

NIELSEN MERKSAMER

NIELSEN MERKSAMER PARRINELLO GROSS & LEONI LLP

**POLITICAL &
GOVERNMENT**

LAW
ADVOCACY
LITIGATION

The 2024 Legislature, State Budget Proposals, and Legislative Priorities



March 19, 2024

PRESENTED BY GEOFF NEILL

Your Advocacy Team

Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni, LLP

- Michelle Rubalcava, Partner
- Geoff Neill, Senior Legislative Advocate

Benefits to Lake County



Diverse collective client base – public and private



Bipartisan, cross-caucus relationships



**Relationships in the Administration, state agencies,
and the Legislature**



Experience building coalitions



Sought-after subject matter experts



Extensive expertise in county programs & financing

The California Legislature

Senate: 32 Democrats, 8 Republicans (supermajority+5)
Assembly: 62 Democrats, 18 Republicans (supermajority+8)

Senate President pro Tem: Mike McGuire (Healdsburg)
Assembly Speaker: Robert Rivas (Salinas)

Priorities: housing, homelessness, climate & housing bonds, retail theft, water, behavioral and mental health

Election Results

Proposition 1 – MH/BH bond plus significant MHSA reform
Yes - 50.4%, No – 49.6%

11 Senators retiring, 1 more trying to (30% total)
19 Assembly Members retiring, 5 moving to Senate (30% total)

50% of Senate is new across 2022 & 2024
45% of Assembly is new across 2022 & 2024

State Budget Deficit

\$73 billion budget deficit, made worse by IRS deadline delay

Significant cut proposals: Large K-12 reductions, \$1.2 billion to housing programs, \$4.6 billion in climate/resource programs

Also significant funding delays in many areas, including BHCIP and last-mile broadband grants (but future broadband \$ is increased)

Budget Effects on Counties

CalWORKs cuts – Single Allocation, Family Stabilization, Expanded Subsidized Employment

Family Urgent Response System – eliminated

SB 678 Incentive Grants, Public Defender Resentencing Grants

Cut for CalHome and delays for many housing programs

Lake County Priorities



Water Reliability



**Wildfire Resilience, Fire Insurance, and Tree Mortality
and Hazardous Vegetation Removal**



Lake Pillsbury



Housing Supply and Homelessness



Economic Development



Opioid Fatalities

Bills of Interest: Climate & Resources Bonds

AB 1567 (Garcia) and SB 867 (Allen)

~\$5 billion – Drought, flood, water

~\$2.5 billion – Wildfire and forests

~\$2 billion – Clean energy

~\$2 billion – Coastal protection

~\$1.5 billion – Biodiversity / Nature-based solutions

~\$1.2 billion – Regional climate resilience projects

~\$0.5 to \$1.5 billion – Extreme heat

~\$0.5 billion – Parks

~\$0.5 billion – Farms and ag

~\$16 billion total...for now

Bills of Interest: Wildfire

AB 1951 (Fong) – CEQA exemption for wildfire prevention within 50 feet of a road

AB 3150 (Quirk-Silva) – More public review of fire hazard severity zone maps, and a redesignation process

SB 1003 (Dodd) – Requires IOU wildfire mitigation plans to ensure that the maximum amount of risk from utility-sparked wildfires is reduced in the shortest amount of time

Bills of Interest: Other Topics

AB 2871 (Maienschein) – Allows counties to create overdose fatality review teams

AB 817 (Pacheco) – Advisory bodies, remote participation for Brown Act meetings

AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry) – Exempts counties under 70,000 from organics diversion targets

AB 2561 (McKinnor) – Vacancy rates >10%: county must meet and confer, implement plan to fill all vacant positions in 6 months

Thank you.

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