



CARPD NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

By: Russell W. Noack, Public Policy Advocates, LLC
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JUNE 5, 2018 – STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

Proposition 68

We're very pleased to report that on June 5, 2018, California voters approved Proposition 68 by a 56%-44% margin. This ballot measure provides \$4 Billion in several categories to improve parks, coastal protection and outdoor access for disadvantaged communities:

• Parks	\$1.2 Billion
• Flood	\$550 Million
• Water	\$1 Billion
• Climate Resiliency & Conservancies	\$1.3 Billion

Proposition 68⁽ⁱ⁾ provides \$285 Million for local parks with \$200 Million of that allocated for per capita grants for local park rehabilitation and improvement grants and, also, contains \$1.27 Billion for drought relief and water funding.

It should be noted that of the per capita grants:

- \$15 Million allocated for small jurisdictions (less than 200,000 population)
- \$40 Million allocated for local districts that have passed their own park measures
- \$30 Million for regional park districts

Recall – Senate District 29

On Tuesday, June 5, 2018, Senator Josh Newman, a Democrat from Fullerton, was recalled from office and Ling Ling Chang, a Republican, was voted in to replace him. Senator Newman's support for the massive gas tax increase was the issue that led to the successful recall vote.

NOVEMBER 6, 2018 – GENERAL ELECTION

Governor's Race

In November, Democrat Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom and Republican San Diego businessman John Cox will contest the race to replace Jerry Brown as California's 40th Governor.

State Legislative Races

In addition to the race for Governor and all other Executive Branch offices, 20 State Senate seats and all 80 State Assembly seats had their primaries on June 5th and will be up for election in November. After the election, it is expected that the new Legislature will continue to be strongly controlled by the Democratic party, with the realistic possibility of returning to a 2/3^{ds} super majority in the Senate.

The new Governor and Legislature will inherit a strong economy and robust state revenues, but is a recession on its way? Another question is how will the new Governor and his Administration deal with powerful interest groups wanting to spend more General Fund dollars? There are several key issues on the horizon including health care, school funding, homelessness, affordable housing, wildfire prevention and suppression, transportation (roads, bridges, highways), High-Speed Rail, water (conservation, storage, utilization) and the Delta Tunnels, where the new Governor and Legislature will be tested to maintain fiscal prudence in the face of huge policy issues.

New Water Bond

A new water bond initiative is eligible for the November General Election ballot. Authored by Gerry Meral, this measure authorizes \$8.9 Billion in state general obligation bonds to fund projects for water supply, water quality, watershed, Fish and Wildlife, and ground water sustainability and storage. The initiative is not a park bond, but there is \$150 Million for restoration of watershed lands in or near river and stream flows and \$20 Million set aside to promote non-motorized water access. While the current Governor is not too keen on this bond measure, the main groups supporting it are Central Valley agriculture interests, and hunting, fishing and waterfowl enthusiasts.

A BIG YEAR FOR THE PARK SERVICE

With some perspective, we now know what the predominant political themes were for the 2017-18 Legislative Session. In the final term of Governor's Brown's Administration, he embarked on a program to work with the Legislature to preserve our state's regulations and statutes considering the perceived threat of radical retrenchment of environmental laws emanating from the Trump White House and the Republican-controlled Congress. The Governor sought to maintain his international reputation as being a leader in fighting climate change and global warming by designing legislation to extend California's Cap-and-Trade Program to fund efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Working with legislative leaders, the Governor even dropped his legendary fiscal frugality by signing the "Fix Our Roads" bill⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ funded by a substantial increase in the fuel tax.

Most importantly to us, as discussed above, the Legislature passed, the Governor signed, and the Electorate approved Proposition 68!

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Strong leadership from our Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, Mike Grace and Kevin Kalman, has continued in 2018. The two have streamlined the list of bills followed and established realistic goals for the CARPD Legislative Program.

Support Bills

[Assembly Bill 1918 \(E. Garcia\)](#) – The CARPD Legislative Committee has taken a support position on AB 1918. The bill would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation within the Natural Resources Agency. The Office would promote the importance of outdoor recreation contributing to personal health and, as an important economic drive, to the California’s financial wellbeing:

- Over 690,000 jobs (2017 Report)
- \$90 Billion in consumer spending
- Generates over \$6.2 Billion in state and local taxes

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia is going to keep pushing this bill until it is signed by Governor Brown or the next Governor. The bill was approved by the Assembly last week and heads to the Senate for consideration.

[Assembly Bill 2534 \(Limón\)](#) – This measure would enact the “Outdoor Equity Grants Program” allowing underserved “at risk” students the opportunity to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at park and other public lands. AB 2534 passed the Assembly last week and will be considered next by the Senate.

[Assembly Bill 2600 \(Flora\)](#) – This measure would streamline an alternative approval process for the formation of regional parks and open space districts by allowing a legislative body that contains the territory to adopt by resolution with other requirements without requiring signatures to be obtained. This measure is pending consideration in the Senate.

[Assembly Bill 2614 \(Carrillo\)](#) – This bill would create a grant program to encourage outdoor experiences for disadvantaged youths designed to improve their health and expose them to nature. This measure is pending consideration in the Senate.

[Assembly Bill 2615 \(Carrillo\)](#) – This measure would require the Department of Transportation to partner with public agencies (including local recreation and park districts) to develop strategies to promote safe and convenient access for bicycles and pedestrians to get to parks near state highways. This measure is pending consideration in the Senate.

[Senate Bill 929 \(McGuire\)](#) – The CSDA-sponsored bill to require all independent special districts to establish websites to promote transparency to the public. The bill has a delayed effective

date of January 1, 2020 and provides an exemption for small special districts that cannot comply due to no broadband access or insufficient financial capability to contract and maintain a website. This measure is scheduled for its first hearing in the Assembly next week before the Local Government Committee.

Other Active Legislation

[Assembly Bill 1912 \(Rodriguez\)](#) – We have joined a coalition that includes the League of California Cities, County Supervisors Association (CSAC), the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and other organizations to oppose AB 1912. The bill places substantial burdens and expanded liability requirements on JPAs and their members pertaining to all public retirement systems. A reaction to the L.A. Works pension default where retirees had their pensions reduced at CalPERS' request, the bill would impose a new source for litigation to the detriment of retirement systems, state and local agencies within JPAs. The SEIU-sponsored bill has been narrowed a bit and did pass the Assembly on a 41-to-29 vote. We will continue to actively oppose the bill as it is considered by the Senate.

[Assembly Bill 2069 \(Bonta\)](#) – Better news on this bill, which provides that the medical use of cannabis by an employee with an I.D. card would require an employer to make a reasonable accommodation for them at the workplace. We opposed this bill and it died last week in the Assembly.

[Assembly Bill 3037 \(Chiu\)](#) – The attempt to re-engineer a Redevelopment & Housing Infrastructure Agency (RHIA) to fund infrastructure and affordable housing has been stopped this year. A group of new legislators are interested in pursuing a system which would be optional for local special districts and allow for a pass-through to make them whole. Governor Brown would not sign a bill to re-institute redevelopment agencies, but the issue will return next year with a new Governor.

[Senate Bill 946 \(Lara\)](#) – With over 50,000 sidewalk vendors active in Los Angeles alone, this bill would establish state requirements for local governments to comply with regarding sidewalk vendors. The bill is moving, with fierce opposition led by CSAC. The bill is awaiting consideration by the Assembly Local Government Committee.

[Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 31 \(Cervantes\)](#) – A recently introduced measure, it would place a hard cap on all public-sector base compensation and tie the cap to the Governor's compensation established by the California Citizens Compensation Commission. Currently, it is set at an annual salary of \$195,803.00. The bill has not been heard yet but may get scheduled for a hearing in June. It would take a 2/3rd vote of the Legislature to pass.

i [Link](#) to Text of Proposition 68 [Senate Bill 5 (De León), Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017]

ii [Link](#) to Text of "Fix Our Roads" [Senate Bill 1 (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017]