	Steve Bennett (D)
AD 38	Christy Smith (D)	Suzette Martinez Valladares (R)
AD 57	Ian Calderon (D)	Lisa Calderon (D)
AD 67	Open / Melissa Melendez (R)	Kelly Seyarto (R)
AD 72	Tyler Diep (R) (lost primary)	<b>Janet Nguyen (R)</b>
AD 73	Bill Brough (R) (lost primary)	Laurie Davies (R)
AD 78	Todd Gloria (D)	Chris Ward (D)
SD 5	Cathleen Galgiani (D) (termed)	<b>Susan Talamantes Eggman (D)</b>
SD 13	Jerry Hill (D) (termed)	Josh Becker (D)
SD 15	Jim Beall (D) (termed)	Dave Cortese (D)
SD 17	Bill Monning (D) (termed)	<b>John Laird (D)</b>
SD 19	Hannah-Beth Jackson (D) (termed)	<b>Monique Limón (D)</b>
SD 23	Mike Morell (R) (termed)	Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R)
SD 29	Ling Ling Chang (incumbent)	<b>Josh Newman (D)</b>
SD 37	Moorlach (incumbent)	Dave Min (D)

Highlighted – Previous Member

## **Contra Costa County 2020 Legislative Advocacy**

**AB 465 (Eggman)** - Requires any program permitting mental health professionals to respond to emergency mental health crisis calls in collaboration with law enforcement to ensure the program is supervised by a licensed mental health professional, including a licensed clinical social worker.

Position: Support

*Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 137, Statutes of 2020*

**AB 826 (Santiago)** - Establishes a program to provide emergency food assistance during the coronavirus public health emergency. It requires, upon the appropriation of funds, the Department of Social Services to contract with a Feeding America partner state organization with the capacity to provide a food assistance benefit statewide, or another nonprofit entity, to issue food assistance benefits in the form of a one-time use, prepaid card preloaded with a specified amount for use at retailers that sell groceries.

Position: Support

*Status: Vetoed*

**AB 1544 (Gipson)** - Establishes the Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act and authorizes a local EMS agency to develop a community paramedicine or triage to alternate destination program to provide specified community paramedicine services. It also requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to develop, and after approval by the Commission on Emergency Medical Services, adopt regulations and establish minimum standards for the development of those programs.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended

*Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 138, Statutes of 2020*

**AB 1845 (Luz Rivas)** - Creates, within the Governor's office, the Office to End Homelessness, which would be administered by the Secretary on Homelessness appointed by the Governor. It requires that the Office serve the Governor as the lead entity for ending homelessness in the state and tasks the Office with coordinating homeless programs, services, data, and policies between federal, state, and local agencies, among other responsibilities.

Position: Support

*Status: Vetoed*

**AB 2054 (Kamlager)** - Enacts the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act, or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act, for the purpose of creating, implementing, and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act Grant Pilot Program. It also requires the Office of Emergency Services to establish rules and regulations for the Act with the goal of making grants to community organizations and provides for the C.R.I.S.E.S. Advisory Committee.

Position: Support

*Status: Vetoed*

**AB 2387 (Grayson)** - Authorizes counties to perform the needs reassessment using telehealth, including video conference or telephone, if certain conditions are met, including that the recipient has had at least one in person assessment since the initial program intake and the recipient has had at least one in person assessment in the past twelve months. It also requires the county to notify recipients within a certain number of days of a proposed assessment by video conference or telephone.

Position: Support

*Status: Vetoed*

**AB 2688 (Cervantes)** - Appropriates \$11,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allocation to counties for county veterans service officers based upon a workload unit performance formula to be developed by the department. It also requires the department to develop performance metrics to demonstrate the effective use of appropriated funds.

Position: Support

*Status: Died in Assembly Veterans Affairs - Not Heard*

**AB 2959 (Calderon)** - Reauthorizes local governmental entities to exercise authority with regard to the hauling of byproducts from the processing of food or beverages if those byproducts originate from a retail or commercial establishment such as supermarket, grocer, restaurant, or other retail food establishment. It also prohibits those entities from exercising that authority if those byproducts originate from a winegrower or brandy manufacturer.

Position: Support

*Status: Died in Senate Environmental Quality*

**AB 3300 (Santiago)** - Enacts the Access to Housing and Services Act. and establishes the Access to Housing and Services Fund. It requires the Comptroller to transfer a specified amount from the General Fund to the Fund and requires the Department of Housing and Community Development and the State Department of Social Services to jointly administer the Fund pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, to provide for services to the homeless.

Position: Support

*Status: Died in Senate Housing – Not Heard*

**SB 29 (Durazo)** - Extends eligibility for Medi-Cal benefits to individuals who are a specified age or older, and who are otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status. It also expands the requirements of the eligibility and enrollment plan, such as ensuring that an individual maintains their primary care provider without disruption.

Position: Support

*Status: Died on Assembly Inactive File*

**SB 207 (Hurtado)** - Permits a voter, from a certain number of days immediately preceding an election until the close of polls on election day, in lieu of executing a new affidavit of registration, to change the voter's residence address or political party preference by submitting, to the voter's county elections official, a written request containing the new residence address or political party preference and signed under penalty of perjury.

Position: Support

*Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 1, Statutes of 2020*

**SB 409 (Wilk)** - Makes it a crime to transport waste matter, rocks, concrete, asphalt or dirt for the purpose of dumping it in public or private highways or roads, upon private property without the consent of the owner, or in or upon a public park or other public property. It also increases the fines for violating these prohibitions.

Position: Support

*Status: Died on Assembly Appropriations Suspense*

**SB 793 (Hill)** - Amends the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement Act and prohibits a tobacco retailer, or any of the tobacco retailer's agents or employees, from selling, offering for sale, or possessing with the intent to sell or offer for sale, a flavored tobacco product or a tobacco product flavor enhancer. It also makes a violation punishable as an infraction with specified penalties.

Position: Support

*Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 34, Statutes of 2020*

**SB 1349 (Glazer)** - Provides that, notwithstanding the combined rate limit under the Transactions and Use Tax Law, neither a transaction and use tax rate imposed in the County of Contra Costa by a specified transportation authority nor a transactions and use tax rate imposed by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District will be considered for purposes of that combined rate limit within the County.

Position: Support

*Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2020*

**SCR 77 (Glazer)** - Renames the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel as the Representative Ellen O'Kane Tauscher Memorial Bore.

Position: Support

*Status: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Resolution Chapter 2020-32*