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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Mao Misty Her

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – NOVEMBER 15, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Interim Superintendent, Mao Misty Her

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent

S-1 Mao Misty Her Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Chief Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports
for November 07, 2024

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Natasha Baker, Ed.D., Chief Officer

ID-1 Marie Williams, Ed.D. Independent Contractor Agreement with
Education and Leadership Foundation

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Mao Misty Her, Interim Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: November 15, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Interim Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Met with Superintendent's Cabinet
- Met with Executive Cabinet
- Guest speaker at Trustee Levine's Social Policy Analysis class at Fresno State
- Attended the CART Board Meeting
- Held three trainings on Student Outcome Focused Governance with Vice Principals
- Gave interview with Karl Cooke, KMPH regarding safety concerns and needs
- Attended the Foundation for Fresno Unified Students Board Meeting
- Site visit as Aspen Valley Prep
- Site visit at Wilson Elementary
- Visited 10 classrooms during site visit at Wilson
- Spoke during the 2024 National Blue Ribbon Announcement at Design Science Middle College High School
- Spoke at the 28th Annual Giving Thanks Event



Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her  _____

Date: 11/15/24

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive 
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: November 15, 2024

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for November 07, 2024

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues. The SSC Weekly Updates for November 07, 2024 are attached and include the following articles:

- School Facilities Bond Approved by Voters – November 07, 2024
- Gov. Gavin Newsom Calls for Special Session to Protect 'California Values' After Trump's Win – November 07, 2024
- Big Turnover, But Democrats Keep Their Supermajority in the Legislature – November 05, 2024

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her  _____

Date: 11/15/24



1121 L Street

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Suite 1060

•
Sacramento

•
California 95814

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TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

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FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

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www.sscal.com

DATE: November 7, 2024

TO: Misty Her
Interim Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

2024 General Election Update

On the national front, media outlets have projected that former President Donald Trump has defeated Vice President Kamala Harris in the presidential election and will begin his second term on January 20, 2025. It has also been projected that Republicans will take back control of the U.S. Senate, winning at least 52 seats with the outcome of three contests yet to be determined. Which party will control the U.S. House of Representatives is also unknown at this time as votes are still being counted in a number of races. The Associated Press currently has the House numbers at 210 Republicans to 196 Democrats, with 29 races yet to be called.

For the open U.S. Senate seat in California, voters have elected Democratic Congressman Adam Schiff over Republican candidate Steve Garvey. For the 52 House seats in California, 31 have been called for the Democrats, 7 for the Republicans, and 14 still too close to call. With so many uncalled races, many national pundits have pegged California as the key state for which party will gain control of the House of Representatives.

While there are still several state legislative races, it is expected that the Democrats will maintain their supermajority status in both houses. We will provide the final breakdown of the legislative seats when more of the races are called, but it is expected that Democrats will have over two-thirds of the seats in the Assembly and Senate heading into 2025.

Though the fate of several statewide ballot races remains unknown, media outlets have projected the following have been approved by voters:

- **Proposition 2:** Issues \$10 billion (\$8.5 billion for K-12 education and \$1.5 billion for the California Community Colleges) in bonds to fund the construction and modernization of K-14 public education facilities (vote is currently 57% yes to 43% no)
- **Proposition 3:** Repeals Proposition 8 (2008) and declares that a “right to marry is a fundamental right” in California (vote is currently 61% yes to 39% no)

- **Proposition 4:** Issues \$10 billion in bonds to fund safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience programs; wildfire and forest resilience programs; coastal resilience programs; and other climate-related infrastructure projects (vote is currently 58% yes to 42% no)
- **Proposition 35:** Permanently authorizes a tax on managed care organizations to fund Medi-Cal programs, which is currently set to expire in 2026 (vote is currently 67% yes to 33% no)
- **Proposition 36:** Revises Proposition 47 (2014) to raise the penalties and sentences for some drug and theft offenses (vote is currently 70% yes to 30% no)

Media outlets also project the following ballot measure has been defeated:

- **Proposition 33:** Would have repealed the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (1995), thereby allowing cities and counties to limit rent increases, and prohibiting the state from limiting how cities and counties expand or maintain rent control (vote is currently 61.5% no and 31.5% yes)

The outcome of the four remaining propositions remains unknown at this time:

- **Proposition 5:** Lowers the vote threshold required to approve local special taxes for housing and infrastructure projects from two-thirds to 55% (vote is currently 56% no and 44% yes)
- **Proposition 6:** Repeals language in the California Constitution prohibiting involuntary servitude except to punish crime and replaces it with language prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude (vote is currently 55% no and 45% yes)
- **Proposition 32:** Increases the state minimum wage to \$18 per hour (begins January 1, 2025, for employers with 26 or more employees and January 1, 2026, for employers with 25 or fewer employees) and thereafter will adjust annually for inflation (vote is currently 52% no and 48% yes)
- **Proposition 34:** Requires certain health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug programs on direct patient care; permanently authorizes the state to negotiate Medi-Cal drug prices on a statewide basis (vote is currently 51.5% yes and 48.5% no)

Any measure approved by a majority vote takes effect the fifth day after the Secretary of State certifies the election results, unless the proposition provides otherwise. The Secretary of State has until December 13, 2024, to certify the election results.

Leilani Aguinaldo

School Facilities Bond Approved by Voters

By Kyle Hyland
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
November 7, 2024

Media outlets are projecting that Proposition 2 (2024), the \$10 billion K-14 school facilities bond, has been approved by voters. This news comes four and a half years after voters rejected a \$15 billion school facilities bond on the March 3, 2020, primary election ballot.

With more than half of the votes counted, Proposition 2 is up 57% to 43%. The numbers are currently outpacing the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) final poll on the measure by five percentage points (see "[New Poll on Education Bond Released](#)" in the October 2024 *Fiscal Report*).

The \$10 billion in bond proceeds will provide a total of \$8.5 billion to K-12 and \$1.5 billion to community colleges. Of the \$8.5 billion provided to K-12, funds would be allocated according to the following schedule:

- \$3.3 billion for new construction
- \$4.0 billion for modernization projects
- \$600 million for charter school facilities
- \$600 million for career technical education programs

The measure establishes a sliding scale for state and local match provisions which will increase the state grant amount from 50% to 55% for new construction and from 60% to 65% for modernization projects based on a local educational agency's ability to generate local funds and percentages of low income, foster care, and English learner students. Additionally, financial hardship provisions in the measure will increase the number of school districts eligible to receive up to 100% of state grants due to financial challenges. Finally, up to 10% of the \$3.3 billion for new construction and up to 10% of the \$4.0 billion for modernization will be made available specifically for small school districts.

Proposition 2 will officially take effect the fifth day after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. The Secretary of State has until December 13, 2024, to certify the election results.

We will continue to provide results on the election in subsequent *Fiscal Report* articles. Stay tuned.

Note: Governor Newsom is calling for a special election to bolster the state's legal resources with the aim of protecting reproductive healthcare, climate policies, and immigrant communities in California.

Gov. Gavin Newsom Calls for Special Session to Protect 'California Values' After Trump's Win

By William Melhado
The Sacramento Bee
November 7, 2024

Gov. Gavin Newsom called Thursday for lawmakers to return to the Capitol for a special session to protect "California values" in preparation for former President Donald Trump's return to the White House.

Less than 36 hours after Trump's resounding victory over Vice President Kamala Harris, the California governor — a prominent opponent of the former president during his first term — called to bolster the state's legal resources with the aim of protecting reproductive healthcare, climate policies and immigrant communities in California.

"The freedoms we hold dear in California are under attack — and we won't sit idle," Newsom said announcing the session. "We are prepared to fight in the courts, and we will do everything necessary to ensure Californians have the support and resources they need to thrive."

The special session would be the first of multiple actions on behalf of his administration and the Legislature to begin strengthening the state's defenses against what Newsom said was an incoming federal administration that had threatened California on multiple fronts.

The special session is slated to begin Dec. 2, when the Legislature is scheduled to convene.

The session's purpose, Newsom outlined, is to allocate additional resources to the California Department of Justice and other legal arms of the state that can pursue litigation to stop federal actions under Trump. Newsom also asked lawmakers to increase funding to fight federal lawsuits aimed at dismantling California policies.

During Trump's first term, California filed more than 120 lawsuits challenging actions taken by the former president's administration, according to the governor's proclamation.

The session comes in response to statements from Trump and his advisors made during his first term, and while on the campaign trail, that could threaten some of California's progressive priorities. Newsom warned that recent civil rights expansions, reproductive healthcare access, protections for immigrant families and climate policies could all be threatened by a second Trump administration.

California Republicans were quick to criticize the governor's special session.

Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher, R-Yuba City, called Newsom's special session a "shameless political stunt" in a statement. Gallagher said no policy would be passed in the special session that couldn't be addressed when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

“The only ‘problem’ it will solve is Gavin Newsom’s insecurity that not enough people are paying attention to him,” Gallagher said.

Assemblymember Josh Hoover, R-Folsom, said Newsom was out of touch of Californians’ interests given he advocated against Proposition 36, a tough-on-crime measure that passed with over 70% of support from voters.

“He wouldn’t know California values if they hit him in the face,” Hoover said in a social media post.

Standing before San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge, Attorney General Rob Bonta said Thursday morning that his office was preparing to fight back against any efforts by the Trump administration to roll back environmental protections and attack the rights of women, LGBTQ+ people and immigrant communities.

“We lived through Trump 1.0. We know what he’s capable of, we know what plans he has in store,” Bonta said at a press conference. “We won’t be flatfooted come January.”

Bonta said he and other California leaders have been planning for months, preparing for executive actions Trump might take that counter the state’s progressive policies.

“Preparation is the best antidote,” he said. “No matter what the incoming Administration has in store, California will keep moving forward.”

Note: Democrats will retain their supermajority as they enter the 2025-26 legislative session.

Big Turnover, But Democrats Keep Their Supermajority in the Legislature

By Ryan Sabalow and Sameea Kamal
CalMatters
November 5, 2024

While things were looking poorly for Democrats nationally, early vote totals in California showed the Democratic Party poised to keep its supermajority in the Legislature.

“Overall, the balance of power is not going to shift in either house,” said veteran lobbyist Chris Micheli. “Democrats will continue to maintain a super duper majority in both houses — the only potential scenario is perhaps gaining a seat or two in each house and adding to that super duper majority status.”

Should the vote totals hold, Mike Gatto, a former Democratic lawmaker from Los Angeles cautioned members of his party not to consider it an edict from the California electorate to embrace far-left policies in response to a possible return to the White House for Donald Trump.

Gatto noted that voters appear to have signaled through the state’s ballot initiatives a more moderate platform. They overwhelmingly passed a measure, which progressives opposed, that increases sentences for certain crimes; and early vote totals show them rejecting progressive-sponsored initiatives that would prohibit forced labor in prisons and one that would expand rent control.

“I think it would be wise for California Democrats to try to moderate the agenda a little bit,” Gatto said.

Experts also cautioned that California's notoriously long ballot-counting process could take weeks to conclude, and some close legislative races could still tip the Republicans' way.

"We may not know the results of some of these races perhaps even for a few weeks, unfortunately, Micheli said Tuesday night, citing the 2022 example where Christy Holstege went through the Assembly's new member orientation only to lose by 85 votes to Greg Wallis, the current Republican incumbent.

Hostege ran again this year, and early results Tuesday showed her in the lead.

Going into tonight's election, insiders from both parties said the supermajority that Democrats have held since 2012 was never really in jeopardy, despite 36 of 120 lawmakers in the Senate and Assembly leaving office due to term limits or other reasons (including a handful of Assemblymembers running for Senate).

The Legislature was also expected to reach gender parity — the same percentage of women in the Assembly and Senate as in the state — for the first time in California's history.

The 2025 Legislative session could start with more new lawmakers than it's had since 2012, when 44 new members took office, said Alex Vassar, a legislative historian at the California State Library. This large class of freshmen lawmakers will have to confront California's challenges including state budget woes, crime, homelessness, climate change and the rising cost of living.

Here are the hot races CalMatters is following that have the potential to shake up the Legislature's partisan makeup.

California Senate

There are 40 senators, currently made up of 31 Democrats and nine Republicans. The GOP would need to pick up five seats to break up the supermajority. Half of the Senate's seats are up for election this year, though many of them are safe districts where the incumbent or the local majority party's favorite is all but certain to win. One race puts two Republicans against each other, and three races have Democrats running against each other.

These are the three close races that could change the partisan makeup of the Senate.

District 19

Incumbent Republican Sen. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, first elected in 2020, is in a close race with Lisa Middleton, a Democrat, in this purple Southern California district that includes Joshua Tree National Park and the cities of Palm Springs and Big Bear Lake. Democrats are hopeful the surge in enthusiasm for Kamala Harris could carry Middleton to victory in a district that has become more blue since 2020.

Voter registration: 36.6% Democrat, 35.8% Republican, 18.7% no party preference

Campaign cash: Middleton: \$2.2 million; Ochoa Bogh: \$2 million.

District 23

Democrat Kipp Mueller, a workers rights attorney, and Suzette Martinez Valladares, a former Republican Assemblymember, are seeking term-out Republican Sen. Scott Wilk's seat, representing the Lancaster

area. Martinez Valladares came out 3.4% ahead of Mueller in the primary. In response, Democrats have piled on campaign cash to boost Mueller's chances.

Voter registration: 39.0% Democrat, 31.8% Republican, 21.5% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Mueller: \$6.6 million; Martinez Valladares: \$2.4 million.

District 37

Fullerton incumbent Democratic Sen. Josh Newman, who was once recalled from office, is facing Steven Choi, a Republican former Assemblymember. Newman angered the deep-pocketed and typically Democratic-supportive American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees for sponsoring a gambling bill the union opposed and for not supporting a constitutional amendment for UC workers. One of the union's local affiliates has spent at least \$870,000 opposing Newman, though he still has a massive fundraising lead over Choi.

Voter registration: 36.4% Democrat, 33.4% Republican, 24.1% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Newman: \$6.5 million; Choi: \$853,271.

California Assembly

There are 80 Assemblymembers, currently made up of 62 Democrats and 18 Republicans.

Members of the Assembly run every two years, so each seat is up for election this year. Republicans would need to pick up nine seats to break the Democrats' supermajority. Most seats aren't likely to flip parties. There are five races in which Republicans are running against each other and eight where two Democrats are facing off.

In what's arguably the strangest scenario, Kern County Republican Assemblymember Vince Fong won a special election to replace U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, but Fong remains on the ballot for his former Assembly seat. Will he beat Republican Ken Weir, the only other candidate on the ballot, for a seat that Fong no longer wants? Should Fong get the most votes, Gov. Gavin Newsom would declare the seat vacant and call a special election as early as March.

Seven close races could change the partisan makeup of the California Assembly.

District 7

Incumbent Republican Assemblymember Josh Hoover is running against Porsche Middleton, a Democrat, in a close race for this seat representing the suburbs east Sacramento. Two years ago, Hoover beat the incumbent Democrat, Ken Cooley. Middleton hopes to flip the seat again.

Voter registration: 37.5% Democratic, 33.1% Republican, 20.8% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Middleton: \$1.8 million; Hoover: \$2.4 million.

District 27

Democratic Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria was elected two years ago in this majority Latino district that runs along Highway 99 from Merced to Coalinga. But Republican Joanna Garcia Rose, a tax auditor, got more votes than her in the primary. Soria, however, has raised much more campaign cash than Garcia Rose.

Party registration: 40.8% Democratic, 28.8% Republican, 22.6% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Soria: \$4.6 million; Garcia Rose: \$1.3 million.

District 36

Longtime Democratic Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia decided not to run for reelection for this seat representing the Imperial Valley that was long assumed to be a safe Democratic stronghold. Republican Jeff Gonzalez surprised political insiders when he got substantially more primary votes than the next closest Democrat, Jose “Joey” Acuña Jr.

Party registration: 42.3% Democratic, 28.7% Republican, 21.6% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Acuna: \$1.7 million; Gonzalez: \$1.2 million.

District 40

First-term Democratic Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo is hoping to keep her seat representing the affluent northern suburbs of Los Angeles County. But the seat has changed hands in each of the past three elections. Republican Patrick Lee Gipson, a retired sheriff’s deputy, was just a few votes behind Schiavo in the primary.

Party registration: 41.3% Democratic, 30.0% Republican, 21.7% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Schiavo: \$4 million; Gipson: \$363,000.

District 47

First-term Republican Assemblymember Greg Wallis beat Democrat Christy Holstege by just 85 votes in 2022 in this district that includes Rancho Mirage and Palm Springs. She’s back for a rematch and has a large fundraising lead.

Party registration: 39.7% Democratic, 34.1% Republican, 17.9% no party preference

Campaign cash: Holstege: \$3.6 million; Wallis: \$2.7 million.

District 74

Republican Assemblymember Laurie Davies was first elected in 2020. Two years later, she won a close race against Democratic San Clemente city councilmember Chris Duncan. He’s back for a rematch in this tossup Oceanside-area district that has seen a sudden influx of campaign cash from gambling interests after Davies made a controversial vote on a gambling bill this summer. The California Cardroom Alliance has spent at least \$1.26 million opposing Davies since September.

Party registration: 35% Democrat, 35.2% Republican, 21.7% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Duncan: \$4.8 million; Davies: \$3 million.

District 76

Termed-out San Diego Democratic Assemblymember Brian Maienschein was first elected as a Republican before he switched parties. Republican Kristie Bruce-Lane is hoping to switch the district back to a Republican one. She's running against Darshana Patel, a Democrat, who placed second in the primary.


Party registration: 37.5% Democratic, 30.7% Republican, 24.7% no party preference.

Campaign cash: Patel: \$5.14 million; Bruce-Lane \$1.64 million.

CalMatters data reporter Jeremia Kimelman contributed to this story.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Marie Williams, Ed.D., Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: November 15, 2024

Phone: 457-3731

Regarding: Independent Contractor Services Agreement with Education and Leadership Foundation

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with information regarding an independent services contractor agreement with the Education and Leadership Foundation (ELF) that will be presented for ratification on November 20, 2024. Education Leadership Foundation Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was approved by the Board on August 09, 2023.

ELF will provide after-school tutoring for all ninth-grade through twelfth-grade students. Mentors will support in mathematics and English language arts intervention, by providing direct instructional tutorial services after school. The total amount of the contract is \$62,453.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication or require additional information, please contact Sandra Aguayo at 457-3678.

Approved by Interim Superintendent

Mao Misty Her  _____

Date: 11/15/24