ELECTION: SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

As a result of the 2012 elections, the California Congressional Delegation will have several new faces when the 113th Congress convenes in January 2013. In part due to the state’s new open primary system, several current members of the delegation will not be returning to the House.

New members include Republican Doug LaMalfa who won the 1st District open seat currently held by retiring Rep. Wally Herger. LaMalfa is a fourth generation farmer and former State Senator. State Assemblyman Jared Huffman won in the new 2nd District. Huffman, a Democrat, also served in the past on the board of the Marin Municipal Water District.

In another open seat with two Republicans facing off, Paul Cook will represent the 8th District in the 113th Congress. Cook is an Assemblyman from Yucca Valley. David Valadao, a Republican, won the newly created 21st District. He is a dairyman in the Central Valley and member of the State Assembly.

In the 26th District, Democrat Julia Brownley was elected. She is an Assemblywoman and former member of the board of education of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Democrat Tony Cardenas was elected to the new 29th District. Cardenas is a City Councilman in Los Angeles.

Democrat Mark Tagano will represent the new 41st District. He’s a teacher and Riverside Community College trustee. The new 47th District will be represented by current State Senator Alan Lowenthal. He’s a Democrat from Long Beach. State Senator Juan Vargas, a Democrat, will take over the 51st District seat being vacated by Rep. Bob Filner.

The election also saw several incumbents go down to defeat. In the 15th District, 20 term Rep. Pete Stark lost his re-election bid to fellow Democrat Eric Swalwell, a Dublin City Councilman and Alameda County Prosecutor.

In the 30th District face off between incumbents Brad Sherman and Howard Berman, both Democrats, Rep. Sherman came out the winner and will begin his ninth term in the House in 2013. In another race between two Democrats, Rep. Joe Baca was upset by Gloria McLeod in the 35th District. McLeod, from Chino, is currently in the State Senate and was formerly the board president of Chaffey
Community College. And in the other race between incumbent Democrats, Rep. Janice Hahn beat Rep. Laura Richardson in the 44th District.

Finally, there are three races still too close to call. In the 7th District, incumbent Dan Lungren was trailing Democrat Ami Bera by less than 200 votes. Bera, a physician, was formerly an Associate Dean at the UC Davis School of Medicine and the Chief Medical Officer for the County of Sacramento.

In the newly redrawn 36th District, seven term Rep. Mary Bono Mack is trailing Democrat Raul Ruiz by about 4,500 votes, with thousands still uncounted. Ruiz is also a physician who grew up in the Coachella Valley. And in the newly redrawn 52nd District, incumbent Republican Brian Bilbray is trailing challenger Scott Peters by about 700 votes, also with thousands left to be counted.

Even with three races still to be finalized, there will be at least eleven – and maybe as many as fourteen – new California members in the 113th Congress. At least 35 of them will be Democrats, and 15 will be Republicans.

For more information on the election results, go to: http://vote.sos.ca.gov/.

CONGRESS: HOUSE AND SENATE RETURN FOR LAME DUCK ON NOVEMBER 13

The House and Senate will reconvene for a lame duck session beginning on Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

The major item on the agenda will be dealing with the impending “fiscal cliff” set up by the sequestration to be triggered on January 2, 2013. Under the deficit reduction deal, without a compromise, automatic cuts of about $109 billion for FY 2013 would be triggered across the board, with $55 billion coming from defense spending. How to handle the January expiration of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, enacted during President George W. Bush’s tenure, and which would also contribute to the fiscal cliff, will most likely come up in tandem with the negotiations over the sequester. Whether a final deal can be reached during the lame duck, or whether the problem will just be pushed off to allow more time to come up with a resolution, remains to be seen. And, of course, even though almost everyone says they don’t want it to happen, it is possible that no deal will be reached, triggering the sequestration at the same time that the tax cuts expire.


Congress also left town in September without agreeing to a multi-year farm bill. The Senate passed its bill, S. 3240 last April. The House Agriculture reported its bill, H.R. 6083, in August, but it was not brought to the floor before adjournment. Before adjourning in September, both House Speaker
John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said that the issue would be addressed during the lame duck.

Reid has also said that he would bring up the cybersecurity bill again in the lame duck. Among the many other issues that could come up during the lame duck are additional funding for disaster relief due to superstorm Sandy, reauthorization of a multi-year transportation bill, and increasing visas for high-skilled employees.

**STATE ISSUES: CALIFORNIANS VOTE ON SEVERAL REFERENDUM ISSUES**

On election day, November 6, 2012, Californians also voted on several propositions. Below are the results of some of the major issues dealt with. The explanations are provided on the California Secretary of State website.

**Proposition 30** - Approved 53.9% to 46.1%. The proposition increases taxes on earnings over $250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by ¼ cent for four years, to fund schools. Guarantees public safety realignment funding. Fiscal Impact: Increased state tax revenues through 2018–19, averaging about $6 billion annually over the next few years. Revenues available for funding state budget. In 2012–13, planned spending reductions, primarily to education programs, would not occur.

**Proposition 38** - Defeated 27.7% to 72.3%. Would have increased taxes on earnings using sliding scale, for twelve years. Revenues would have gone to K–12 schools and early childhood programs, and for four years to repaying state debt. Fiscal Impact: Increased state tax revenues for 12 years—roughly $10 billion annually in initial years, tending to grow over time. Funds used for schools, child care, and preschool, as well as providing savings on state debt payments.

**Proposition 31** - Defeated 39.2% to 60.8%. Would have established two-year state budget. Set rules for offsetting new expenditures, and Governor budget cuts in fiscal emergencies. Local governments could alter application of laws governing state-funded programs. Fiscal Impact: Decreased state sales tax revenues of $200 million annually, with corresponding increases of funding to local governments. Other, potentially more significant changes in state and local budgets, depending on future decisions by public officials.

**Proposition 34** - Defeated 47.2% to 52.8%. Would have repealed the death penalty and replaced it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Directed $100 million to law enforcement agencies for investigations of homicide and rape cases. Fiscal Impact: Ongoing state and county criminal justice savings of about $130 million annually within a few years, which could vary by tens of millions of dollars. One-time state costs of $100 million for local law enforcement grants.

**Proposition 36** - Approved 68.6% to 31.4%. Three Strikes Law revised to impose life sentence only when new felony conviction is serious or violent. May authorize re-sentencing if third strike conviction was not serious or violent. Fiscal Impact: Ongoing state correctional savings of around $70 million annually, with even greater savings (up to $90 million) over the next couple of decades. These savings could vary significantly depending on future state actions.

**Proposition 39** - Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses, Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding, Initiative Statute. Approved 60.0% to 40.0%. Requires multistate businesses to pay income taxes based on percentage of their sales in California. Dedicates revenues for five years to clean/efficient energy projects. Fiscal Impact: Increased state revenues of $1 billion annually, with half of the revenues over the next five years spent on energy efficiency projects. Of the remaining revenues, a significant portion likely would be spent on schools.

For more information, go to: [http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/quick-reference-guide/](http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/quick-reference-guide/)