

PATRIOT'S CALL TO DUTY

Save Our State

MARCH 21, 2025

We are fortunate to live in a nation, a Constitutional Republic, which places the final authority for governance with "We the People". However, that authority comes with a responsibility to be informed and participate by voting and communicating with our elected officials. No where is that more important than here in California. This newsletter is to assist you in carrying out that responsibility to "Save Our State". It's worth your time and effort.

SB 437, Weber Pierson – OPPOSE – Senate Appropriations hearing 5/5/2025

Reparations – Claim Eligibility. This bill is Step 2 in establishing a payment of reparations for descendants of African American chattel enslaved persons or free Black persons living in the United States prior to the 19th Century. The bill appropriates \$6M to CSU to research how to determine if an individual is a descendant of such a person.

Other bills this session depend on the ability to make such a determination of eligibility.

AB 7 - will give preferential admission in California higher education

AB 742 – will give preference in business applications

SB 518 – will establish the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery within the Department of Justice

History – Step 1: SB 3121 was passed in 2020 to establish the first-in-the nation Task Force to study and develop reparations proposals for California's role in accommodating and facilitating slavery, perpetuating the vestiges of enslavement, enforcing state-sanctioned discrimination, and permitting pervasive, systematic structures of discrimination against African Americans. The Task Force completed its final report in 2023 with recommendations to remedy the alleged decades of state-sanctioned white supremacy.

AB 1219, Wallis – SUPPORT – Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee hearing 5/5/2025

Personal Income Tax. Reduces personal income tax rates, thereby reducing the maximum California marginal income tax rate from 13.3% to 11.3%. Currently, California has the highest income tax rate in the country. This bill will benefit all California taxpayers and keep jobs from leaving California.

SB 657, Niello – SUPPORT – Senate Revenue & Taxation hearing 5/14/2025

Education Savings Account. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged account designed to help families save for education expenses, such as college tuition, K-12 education, and apprenticeship programs. Contributions grow tax-free, and withdrawals for qualified education expenses are also tax free. At the end of 2022, the federal government passed a bill that will allow children who are beneficiaries of 529 tuition plans to roll over tax-free up to \$35,000 of unused funds in these plans into Roth IRA's and thereby begin saving for their own retirement. This bill brings California into compliance with the new federal law allowing this non-taxable rollover.

SB 699, Ochoa Bogh – SUPPORT – Senate Judiciary hearing 5/6/2025

Good Government. Requires legislators and employees to complete a course in the Constitutions of the United States and California within six months of the start of a legislative session or the employee's date of hire.

SB 253, Umberg – OPPOSE – Senate Judiciary hearing 5/6/2025

Open Ended Fee Increase. "Existing law, until January 1, 2026, requires the board to fix the annual licensee fee for active licensees for 2025 at a sum not exceeding \$400. This bill, until January 1, 2027, would instead require the board to fix the annual license fee for active licensees for 2026 at a sum not exceeding an unspecified amount."

Increases in business fees like increases in business taxes eventually increase cost to consumers. While licensed professions should pay for their own administration, giving the bureaucracy carte blanche authority to set fees is an invitation to unreasonable and excessive pricing.

Attorneys might want to pay attention and submit portal letters in opposition from their firms. This bill places NO LIMITATION on the amount of annual bar fees. Organization letters must be on letterhead and signed.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

(1) PASS ALONG THE INFORMATION

Please forward this newsletter to family and friends. Include a note that if they want to sign up for the newsletter, send just their name and email address to: loveofcountry47@aol.com. And, if your recipient does not want to get the newsletter to please let you know

rather than using the unsubscribe button. That button will unsubscribe you and not them. It's better to cut and paste the newsletter into your email. We are not concerned with getting credit for the publication; the goal is to get information before voters.

(2) CONTACT LEGISLATORS

Call or email your own Assemblyman or State Senator. <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

An easy way to communicate with a committee is through this Portal. Your comments will go to the committee staff and will be available all members of the committee when submitted 8 days prior to the hearing.

Position Letter Portal

(one submission per bill)

Email to register a position of SUPPORT or OPPOSE as an individual with the committee staff and bill author's staff.

1. Go to the Registration Page - <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>
2. Select the No bubble next to "Are you a registered lobbyist?"
3. Complete all of the required fields in the User Details box.
4. Do NOT click the "I am affiliated with an organization" box.
5. Complete all the **required** fields in the Account Details box. (*hint: address is not required, so don't give it*)
6. Complete the Captcha and Click "Register."

This is a one-time registration; do not lose your ID and password – they are almost impossible to retrieve or reset.

Once you are registered, log in to submit your position letter. You will need the bill number and committee, both of which are in the descriptions above. Once you enter a bill number, hit the "search" button, and the committees will pop up.

The bullet points provided with the bill information are for your use to write your support or opposition in your own words.

After your letter has been successfully submitted, a link appears on the right-hand side: "Return to Note Submission Page". Click on that, and you can submit a new bill.

Very convenient for submitting many position letters via the portal.