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Secretary of State Champions Local Election Funding

Secretary of State Alex Padilla is urging the Governor to consider a \$32 million dollar augmentation to help counties administer elections this year. The Secretary of State's office anticipates higher than expected turnout at both the June primaries and November general election given the presidential contest and likely a dozen statewide ballot measures. In his [letter to the Governor](#), Secretary Padilla sites that over 60,000 new voters have registered in the last

three months and his office counts as many as 21 ballot initiatives could be qualified. This means higher printing costs and more staff time.

[Read more](#)

Riverside County: From “Realignment” to System Change

California Forward recently released their report [From “Realignment” to System Change Justice System Change Initiative \(J-SCI\)](#) that highlights the collaboration between Riverside County and California Forward’s Justice System Change Initiative. The report lays out the steps taken by both parties to revamp Riverside County’s criminal justice system.

[Read more](#)

What’s Bubbling in the Legislature? The Return of the Soda Tax!

The soda tax is back! Assembly Member Richard Bloom amended AB 2782 to enact a 2-cent per ounce “health impact fee” on bottled sweetened beverages. The revenue from the fee on distributors would be deposited in the new Healthy California Fund.

[Read more](#)

Behavioral Health Clinic Funding Bill Already on Governor’s Desk

Local behavioral health clinics could get a much needed financial boost under AB 847, which was sent to the Governor on March 28. The bill is intended to improve mental health services furnished by certified community behavioral health clinics to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

[Read more](#)

County Websites Treated as Transparency Cure-All

Several bills continue to build on the list of local agency website posting requirements. Recent additions would include financial information already made available to state agencies or as publicly accessible documents. Some proposals seem to make sense and may reflect county practices already. Others seem to treat online posting as a cure-all for public education and awareness.

[Read more](#)

Bill Would Ban Employers from Asking for Salary History

CSAC is raising concerns about [AB 1676 \(Campos\)](#), which would prohibit employers, including public agencies, from requesting salary history information about an applicant for employment. We know that counties support gender equity in hiring and compensation, and work diligently to uphold the highest standards of fair pay – including the requirements of [SB 358 \(Jackson; 2015\)](#). However, AB 1676 raises several concerns for counties, and CSAC has conveyed those concerns to the author.

[Read more](#)

Public Safety Workers’ Comp Benefits Extension Moves Forward

[SB 897 \(Roth\)](#) was heard and passed by the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee on April 6. The bill would allow public safety employees an additional year of a leave of absence

without loss of salary (commonly known as 4850 benefits) when injured by a “severe” “catastrophic injury” at the hands of another.

[Read more](#)

CSAC Weighs in on Housing, Planning

Six Bills in Two Minutes!

A few weeks ago we reported on a crush of housing bills introduced as California’s affordability issues reach what many are calling crisis levels. Many of these bills will face their first legislative test next week in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

[Read more](#)

Policy Briefs

[Governor Brown Announces CDCR Appointments](#)

[Board of State and Community Corrections April 14th Meeting](#)

CSAC Legislative Conference Features Strong Agenda

The upcoming [CSAC Legislative Conference](#), set for May 18–19 in Sacramento, will provide attendees an opportunity to hear the latest information from CSAC staff, issue experts and legislators as we work to ensure county priorities are part of the final budget deal in June.

Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss important issues with legislative leaders, as well participate in workshops focusing on homelessness and what we can expect on the November ballot. Key CSAC priorities, including public safety, transportation, Medi-Cal administrative costs, infrastructure, medical marijuana and tree mortality, will also be discussed during the two-day conference. Wednesday’s luncheon program will feature Los Angeles Times reporter John Myers giving an insider’s view of Capitol politics, as well as an update on federal issues from our NACo leadership.

[Read more](#)

From Our Blog: Six Counties Collaborate on One Cohesive Policy

Please watch a video about the Six County Collaboration on marijuana policy [here](#).

There are some issues that transcend local government boundaries. Air pollution, traffic congestion, crime — these issues ignore lines on a map. The same is true for medical marijuana, which is legal in California. However, growing, selling and using it, even for medicinal purposes, can cause all kinds of problems that do not stay within local jurisdictional boundaries.

[Read more](#)

More From Our Blog: Los Angeles County Battles Sex Trafficking With a Unique Approach in Court

Please watch a video about the STAR Court [here](#).

On the eighth floor of the Compton Courthouse, Los Angeles County Judge Catherine Pratt bangs her gavel and gets to work. Teenaged girls, some even as young as 10 years old, are

brought before her, charged with prostitution, as their lives hang in the balance. In the past, these girls would have been dragged into the courtroom in handcuffs and treated like criminals. Now, as our understanding of the true nature of this crime has evolved, we are treating them as the victims of a manipulative and heinous act. Leading our efforts is Judge Pratt, the shining star of the County's STAR (Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience) Court, a uniquely dedicated courtroom that works exclusively with victims of child sex trafficking.

[Read more](#)

Other Bills of Interest

A roundup of bills from all policy areas of interest to counties that are not included in this week's Bulletin articles.

Campaign Finance

[SB 1107 \(Allen\)](#) - Campaign Finance Bill Seeks to Reverse Court Ruling to Favor Counties. Comments Requested

Waste Management

[SB 1229 \(Jackson\)](#) - Pharmacy drug take-back bins: Support as Amended March 28, 2016

[AB 2039 \(Ting\)](#) - Sharps take-back program: Support as Amended April 4, 2016

[AB 2396 \(McCarty\)](#) - Solid Waste Reimbursement: **Oppose** as Introduced February 18, 2016

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

[AB 2693 \(Dababneh\)](#) - Eliminate Senior Lien Status **Oppose** as Amended March 17, 2016

Source Watersheds: Financing

[AB 2480 \(Bloom\)](#) - Elevate status of "Source Watersheds" Request for Comments as Amended April 5, 2016

Fairs: Funding

[AB 2678 \(Gray\)](#) - County Fair sales taxes: Support as Introduced February 19, 2016

Inner Coast Range Conservancy

[SB 1396 \(Wolk\)](#) - Establishes the Inner Coastal Range Conservancy: Request for Comments as Introduced on February 19, 2016

Job Openings

Click [here](#) to see the latest county and local government job postings.





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