



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ELECTION ROUND UP

California Elections and Community College Measures November 2014 Midterm Election Addendum December 14, 2014

Overview

The 114th Congress will begin in January 2015 and both houses will be controlled by the Republicans. In the House of Representatives, Republicans enjoy a 246-188 (with one undecided election) majority. That is an increase of 12 seats compared to 113th Congress. The Senate Republicans will have a 54-44 (2 independents) advantage, which is a reversal from the Democrat's 53-45 split in the 113th Congress. The implications of a Republican controlled Congress and a Democratic President will be the dominant theme in 2015.

In the California State Legislature, the Democrats remain strong but unlike the start of the last legislative session, they do not have a two-thirds majority. When the elections were certified by the Secretary of State on December 5, 2014, the Assembly had a 52-28 advantage (two votes short of a supermajority) and the Senate will be 26-14 advantage (one vote short). However, there will be special elections in the coming year for seats opened in districts where state representatives won election to Congress.

At the local district level, the North Orange County Community College District's Bond Measure J election results appeared to result in a narrow defeat, but gradually shifted to a very close victory. Voters approved a \$574 million bond by only 15 votes. This bond will be for significant upgrades to technical job training facilities, aging classrooms, and services for veterans. However, the results are now in question and a recount will be conducted by both Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Isadore Hall Sworn after Winning State Senate Special Election

After embattled Senator Rod Wright resigned his Senate seat in September, a special election was held in the 35th District on December 9th, which includes the cities of Inglewood and Compton. Isadore Hall, who was recently termed out of the Assembly, garnered enough votes in the Senate special election to prevent a runoff in February. Senator Hall was sworn in on December 11th and will serve the remainder of the former Senator Wright's four-year term that started in 2012.

Assembly Selects Committee Chairs – Senate Announces Rules Committee Membership

Toni Atkins, Speaker of the Assembly, announced who would be chairing committees in the new legislative session. Former Riverside CCD trustee, Jose Medina is the new chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. He replaces Das Williams who is the new chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Key committee chairs include:

Appropriations

- Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez (D-Northeast Los Angeles)

Budget

- Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber (D-San Diego)

Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance

- Assembly Member Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento)

Education

- Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach)

Higher Education

- Assembly Member Jose Medina (D-Riverside)

Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

- Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (D-Riverside)

Local Government

- Assembly Member Brian Maienschein (R-San Diego)

Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security

- Assembly Member Rob Bonta (D-Oakland)

Veterans Affairs

- Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)

The Senate has yet to announce their committee chairs and membership, other than the Senate Rules Committee. This is the committee that approves gubernatorial appointments, including members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Members of the Senate Rules Committee include:

Senator Kevin de León (D- Los Angeles) (Chair)
Senator Jean Fuller (Vice Chair) (R- Bakersfield)
Senator Anthony Cannella (R-Ceres)
Senator Connie M. Leyva (D-Los Angeles)
Senator Holly J. Mitchell (D-Ontario)