

CARP COMMUNICATOR ARTICLE

NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION STARTS DECEMBER 1ST

The 2015/16 Legislative Session will commence at noon on December 1st with swearing-in ceremonies and the introduction of a limited number of bills; The Legislature will then recess until January 5, 2015. Governor Brown must submit his 2015-16 proposed state budget on or before January 10th, while the Legislature's deadline to introduce bills next year is February 27th.

The results of the November 4th General Election are in, with approximately two-thirds of the eligible voters choosing not to cast ballots; the Democrats capturing every state-wide office; and, the Republicans winning and/or holding sufficient seats to deny the Democrats in both the Senate and Assembly from retaining their supermajorities. Additionally, emerging from the November 4th election are 72(out of 120)legislators that will arrive in Sacramento with at most 2-years of state-level legislative experience, but with the prospects of serving a total of 12-years under California's modified term-limits law.

As the 2015-16 Legislative Session is gavelled to order at noon on December 1st, following the swearing-in ceremonies, the composition of the Assembly and Senate will be as follows:

ASSEMBLY

52 Democrats; 28 Republicans. The Republicans numbers could increase slightly should they prevail in a number of still too-close-to-call races.

SENATE

25 Democrats; 14 Republicans; 1 vacancy*

*The Senate vacancy is the 35th Senate District recently vacated by former Senator Rod Wright. The special election for this seat is December 9th and is expected to be won by Assembly Member Isadore Hall, who is termed-out this year.

For the final thought on the November election (and yes, you've heard this before!), **if your district is represented by a new legislator**, now is a good time to open a dialogue with him/her including relevant information about your district, your programs and contact personnel.