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A snapshot of California Public Policy and Politics



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California Policy & Politics This Morning

Democrats push spending plan that relies on higher revenues -- With California's budget deadline a week away, Democratic state lawmakers are using higher revenue estimates to bolster their argument for spending more on social programs for the poor despite Gov. Jerry Brown's cost concerns. **Judy Lin** [Associated Press](#) -- 6/9/15

California budgets include fewer gimmicks but risks remain -- California's finances have mostly moved beyond the fund shifts, deferrals, borrowing and other budgeting maneuvers that became common during past fiscal downturns, according to a new study of budget transparency by an organization led by former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker, which warns that the "state's fiscal culture" could revert if revenue falls. **Jim Miller** in the [Sacramento Bee](#) -- 6/9/15

Walters: Sunshine's not bright in California's Capitol -- California legislators are steadfast champions of transparency in government – until it comes to themselves. **Dan Walters** in the [Sacramento Bee](#) -- 6/9/15



Stalled DNA collection bill is revived in Legislature -- A measure to shore up California's DNA collection system in criminal cases will be resurrected in the state Legislature, lawmakers said Monday, just weeks after the bill was shelved in an Assembly committee over vehement objection by its author. **Melanie Mason** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 6/9/15

PUC won't fire managers for 'inappropriate' e-mails to PG&E -- The California Public Utilities Commission has taken "corrective action" against about two dozen managers who engaged in back-channel e-mail communications with Pacific Gas and Electric Co., but the discipline stopped short of suspensions or firings, The Chronicle has learned. **Jaxon Van Derbeken** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 6/9/15

Lawmakers ask AG Kamala Harris to weigh in on redistricting case -- Dozens of state lawmakers have joined Senate leader Kevin de León in backing the "one-person, one-vote" doctrine to determine voting districts, in anticipation of a pending U.S.



Supreme Court case that could overturn that principle. **Melanie Mason** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 6/8/15



Political polling pioneer Mervin Field dies -- Mervin Field wasn't always right about who was winning California elections, but over seven decades, his Field Poll established an enviable track record of accurately charting the ups and downs of California politics. **Dan Walters** and **David Siders** in the [Sacramento Bee](#) \$ **Mark Z. Barabak** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ **John Myers** [KQED](#) **Carla Marinucci** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 6/8/15



People can fight traffic tickets without paying fine first, Judicial Council says -- California courts will have to change their notices to the public to say that no one will be required to pay upfront as a condition of a hearing on a ticket. The emergency rule takes effect immediately. **Maura Dolan** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ **Josh Richman** in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) -- 6/8/15



L.A. County communities protest planned bullet train route -- A diverse alliance of communities — including Los Angeles County's third-largest city — is fighting California's long-planned bullet train route into the heart of the San Fernando Valley, saying it would bring irreparable harm. **Ralph Vartabedian** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ -- 6/9/15



First phase of bullet train is cut due to Bakersfield, Shafter disputes -- State bullet train officials have cut eight miles of track from an initial 130-mile section of construction in the Central Valley as a result of legal disputes with local cities. **Dan Weikel**, **Ralph Vartabedian** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ -- 6/8/15

Poynter.



Plan to allow San Francisco 16-year-olds to vote won't be on 2015 ballot -- San Francisco Supervisor John Avalos tabled a proposal Monday to allow 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in local elections, but vowed to try again next year. **Emily Green** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 6/9/15

Maplight.org
Cal FPPC
Leg Analyst

Cell phone industry sues Berkeley over warning-labels law -- The cell-phone industry, leery of any attempt to link its products to radiation, sued Berkeley on Monday over a new ordinance requiring consumers to be warned that carrying a switched-on phone in their pockets or bra might exceed federal safety standards. **Bob Egelko** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 6/9/15



Senate candidate Loretta Sanchez vows federal action on oil spills -- As U.S. Senate candidate Loretta Sanchez bemoaned the recent Santa Barbara oil spill at a stop in Long Beach on Monday, the Orange County congresswoman all but echoed the words of her chief Senate rival, state Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris. **Michael Finnegan** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ -- 6/9/15



State lawmakers approve \$968,700 in claims for wrongful convictions -- State lawmakers on Monday approved legislation that would pay \$968,700 to settle claims by three wrongly convicted Californians, including Brian Banks, a former star football player who served five years in prison before a young girl recanted her accusation that he had raped her. **Phil Willon** and **Patrick McGreevy** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) \$ -- 6/8/15

Decker: Garcetti, like other big-city mayors, must balance agenda, police actions --

From his windows Monday, Eric Garcetti could see the same scene that greeted him Sunday: Protesters gathered outside his home demanding that the mayor fire LAPD Chief Charlie Beck and hold public hearings into the shooting death of a mentally ill man in South Los Angeles. **Cathleen Decker** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 6/9/15

Kevin Johnson's push for more staff reflects continued national ambitions -- After more than six years, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson is on the cusp of expanding the reach of his office to reflect national ambitions he has chased since he was first elected. **Marissa Lang** and **Ryan Lillis** in the [Sacramento Bee](#)\$ -- 6/9/15

San Diego County considers regulating protests -- No matter your cause, the county is considering new regulations that could make it tougher to share your viewpoint outside its downtown headquarters. On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors will consider a measure that creates "free speech zones" for demonstrations outside the County Administration Center and require some protesters to obtain permits before they picket. **Joshua Stewart** in the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)\$ -- 6/9/15

News outlets seek videos of killing of unarmed man by police -- The Associated Press, Los Angeles Times and Bloomberg claim Gardena officials want the videos sealed to avoid criticism. However, there's profound public interest in the release against the backdrop of fatal police shootings around the country, the media outlets contend. **Amanda Lee Meyers** [Associated Press](#) -- 6/9/15

Famed Manson family prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi dies at 80 -- Vincent Bugliosi, the Los Angeles County deputy district attorney who gained worldwide fame for his successful prosecutions of Charles Manson and his followers for the brutal 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others, has died. He was 80. **Rebecca Trounson** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ **Andrew Dalton** [Associated Press](#) -- 6/9/15

Calbuzz: A Great Man Passes: Merv Field R.I.P. -- All you need to do to appreciate Merv Field's legacy and lasting impact on California politics is to glance at the most recent survey his eponymous poll published about Jerry Brown, just two weeks ago. **Jerry Roberts** and **Phil Trounstone** [CalBuzz](#) -- 6/9/15

Economy, Employers, Jobs, Unions, Pensions

Blue Shield's proposed acquisition of Care1st faces tough scrutiny -- A top California regulator vowed a "deep dive" into a \$1.2-billion acquisition proposed by Blue Shield of California amid criticism that the nonprofit insurer is shortchanging the public. **Chad Terhune** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 6/9/15

Stadium vote could be Dec. 15 -- San Diego officials announced Monday that a citywide vote on a possible new Chargers stadium could happen as early as Dec. 15, a few weeks before the January 2016 window the NFL has tentatively set for teams to apply for relocation to the Los Angeles area. **David Garrick** in the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)\$ -- 6/9/15

CalPERS to halve its Wall Street investment managers -- The California Public Employees' Retirement System plans to cut in half the number of Wall Street firms it pays to manage its \$303 billion fund, an effort to cut down on high fees that drag down returns. **Dean Starkman** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 6/8/15

CalSTRS cashes out of firearms investment -- Ending a lengthy effort that had frustrated school teachers, CalSTRS has sold its investment in the firearms manufacturer linked to the 2012 massacre at a Connecticut elementary school. **Dale Kasler** in the [Sacramento Bee](#)\$ -- 6/8/15

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti courts the tech sector -- Few mayors embody the digital zeitgeist like Eric Garcetti, a self-professed math geek and amateur coder who has made the L.A. tech scene a cornerstone of his administration. **David Pierson** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 6/8/15

L.A.'s tech industry is booming, but how big is it? -- But measuring that growth is a murky business, with no consensus among the city's officials, economists, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists on where to begin, what regions to include or what even constitutes a tech job. **Andrea Chang** in the [Los Angeles Times](#)\$ -- 6/8/15

Gas prices continue dropping in Southern California -- The average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline in Los Angeles County dropped Monday for the 21st consecutive day and the 22nd time in 23 days, decreasing a half-cent to \$3.756. The item is in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) -- 6/9/15

San Francisco takes another run at regulating home-shares -- San Francisco supervisors are expected to revisit a sticky issue Tuesday that has generated impassioned pleas from tenants and home-owners alike - Airbnb regulations. **Janie Har** [Associated Press](#) -- 6/9/15

Drought

Bottled water sources flow amid drought -- Wells, springs are not metered, not subject to restrictions. **Morgan Cook** in the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)\$ -- 6/8/15

Dublin defends construction of massive water park during drought -- Construction is underway on what city officials boast will be the "biggest and best" water park in the East Bay, however some Dublin residents are questioning the wisdom of building the \$36 million Emerald Glen Aquatic Center in the midst of a historic drought. **Jeremy Thomas** in the [Oakland Tribune](#) -- 6/8/15

California's Vanishing Clouds Could Intensify Drought -- Fog season is with us once again. And whether it's the ground-level "pea soup" of legend or the looming overcast known as the marine layer, there's a reason it's called California's natural air-conditioning: fog and clouds are vital cogs in keeping the coastal thermostat turned down. But that advantage could be disappearing. **Craig Miller** [KQED](#) -- 6/8/15

Drought exposes Civil War veteran's grave in Monterey County lake -- The retired park ranger has known about the Civil War veteran's gravesite for most of his life. But for much of the past half-century, McBride's remains and the tiny ghost town where he met his fate lay at the bottom of a reservoir, submerged due to a thirsty state's need to corral every drop that flows through its parched ravines. **Kerry Klein** in the [San Jose Mercury](#)\$ -- 6/9/15

Dying grass means dyeing grass -- To comply with a recent governor's order, Newport Beach has turned off water to street medians with grass turf. But city staff isn't quite ready to see the grass wither and turn brown — not if a little bit of green dye can do the trick. **Amy Senk** in the [Orange County Register](#) -- 6/9/15

Education

Class of 2015 needs more than a high school diploma, experts say -- The high school diploma — once a ticket to the American middle class — isn't enough any more, experts say. **Beau Yarbrough** in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) -- 6/9/15

More Corinthian students' federal loan debt to be erased -- The federal government will erase much of the debt of students who attended the now-defunct Corinthian Colleges, officials announced Monday. **Chris Kirkham** and **Samantha Masunaga** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 6/8/15

Environment

44% of coastline clean after Santa Barbara County oil spill, officials say -- More than 40 miles of California coastline has been cleared of oil from the Plains All American Pipeline oil spill off Santa Barbara County, officials say. **Joseph Serna, Javier Panzar** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 6/8/15

California lawmakers look to better procedure for oil spills -- A bipartisan gathering of area Congress and city council members Monday decried the May 19 oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, calling for improvements to aging infrastructure and quicker spill response times. **Martin Wisckol** in the [Orange County Register](#) -- 6/9/15

North San Diego County Seawall Is At Center Of Legal Fight -- An Encinitas seawall is at the heart of a dispute under review by the California Supreme Court. The state's top justices are considering an appeal that challenges the California Coastal Commission's right to regulate the man-made structures. **Erik Anderson** [KPBS](#) -- 6/9/15

Health

San Francisco considers health warning on soda advertising -- San Francisco officials are deciding whether to impose a warning on ads for a favorite drink of children and a bane of public health advocates: Sugary soda pop. **Janie Har** [Associated Press](#) -- 6/9/15

Patient Advocates: Divine Guidance -- The mind-boggling frustration of a simple visit to the doctor's office is legendary. Clinicians interrupt patients offering medical histories within an average of 15 seconds. The typical length of a visit to a primary care physician is just 15 minutes. And after leaving, patients retain only a fraction of what a doctor has told them. **Matt Perry** [California Health Report](#) -- 6/8/15

Guns

Supreme Court Rejects Appeal of San Francisco Gun-Lock Law -- The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to a San Francisco law that requires handgun owners to secure their weapons with trigger locks or store them in gun safes while in the home. **Dan Brekke** [KQED](#) -- 6/8/15

Also . . .

Long Beach names officer in fatal shooting of unarmed college student -- Long Beach police have identified the officer who fatally shot an unarmed college student last month as Matthew Hernandez, a 12-year veteran of the force. **Joseph Serna** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 6/8/15

In 25 years, San Francisco will be a lot whiter -- San Francisco, which prides itself on its diversity and progressiveness, may be well on its way to returning to the white-dominated society it was in the middle of the last century. The item is in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 6/8/15

Kevin de León mixes music and policy at Cal State L.A. -- De León visited California State University, Los Angeles, last week and played guest DJ for an hour at the student radio station, Golden Eagle Radio. In between discussions of higher education policy with the student hosts and Cal State LA President William Covino, de León spun some of his favorite tunes. **Alexei Koseff** in the [Sacramento Bee](#) -- 6/9/15

Lawyers apologize to Hollywood execs wrongly accused of sexual abuse -- Two lawyers for Michael Egan, who falsely accused four Hollywood execs of sex abuse, apologize to two of them. **Abby Sewell, Daniel Miller and Ryan Faughnder** in the [Los Angeles Times](#) -- 6/8/15

Beltway

Marco Rubio fundraising at Larry Ellison's: Will they talk immigration? -- Florida Senator Marco Rubio is making the money rounds in Silicon Valley Tuesday, starring at a \$2,700-per-person fundraiser in the palatial Woodside home of Oracle guru Larry Ellison. **Carla Marinucci** in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) -- 6/9/15